

Child Protection Sub-Working Group - Romania 21 April 2022, 11:30-1:00 (hybrid)

27 Participants: Adra, CNRR, IOM, Plan International, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF

Welcome and Introductions

Overview of Review Situation in Romania

- Since 24 February, **751,299** Ukrainians have arrived in Romania (as of 20 April 2022) – estimated 34% children. **666,276** have departed Romania and **85,023** are presently in the country. **8,052** have applied for temporary protection.

Raised questions and concerns

- 1) Disaggregated data on Ukrainian children population remains a challenge, particularly on UASC. Organizations have identified small numbers of UACs in different care centers, but the numbers do not appropriately correlate to some figures shared by the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA).
 - UNICEF: NCPA should be able to share figures, if asked. The Government's internal platform, Kids Ukraine, tracks overall occupancy of how many spaces are available or occupied in real time.
 - NCPA confirmed: As of 20 April, 2,422 UACs registered with 256 currently in the Romanian CP care system. Majority of children are accommodated in Prahova, Iasi, Brasov and Bucharest (Sector 4).
- 2) Options for children to remain in the Romanian CP system have once they turn 18.
 - UNICEF: Confirmed refugee children maintain same rights as Romanian children in the CP care system. Once a child turns 18, the child can remain in the system if s/he wishes until the age of 26 if enrolled in the education system.

UNHCR Cash Enrolment Programme Presentation

UNHCR's CBI Officer provided brief presentation on UNHCR's Cash Enrolment Programme (*PPT available in Sharepoint site*), including confirmation of target of 81,000 individuals and SOPs specifically to address cash-based interventions for children are in draft stage.

Questions raised on how to respond to cash assistance requests and needs of Third Country Nationals who do not qualify for Temporary Protection (TP) and may not wish to apply for asylum, and if host community is included in programme.

- The Romanian Government has a cash assistance component to the services offered to asylum-seekers, and the allotment is higher than UNHCR's programme for those registered under the TP. UNHCR clarified reasons it cannot consider host community in the programme.

CP SWG members are unclear on Romania's legal framework for cash assistance for children. UNICEF confirmed general policy is children are unable to access a bank account unless written authorization by parents or legal guardian.

- Request for more information from Izabella options to provide CVA to children, particularly those who refuse to enter CP system and move onwards (help to reduce
- Need to harmonize cash and voucher assistance approach and organizations encouraged to share CVA SOPs. *Suggested separate meeting to be organized specifically for those working on CVA where SOPs can be shared for feedback and discuss how to harmonize approach.*

CP SWG 5W

Deadline extended to complete the 5W as some organizations had still not yet provided input and other entries needed harmonization with terminology used. UNHCR will include an additional column with suggested terminology for categorical classification of CP activities.

Organizations that have not completed the 5W on the Sharepoint excel spreadsheet are reminded to provide their input on the shared Kobo link form as the spreadsheet will be discontinued and all data will be transferred to the Kobo form.

CP-SWG members will be asked to update the 5W Kobo form monthly, if there are notable changes to organizations' CP activities. A map of CP activities will soon be available and circulated with CP SWG members.

All CP SWG requested to fill out the assessment registry form available on same Kobo form link.

AOB

UNHCR raised concerns on lack of information on LGBTQI and Roma children and requested members to share any data, information or observations they have on these particularly vulnerable groups of children. Important topics for future discussions: How to approach issues related to children with compounded vulnerabilities (LGBTIQ+ children, Roma children, children with disabilities, etc.) in the context of displacement.

CP SWG invited to suggest experts for presentations at meetings and encouraged to contribute to agenda items.

Next steps / action points

- Each organization to complete CP SWG 5W Matrix (spreadsheet or Kobo form), CP assessment registry (Kobo form), capacity building plans and available training packages and child-friendly materials (spreadsheet) - deadline is COB 26 April
- Meeting to be organized by CP SWG members whose organizations have CVA programme.
- UNHCR and UNICEF co-leads to follow up with Izabella for clarity on CVA and legal framework for children in Romania.

The next CP SWG meeting (hybrid) will be held on 28 April 2022 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm.