

On January 25, the CPSWG, with the facilitation from UNHCR and UNICEF, convened to strategize and renew commitments for 2024. The meeting focused on the assessment of challenges, lessons learned, and emerging opportunities from the previous year's Working Plan. With collaborative efforts, a revised Working Plan was formulated, integrating inputs from various NGOs and ANPDCA. Identified challenges encompassed insufficient engagement, limited joint activities, and team turnover, prompting a shift towards emphasizing quality, concrete outputs, and adaptability. Recognizing opportunities, the group proposed initiatives such as restructuring, community engagement enhancements, and transitioning to a developmental approach. Additional recommendations included improving information sharing, strengthening cross-sectoral collaboration, and instituting regular work plan reviews, alongside thematic meetings and capacity-building sessions to fortify intra-group collaboration.

Participants:

UNHCR: Pedro Munoz Alonso (CBP), Anca Costei (Protection Associate), Eva Nassar (Protection Associate)

UNICEF: Mara Matei (Zone Coordinator), Laura Fragiacomio (CP specialist)

ANPDCA: Izabela Popa (CP, strategy, Trafficking)

Save the Children: Eliza Trana (legal counselor & GBV, Alina Lazar (CP)

WV: Ilona Chiriac (Mental Health adviser)

TdH: Radu Racareanu, Ilinca Costin

CNRR: Livia Popa (CP), Amalia Taran (Reception Center Timisoara)

Autism Voice: Nicoleta Orlea – Project Manager

Challenges

Lack of engagement of individual organizations, not enough participants

Not enough joint activities -- e.g. joint advocacy events

Lack of monitoring of work plan implementation and follow up

Need for more clear directions and action plans (with responsibilities)

Limited concrete outputs planned that add value to the response

Few specific common initiatives planned and implemented

Turnover of team members

Difficulties in regard to referrals and case management for specific needs -- esp. children with disabilities

Lack of clarity regarding roles of government vs. CPSWG group members in case mng (e.g. GBV)

Local authorities look towards CPSWG partners for guidance on different topics for clarification - NGOs often have to facilitate dialogue between institutions

responding to the reality on the ground is not always quick enough

Too broad of a focus on cross-cutting themes

Some challenges in ensuring meaningful participation of refugee children/host communities

Limited human resources - implementing own projects of the organisation vs participating in common initiatives

Insufficient information sharing/communication with NAPCRA

Lack of more direct involvement with the direct beneficiaries of the projects because of the Government (a.i direct communication) of the host country for the refugees.

Fragmented efforts

Lessoned learned

Not everyone has the capacity for max. engagement but organizations can pick key interventions from the WP that they know they can commit to (not to be involved in everything)

Quality over quantity

Importance of developing concrete outputs as part of work plan

Finding creative and efficient solutions when the obstacles are too much.

Use CPSWG as a platform to engage with NAPCRA on key identified issues

Targeted and synchronized initiatives

Need for better cross-sectoral coordination

Pick one or two concrete outputs to deliver that adds value to the Government and the response overall - e.g. plan and deliver!

Adaptability as a core principle for developing and updating activities

Start from the plans of each individual organisation to develop common initiatives

Need to strengthen private/public collaboration at community-level

Opportunities

new working group structure?

Making more concrete actions in the community a.i. conferences/events ?

Less capacity (e.g. reduced staff on emergency) can also mean more opportunity for cross-sectoral engagement

Moving from "emergency" approach to a "development" approach

Develop information sharing mechanisms (central and regional level)

Diverse experiences from different NGOs

Enhance private/public collaboration at community-level esp. in rural areas

Have regular stock-taking reviews of WP implementation as a group (.e.g mid year)

Map capacity gaps and develop action plans and capacity-building sessions

Consider thematic meetings as part of CPSWG