



## Terms of Reference

### Education Sector Working Group

#### Template

#### Background

As of late February, Moldova has faced a huge humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict in Ukraine. According to administrative data, during the period 24 February – 10 March 10, 2022, over 270.306 refugees from Ukraine entered Moldova. Many of them continued their journey to Romania and other European countries, while about 100.501 are estimated to have remained in Moldova, including 84.000 children. In response to this crisis, the Moldovan authorities have set up 83 hosting centres (and more are being established) across the country, most of them hosting between 50 and 500 people for temporary stays, mainly for people that do not have ID papers, with no contacts in Moldova or with limited financial resources. Despite the generous and rapid response of the Moldovan authorities and civil society and given the scale of the crisis, these centres have limited hosting capacity, and are already overcrowded. The needs among the population arriving and placed in those hosting centers are hence growing, especially among children and women.

Parents and children affected by crisis cite education as a priority. Timely inclusion of refugee children and youth, girls and boys, children with disabilities, children with specific vulnerabilities, minorities etc. into the national education system, and where necessary and appropriate supported by formal and non-formal education programs, is imperative. Actions need to include, but are not limited to ensuring access to continuous learning through provision of learning materials, digital learning devices and internet connectivity, hygiene supplies, mental health and psychosocial support, Romanian language courses for bridging the refugee children and their parents into the national education, health and protection systems etc.

#### Objectives

The overall objective of the Education Working Group is to enhance the coordination and collaboration during Emergency Response and after among the working group members to ensure the effective implementation of the education component and to encourage linkages/synergies with the Government and other relevant coordination structures. The Chair and Co-Chairs of the Working Group will actively engage refugee and host community committees, promote innovative delivery modalities and sustainable models to further maximize impact and sustainability.

The specific objectives of the working group are to ensure coordination among the different stakeholders, provide strategic guidance and technical inputs for the implementation of this component; strengthen information sharing and improve knowledge to better identify relevant gaps and opportunities; conduct research and build evidence to strengthen the education sector; encourage technical and institutional capacity building of multi-stakeholders; improve data and information management for evidence-based programming and promote the use of comparative advantages for implementation of education interventions.

#### Key Tasks of the Education WG

- Provides the necessary oversight and guidance on policy matters relevant to the Initiatives within the Education component during Emergency Response initially and can be extended after.



- Coordinates the education component.
- Advises WG on policy matters and provides strategic guidance on Education related matters.
- Reviews, discusses and agrees with WG members on policy/ decisions progress of Education component in addition to the Education work plan as well as countermeasures and next steps to be taken.
- Maximizes impact of Education interventions by promoting synergies and complementarities within the Education component, with other components such us health and protection and/or national/county plans/frameworks.
- Facilitates information sharing and exchange of best practices/lessons learned between the working group members.
- Develops joint advocacy messages in coordination.
- Identifies and supports joint assessments and analysis to strengthen joint planning and inform Education strategic plans and frameworks as well as future Education interventions.
- Maps and regularly updates a list of all stakeholders for Education.
- Updates and shares the Action Plan for Education component on a quarterly basis.
- Conducts trainings and workshops on Education for members of the WG and members of other working groups, if need be.
- Develops and shares progress reports with all stakeholders through a dedicated link/website.

#### **Structure of the Education WG**

- The Education WG is led by the Minister of Education and Research (MER) and co-led by UNICEF and UNHCR and includes membership from MER, Parliament, Chisinau municipality, EUD, the WB, UN, national and international NGOs active in education.
- The meetings will take place on a weekly basis and ad-hoc extended meetings for specific issues can be organized at the request involving representatives of other line ministries and LPAs.
- UNICEF will provide technical, logistical and administrative support to the MER to prepare for and convene the Education weekly meetings.
- The ToR will be reviewed once per quarter.