

Romania - Child Protection Sub-Working Group

23 November 2023, 13:00 – 14:30

Participants: 13 from Salvati Copiii, Tdh, UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision

Agenda:

1. Presentation on World Vision's child protection programs in Romania and key recommendations from qualitative surveys – World Vision/Mariana & Ilona
2. *Presentation on U-Report as youth participation & needs-assessment tool –Iunona/UNICEF (Agenda item removed due to mis-communication)*
3. AOB

Agenda and discussions:

1. **Presentations on WV child protection programme for refugees and key recommendations from qualitative surveys**
 - ✓ World vision presented its work on the refugee response – the scale of the response was highlighted by the fact that in one year the organization reached a fifth of the population it has reached in 32 years.
 - ✓ In 2023, World Vision will prioritize integration activities such as after school services, direct child protection services, including case management and referrals for the most vulnerable – eg. People with disabilities/single mothers, livelihood, reaching mothers/teenagers
2. **AOB**
 - ✓ While in the last meeting it was discussed to merge the CPSWG with the PWG in 2024, a discussion was held and it was agreed that there are key emerging/ongoing issues that need to be addressed in the child protection response – including the need for a child protection referral pathway and supporting case management procedures, situation and follow up of evacuated children
 - ✓ On the issue of CP referral pathway, it was highlighted that while organizations highlight GDPR as a challenge in institutionalizing a CP referral pathway, in reality the same organizations use whatsapp to manage cases, in fact contravening the GDPR. E.g. “fear of GDPR compliance has prevented us from moving forward, but it’s better to have accountability and clear standards”
 - ✓ Additional possible areas of work for the CPSWG in 2024 could be:
 - i. Develop guidelines on CM procedures to facilitate and ease CP referrals – prioritize CP referral pathway despite challenges
 - ii. Consider broadening scope of CPSWG work to include third country nationals + broader system strengthening as TP directive ends in 2025
 - iii. Strengthening age assessment of refugee children
 - iv. Develop user friendly guide on how services work -who to talk to, where to go, can it be duplicated across sectors
 - v.
 - ✓ **Next steps:**

- It was agreed to organize a 1-day workshop for CPSWG participants in second half of January to review 2023 work plan and update new plan, discussing, opportunities and way forward to help re-generate renewed commitment to strengthen the inter-agency child protection response
- Communicate with CPSWG partners we will continue with the working group
- Circulate the concept note for workshop