

Inter-Sector Working Group - Meeting Minutes

Location, Date & Time	Hybrid, Friday, 8 December 2023, from 11:00 to 12:030
Facilitator	Sebastiaan Der Kinderen
Participants	Basic Needs/ Kylie Alcoba Wright, Ylenia Franco (UNHCR), Cash/ Horatiu Tatar (UNHCR), Cristina Adam, Ana Cosma (Save the Children), Crisis Anti-trafficking/ Mark Earl Ebling (IOM), Education/Jean Beniot Manhes, Tetyana Nikitina, Matthias Lansard (UNICEF), GBV/ Shiori Watanabe (UNHCR), Youth and Adolescents/ Ana-Iunona Mavlea (UNICEF), Livelihood/ Victoria Moren (UNHCR), Protection/ Jorunn Brandvoll (UNHCR), Cristian Vlas (CNRR), Child Protection/ Pedro Munoz Alonso (UNHCR), Health/ Silvia Gatscher, Georgiana Afumateanu (WHO), IA/, Ali Sonia Mohamed, Simina Costea, Rozita Roghani (UNHCR)
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introduction • Updated Population Figures • RRP 2024 Process – What’s next • General Updates (IS) • Sectoral Updates • AoB/Reminder
Main Topic	Main Discussion and Action Points in Blue
Updated Population Figures	<p>Figures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 83,403 refugees from Ukraine are currently in Romania, compared to 98,000 during the winter of the previous year. This marks a decrease of 15,000 from last year. Ongoing monitoring of the situation required. • Number of Temporary Protection registered: 149,018 Unaccompanied Children: 1,503 • UNICEF: Service delivery to TP holders is challenging as they are scattered all over Romania. • More refugees are moving towards northern Europe due to receiving better support; TP data is not reliable as it is more than people in Romania. Therefore, we should rely more on education and employment data. • There is an increase in the number of male entering Romania and vulnerability. • There will be implications for programming next year, particularly in relation to demographics and the dispersed population across counties. This may necessitate some adjustments to programming. Considering the upcoming winter months, there should be focus on border monitoring. It would be beneficial to explore the possibility, although the approach is unclear, of advocating for an exercise to identify active TPs
RRP 2024 Process – What’s next	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft narrative was shared with the region on 6 December. • Sector Leads should be ready to provide additional information if needed. • MHPSS target?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRP 2024 will be launched in Geneva between 15 Jan and 15 Feb 2024 depending on the availability of the HC and the Humanitarian Coordinator. • The local RRP 2024 will likely be launched locally on 23 Feb 2024. SL are requested to suggest creative ideas on how to launch the document.
General Updates (IS)	<p>Few updates on the initial thinking for 2024 in line with some of the strategic directions:</p> <p>Localization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiatives for Local Coordination Networks began in 2022 to improve coordination at the local level. Target areas include municipalities and specific counties with high refugee numbers. • Collaboration with prefectures to establish coordination mechanisms for refugees. Exploring to establish dedicated bodies like inclusion working groups for enhance coordination. These working groups are adaptable for future use beyond the refugee situation. • Recent discussions in places like Suceava aim to formalize the process into a protocol. The protocol would provide a legal basis for inclusion working groups, mobilizing both authorities and civil society organizations. The Protocol will need to be discussed at ministerial level for approval. • GRF Municipal Pledges: There will be GRF next week in Geneva. Timisoara, Bucharest, Brasov, Galati municipalities pledged for supporting refugees. Katya and Nicolina one-stop centres in Brasov and Iasi committed to support refugees. • National NGOs: Discussions at the regional level are exploring the possibility of creating a support package for national NGOs to strengthen their systems and capacities. This package may involve assistance in writing concept notes, project proposals, and developing log frames to meet donor requirements. Quick and effective writing is seen as crucial, and efforts are underway to collaborate with countries in the region to formulate a joint support package. A similar package is being developed in Moldova and there are plans to learn from their progress in an upcoming meeting. • UNICEF will change its strategy for stronger inclusion in local system. Considering the uncertain situation, UNICEF may face deterioration and is prompting a contingency plan. Around the end of January, UNICEF will issue an appeal for two or three NGOs to work with them in case of a trigger event. This avoids the need for a time-consuming screening process during a crisis. The selected NGOs should quickly build capacity, following financial rules and procedures. Suggestions for suitable NGOs are welcome. • Inter-sectoral advocacy messages to be developed to explore governmental funding for NGOs in 2024. <p>Social Cohesion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a plan to consider establishing a thematic intersectoral working session. The idea is to bring together sectoral working groups and additional interested organizations for an in-depth discussion on social cohesion. This involves examining various surveys and aiming to develop a social cohesion framework. The goal is to provide guidance on what it means for each sector to contribute to social cohesion and avoid social tension. This effort is set to be a focus in January and February 2024. • SL will be contacted by BBU (university of Cluj) about the study on the impact of refugee in Romania. <p>Service Advisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will use chatbot by March 2024 for service advisor in Russian, English, Ukrainian and Romanian. • Percentage of SA users from Ukraine have increased by 25 to 35% in Winter. • IM will share a summary about the number of hits/sector.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedbacks received on SA will be shared with sectors for follow ups.
Sectoral Updates	<p><u>Health/SRH/MHPSS:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are upcoming changes within WHO, with the expectation of significant shifts in the coming year. Victoria will assume the role of the national SRH consultant. In January, a national and international MHPSS consultants will join, focusing on their respective areas. The national public health officer will also come aboard, contributing to emergency response and strategy development in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. Responding to requests for more technical support rather than coordination will also influence staffing. The focus is on bringing in new technical experts to support the evolving needs of the response. <p><u>CRATTF:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The task force held a meeting with the Head of the Anti-Trafficking Agency and the Bulgarian National Commission for Countering Trafficking. The exchange of information was highly beneficial, with the Bulgarians commending Romania's antitrafficking efforts. They shared insights into their programs, and a follow-up meeting between the two countries is being considered. Efforts are underway to involve Ukraine in the discussions. The participation of Moldova and Bulgaria made the meeting very successful. <p><u>Protection WG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thematic meeting was held on LGBTQI+ inclusion in refugee response, with insights from Poland, Moldova, and Romania. The Eastern Europe hub presented study results on how local and refugee-focused NGOs handle counselling and assistance based on inclusion principles. Positive experiences in assisting Russian LGBTQI+ individuals in Moldova were noted, but serious discrimination risks in health services, specific medicine access, and housing were highlighted. UNHCR and IOM glossaries on the topic were presented. The conclusion emphasized the need for training partners, developing service pathways and understanding better how to provide services for LGBTQI+ persons while respecting privacy. <p><u>Basic Needs WG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing and shelter: UNHCR and DSU doing joint sit monitoring and assessment. A tool developed by UNHCR, to provide real-time information on accommodation centres is being used. The pilot assessment tool was conducted at UTCB, focusing on improving conditions, especially for individuals with disabilities. There's an ongoing effort to prioritize centres, including those in Constanta. The update acknowledged the challenges for 2024, with some individuals falling through the cracks. Organizations are considering cash for rent initiatives, but concerns persist about the most vulnerable who may struggle to become self-reliant despite program changes and collective inclusion efforts. The main focus is on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable individuals. • Next Basic Needs WG meeting on 13 December 2023 will focus on accommodation and future in 2024. <p><u>Child Protection SWG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNICEF and UNHCR held an internal coordination meeting to address low engagement in child protection efforts. The plan is to revamp the group by developing a work plan for the next year through a one-day workshop in mid-January (23/01). The focus will be on specific activities and tools related to child protection, including case management processes, enhancing referral pathways, and developing child protection procedures and assessments. The goal is to bring back technical focus to child protection.

	<p>Education WG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New data from the Ministry of Education expected next week which will be shared. • Focus remains on providing Romanian language classes to children and adults through County School Inspectorates. • Collaboration with county-level entities, Ministry of Education, NGOs, and implementing partners. • Mapping efforts in areas without a physical presence through education working groups. • Working on the monitoring and information system to include a module for tracking children's attendance and participation. • Request for feedback on the consistency of findings in the multi-sector needs assessment report with sector-level information. • IA will share the MSNA presentation again today. <p>Youth and Adolescents TF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A survey on Ukrainian youth's mental health will be launched today with the results expected in January. • The TF is available to present the report on other platforms and commitment to sharing results in January.
AoB/Reminder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inter-Agency reporting will be done by Sean. • Next meeting will be in January 2024.
<p>Next meeting Date: Friday, January 2024 from 11:00 to 12:30 Place: UNHCR Office in UN House, Teams link available</p>	