

**MOLDOVA REFUGEE COORDINATION FORUM Meeting Minutes – 18 June 2024**

**1. Meeting Details**

Date	18 June 2024
Time	14:30 - 16:30
Location	Moldova, Chisinau, Radisson Blue Convention Center Str. M. Varlaam 77
Chair	Bertrand Blanc (UNHCR Representative a.i.), Anastasia Primov (Prime Minister Office Advisor), Diego Nardi (Inter-Agency Coordination Officer).
Reporting	Kyrylo Prykhodko, Inter-Agency Coordination Associate
Email	<a href="mailto:mdachrcf@unhcr.org">mdachrcf@unhcr.org</a>

**2. Agenda**

- (14:30-14:45) Update on Temporary Protection
- (14:45-15:00) Update on Cash Assistance for Ukrainian Refugees
- (15:00-15:30) Refugee Inclusion on National Education System
- (15:30-15:45) Inter-Agency Winter Planning
- (15:45-16:15) Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Update
- (16:15-16:30) Sector Updates / AOB

**3. Information collection and relevant links**

Moldova operational data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>

**4. Participants (Name, Position, Organization)**

**Government**

- Anastasia Primov, Prime Minister Office, Advisor
- Valentina Olaru, Ministry of Education and Research, State Secretary
- Vera Valuta – General Inspectorate for Migration, Director of the Directorate for Integration of Foreigners at IGM

**United Nations:**

**UNHCR**

- Andrea Ciuzana – UNHCR, Shelter Officer
- Andrew Painter - UNHCR, Senior Protection Officer
- Bertrand Blanc, UNHCR, Representative a.i.,
- Catalina Birsanu, UNHCR, Inter-Agency Coordination Associate
- Diego Nardi, UNHCR, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer
- Iva Vavic - UNHCR, Operations Officer

**INGOs**

- Ana Kremenic - Plan International, Program Quality and Implementation Manager
- Athina Nalmpanti - Acted, Country Program Coordinator
- Baher Ery - CRS, Head of Operations
- Chaza Ghandour - ICRC, Protection Coordinator
- Cristina Sirbu - Roma Task Force on behalf of Intersos, Co-lead
- Daniele Pedretti - HelpAge, Inclusion Specialist
- Federica Siani - INTERSOS, Programme Coordinator
- Federico Rota - Catholic Relief Services, Country Representative (interim)
- Guillermo Llinás - People in Need (PIN), Country Director
- Hortense Leclercq-Olhagaray - WeWorld, Head of Programmes
- Ilinka Leger - HEKS/EPER Moldova, Grants Manager
- Laura Pagano - Acted, Project Development Officer

- Katie Lampe - UNHCR, Child Protection Officer
- Kyrylo Prykhodko, UNHCR, Inter-Agency Coordination Associate
- Mary Ombaka - UNHCR, Education Officer
- Natalia Stelea – UNHCR, Field Associate
- Sabina Sandu - UNHCR, Protection Officer
- Sean Sager - UNHCR, Protection Officer
- Pierre Chacon - Inter Agency Coordination, Associate Officer
- Ritu Shroff, UNHCR, DSPR Dir Office Division of Strategic Planning and Results
- Vanessa Bordin – UNHCR, GBV Officer
- Yigit Anil Gurer - UNHCR, CBI Officer
- Yurii Arnautov – UNHCR, IM Officer

#### UNICEF

- Dragan Markovic - UNICEF, Emergency Coordinator
- Ilija Talev - UNICEF, Deputy Representative

#### UNDP

- Zinaida Adam - UNDP Moldova, Program Officer/LI WG Sector Lead

#### UN WFP

- Grigore Guzun - UN WFP, Programme & Policy Officer
- Stephane Meaux – WFP, Deputy Country Director

#### UNFPA

- Saidkasim Sakhypov - UNFPA, Emergency Coordinator

#### OHCHR

- Sorina Pinzaru - OHCHR, Human Rights Officer

#### UNWomen

- Dominika Stojanoska – UN Women, Country Representative

#### IOM

- NATASA OMEROVIC - IOM, CCCM Program Officer

- Laura Sesenna - ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross, Cooperation Coordinator
- Natalia Furtuna - Swiss Cooperation Office in Moldova, Program Assistant
- Peter Fenoy - HEKS/EPER Moldova, Country Director
- Robyn Prinz - PRM / US Embassy, Regional Refugee Coordinator
- Ross Mc Donald - IMPACT / REACH Initiative, Country Coordinator
- Tamara Cupcal - Internews in Moldova, Media Quality Advisor
- Vicente Palacios - ECHO,
- Vlada Medvedcova - ACTED, INGO Forum Senior Officer
- Youssef Mhanna - World Vision International, Operations Director
- Zoe Kostitsi Papastatlopoulou - DRC, Country Program Manager

#### National and Local NGOs

- Andrei Girleanu - ADRA, Director
- Cocsarova Rita - Jewish Community of Moldova, Program Manager
- Daria Stratu - Fundația Constantin Mimi, Vicepreședinte
- Doina Plamadeala - P.I. Keystone Moldova, Project Coordinator
- Eugenia Godoroja - Lumos Foundation, Child and Youth Participation Advisor
- Ion Bambuleac - Centrul de Caritate pentru Refugiați, Consilier Juridic
- Ioniță Victoria - AO Centrul Național de Prevenire a Abuzului față de Copii, Coordonator Național Echipa Mobilă de Asistență P-S a Refugiaților Pidtrimka
- Irina Basiul - National Congress of Ukrainians of Moldova, Program Coordinator
- Jalbă Diana - Asociația Obștească „Alianța pentru Dolna”, Responsabil de Comunicare și Vizibilitate
- Mariana Stavenskaya - NGO Interaction, Development Coordinator
- Mircea Bustiuc - Societatea Invalizilor din RM, Director Executiv
- Oleg Palii - CDA, Director
- Roman Russu - National Congress of Ukrainians of Moldova, Protection Officer
- Rotaraș Victor - Alliance of Active NGOs in the Field of Child and Family Social Protection (APSCF), Project Coordinator
- Svetlana Jioara - Centrul de Drept al Avocatilor CDA, Program Director
- Ulia Zenchenko - Ukrainian Women Refugee Network Female Support Force, Director, cofounder
- Virgiliu Hangan - Partnerships for Every Child, Project Manager

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Opening Remarks	Opening remarks were delivered by UNHCR Representative and Refugee Coordinator a.i., Mr. Bertrand Blanc, and Ms. Anastasia Primov, Advisor for the Prime Minister Office. Mr. Bertrand Blanc thanked all participants for their presence, and mentioned that Ms. Jana Costachi, State Secretary and President of the Inter-Ministerial Commission on Migration and Asylum could not be present, but	
<p><b>Session 1:</b></p> <p><b>Update on Temporary Protection</b></p> <p>(14:30-14:45)</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Diego Nardi, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer</p> <p>Mrs. Vera Valuta, General Inspectorate for Migration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs;</p>	<p><b>Diego Nardi:</b> outlined the meeting agenda and added that in the first quarter, RRP partners reached almost 70,000 people, including over 10,000 host community members, approximately 54,000 refugees, and 1,800 hosting family members with cash assistance. The RRP funding level was 13% at the end of March. Diego reminded partners to report their funding and announced the upcoming quarter one report, emphasizing the importance of these reports for understanding funding levels and performance against response indicators. He thanked contributors and invited Mrs. Vera Valuta, Director of the Directorate for Integration of Foreigners at IGM, to update on temporary protection.</p> <p><b>Vera Valuta:</b> provided updates on temporary protection, highlighting its effectiveness for foreigners displaced to the Republic of Moldova. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary protection grants stable access to legal residence, labor force, education, healthcare, and social assistance.</li> <li>• Out of 79,000 people in Moldova for over 90 days, over 50,000 have been granted temporary protection.</li> <li>• The General Inspectorate for Migration's operations remain unchanged, with regional directorates in the North (Balti), South, and Centre.</li> <li>• Several centers have been operationalized to manage the influx of displaced persons.</li> <li>• Mobile teams assist individuals at home, granting temporary protection documents immediately.</li> <li>• The application procedure involves pre-registration, file check by officers, and document pickup.</li> <li>• 62,396 people pre-registered; 50,906 obtained temporary protection documents, mostly Ukrainians.</li> <li>• Beneficiaries: 36,808 adults, 14,098 children; 25,000 women, 19,700 men.</li> <li>• Most beneficiaries reside in Chisinau, followed by other regions like the Left Bank of the Dniester and Gagauzia.</li> <li>• Since 2003, Moldova received 2,171 asylum applications: in 2022, 11,218 applications.</li> <li>• In 2023, 4,100 applications; as of June in 2024, 3,985 applications.</li> </ul> <p><b>Asylum System Figures:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,919 asylum seekers</li> <li>• 421 beneficiaries of humanitarian protection</li> <li>• 207 individuals with recognized refugee status</li> <li>• Most applicants (approximately 1,300) are from Ukraine</li> </ul> <p><b>Status of Displaced Persons:</b></p>	<p><b>Report on Funding and Achievements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• report on funding and contributions for an accurate reflection of the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) funding levels and gaps.</li> </ul> <p><b>Continue support on Temporary Protection implementation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage and Support TP enrolment among refugees from Ukraine.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Displaced persons from Ukraine also obtain residence permits for more secure rights.</li> <li>• As of February 17th, 3,791 people obtained provisional residence permits for various purposes:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2,900 for family reunification</li> <li>○ 490 for work</li> <li>○ 26 for religious/volunteer activities</li> <li>○ 59 for foreign investment</li> <li>○ 165 for study</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislative and policy framework adjustments are needed.</li> <li>• Limited human and financial resources.</li> <li>• Specific vulnerabilities hinder service access.</li> <li>• Security risk management is key.</li> <li>• Ensuring a decent living for displaced persons is difficult due to low salaries.</li> <li>• Institutional strengthening is needed across all state institutions.</li> <li>• Economic integration involves social cohesion and solidarity.</li> <li>• Addressing non-discrimination and xenophobia remains challenging.</li> </ul> <p><b>Migration Trends:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing number of foreign citizens from 131 countries.</li> <li>• The asylum system is under constant pressure, with application numbers high.</li> <li>• Administrative procedures are doubled due to frequent applications for refusal.</li> <li>• Moldova is seen more as a transit country rather than a destination for building a future.</li> </ul> <p><b>Andrew Painter:</b> asked to provide any kind of an update on the revisions to the law of asylum in the context of EU accession.</p> <p><b>Vera Valuta</b> informed that a draft law aligning with EU legislation is under internal approval, involving coordination with the Ministry of Interior before legislative procedures and expert consultations. She noted the staff increase from 163 in March 2022 to 247 currently and highlighted the need for accommodation centers for asylum seekers in various regions, as applicants currently travel to Chisinau to extend their documents. Vera also emphasized updating integration policies, included in the National Development Plan for 2025-2027, aiming for digitized services and integration centers to support displaced Ukrainians and foster relationships between displaced persons and Moldovans.</p>	
<p><b>Session 2:</b></p> <p><b>Update on Cash</b></p>	<p><b>Yigit Gurer:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented on UNHCR's cash program, focusing on recent changes.</li> <li>• Discussed linkage between cash assistance and legal status.</li> <li>• Significant changes in early 2024, finalized by March:</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Assistance for Ukrainian Refugees</b></p> <p>(14:45-15:00)</p> <p>Speakers: Yigit Anil Gurer – CASH WG CO-Chair, UNHCR CBI Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Beneficiaries must secure legal status for continuous assistance, with exceptions for those unable to obtain it.</li> <li>○ From May, retargeted MPCA beneficiaries by adjusting eligibility criteria from categorical to socio-economic indicators.</li> <li>● Implemented scorecard methodology for better targeting based on socio-economic indicators. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Socioeconomic profiling exercise conducted in late 2023 helped create new criteria.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Data collection began in May, almost finalized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 17,000 households (36,500 individuals) are active beneficiaries.</li> <li>○ 10,600 households interviewed; 6,000 not reached.</li> <li>○ Unreachable households can request reactivation and be assessed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● June: SMS notifications to inform beneficiaries of their eligibility.</li> <li>● Reconsideration process in development for households with changes on situation/household composition or incorrect interviews.</li> </ul> <p><b>Diego Nardi:</b> thanked Yigit for the update and, having no questions or interventions regarding cash assistance, proceeded to the next agenda point, inviting Ms. Valentina Olaru, State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, to provide an update on the inclusion of refugees in the national education system.</p>	
<p><b>Session 3: Refugee Inclusion on National Education System</b></p> <p>(15:00-15:30)</p> <p>Speakers: Valentina Olaru - State Secretary, Ministry of Education</p>	<p><b>Valentina Olaru:</b> Valentina Olaru thanked partners of the working group for their support of the educational system during the academic year. She acknowledged that while the academic year has concluded, activities related to the educational process are ongoing. She expressed gratitude for the support received from various partners. Valentina provided statistics on the educational process as of the end of May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 728 refugee children in 212 pre-schools</li> <li>○ 1,608 refugee pupils in 229 primary schools, gymnasiums, and high schools</li> <li>○ 1,781 refugee pupils have participated in the educational process since September 1, 2023</li> <li>○ 57 Ukrainian refugee pupils studied online with digital laboratories in Moldovan institutions, with 57 permanent beneficiaries and 132 periodic users.</li> </ul> <p>Discrepancy between enrolled refugee children (about 2,000) and the total number of refugee minors reported by IGM (41,000) indicates significant integration challenges.</p> <p>Summer activities to improve integration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Camps combining rest with socio-emotional activities, Romanian language learning, and resilience skills development.</li> <li>● Local public authorities prioritizing refugees for camp places.</li> <li>● Camps at Rășcan and Cimișlia provided for 1,225 students, coordinated by the Ministry of Education</li> <li>● Continuous discussions with UNICEF and UNHCR to address integration challenges.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Promote Refugee Child Integration into the Educational System:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continue efforts to integrate refugee children into Moldovan schools during the summer.</li> </ul> <p><b>Improve Educational Infrastructure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support the improvement of school infrastructure, particularly in institutions with significant numbers of refugees like Taras Shevchenko Gymnasium, Vasile Lupu High School, and Constantin Sibirski High School in Chisinau. Coordinate with the Education and Basic Needs WGs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Enhance Language Learning Programs:</b></p>

	<p>Valentina Olaru identified several key challenges and initiatives related to the integration of refugee children into Moldova's education system:</p> <p><b>Language and School Preference:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many Ukrainian refugees opt for Russian-language schools, which often lack a conducive socio-emotional environment.</li> <li>• Efforts to improve this environment include promoting tolerance and acceptance among teachers and students.</li> </ul> <p><b>Parental Preferences and Online Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many parents prefer keeping their children connected to the Ukrainian education program online rather than enrolling them in Moldovan schools.</li> <li>• Reluctance to study in Russian is a significant reason for this preference.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ukrainian Language Classes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Education is providing classes in Ukrainian, starting with the Taras Shevchenko Gymnasium in Chisinau.</li> <li>• A multilingual teaching approach is being introduced, with classes in Romanian, Russian, and Ukrainian.</li> </ul> <p><b>Infrastructure Issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcrowding in schools with good infrastructure in Chisinau and Balti, while schools with poorer infrastructure are less desirable.</li> <li>• UNICEF has pledged support for infrastructure improvements at Taras Shevchenko Gymnasium.</li> <li>• The Ministry aims to improve conditions at other schools with large numbers of refugees, such as Vasile Lupu High School and Constantin Sibirski High School.</li> </ul> <p><b>Romanian Language Proficiency:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited knowledge of Romanian is a barrier to education for many refugees.</li> <li>• Concerns about graduation requirements deter some from entering the educational system.</li> <li>• Intensive Romanian language study programs, developed with UNICEF, are being implemented to help children achieve proficiency.</li> </ul> <p><b>Current Support and Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moldovan schools provide support for refugee children, treating them the same as Moldovan citizens without requiring additional paperwork.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement and support intensive Romanian language study programs for refugee children during the summer to facilitate their integration into Romanian-language schools.</li> </ul> <p><b>Distribute and Utilize Educational Resources:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share and distribute educational materials and information to refugee families to encourage enrollment and participation in the Moldovan educational system.</li> </ul> <p><b>Coordinate Efforts with Government and Partners:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the Education WG and coordinate with partners to address challenges and develop effective strategies for integrating refugee children into the education system.</li> </ul>
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- Schools have welcomed these children without barriers but have not received additional budget allocations specifically for their support.
- The lack of additional funding limits the ability to provide comprehensive support, such as remedial classes and Romanian language study circles.
- Support variability depends on the school's budget and available resources, with some schools offering more robust integration support than others.
- Existing staff handle additional responsibilities for digital labs without extra compensation.

**Voluntary Efforts:**

- Much of the support provided has been on a voluntary basis, relying on the schools' own resources.

**Parental Preferences and Impact on Education:**

- Some parents prefer to keep their children at home to avoid costs, opting for online education through the Ukrainian system.
- This approach leads to significant losses in educational quality and socio-emotional skills, like the impact observed during the pandemic.

**Future Needs:**

- Valentina emphasized the need for more support, including extra hours for remediation to help children feel comfortable and on par with their peers.

**Diego Nardi:** thanked Ms. Valentina for her update and acknowledged the presence of many partners who have been supporting the process of inclusion. He invited any of these partners, or others present, to add their points or ask questions.

**Anastasia Primov:** Anastasia emphasized the National Development Plan for 2025-2027 aims to provide a comprehensive vision for the inclusion of refugees and citizens. Key points included:

**National Development Plan:**

- The plan aims to include refugees and citizens in work, education, and healthcare.
- It is crucial to define how inclusion will work within these systems.
- For education, it must be determined if learning the Romanian language will be mandated, resources allocated to national schools, or support provided for online learning coordinated with the Ministry of Education in Ukraine.

**National Mechanism for Integration:**

- Currently in initial stages.
- The Moldova Partnership Platform, scheduled after September 17, will present the first results of this vision.

- A clear vision for each area will help guide partners and enable the government to present concrete funding proposals.

**Funding and Teacher Burden:**

- Teachers have been unfairly burdened, working double without additional compensation.

**Summer Work and Support:**

- An intense summer of work is needed to develop and implement a clear vision for each sector, as reflected in the national development plan.
- Anastasia thanked everyone for their support and reiterated the importance of this coordinated effort.

**Ilija Talev, UNICEF Deputy Representative**, expressed gratitude to Diego and Secretary Valentina Olaru, acknowledging the challenges discussed in the meeting. Key points included:

- **Discrepancy in Enrollment:** Noted the significant gap between the estimated 40,000 refugee children in Moldova and the approximately 2,000 officially enrolled in the education system.
- **Obstacles and Investment Needs:** Highlighted discussions about obstacles to participation from both supply and demand sides. Emphasized the critical need for additional investment, noting the higher costs of integrating refugee children compared to Moldovan children.
- **Collaborative Efforts and Funding Challenges:** Mentioned recent collaborative efforts, including a workshop organized by ECHO. Stressed that financial resources are insufficient to meet the education sector's needs. Pointed out ambiguity in reforming the Moldova support platform and integrating social sectors, complicating additional funding for education.
- **Proposed Conference:** Proposed convening a conference with major donors to discuss education sector financing reform. Emphasized the importance of generating more investment in education, especially for broader inclusion goals (e.g., integrating children with disabilities, special education needs, Roma children). Urged stakeholders to push hard during the summer for tangible results by the new school year. Affirmed UNICEF's commitment and called for collective action from all UN agencies and partners.

**Dragan Markovic, UNICEF Emergency Coordinator:** highlighted the Ministry of Education and partners' efforts, noting the development of a vision, roadmap, and action plan for including Ukrainian children in Moldova's education system, referencing the Government of Moldova's pledges at the Global Refugee Forum, and stressing the need for continued dedication and collaboration to ensure every Ukrainian child, regardless of status, can enter the Moldovan education system.

**Anastasia Primov** emphasized the need to adapt existing frameworks to better support the integration of refugee children into Moldova's national education system.



**Ritu Shroff, Director of UNHCR Division of Strategic Planning and Results (HQ):** addressed UN staff, government representatives, and NGO partners, emphasizing that Ukraine's situation remains a top priority for UNHCR, with Moldova being one of their most significant operations. She acknowledged other global crises, such as in Sudan, which demand attention and resources, highlighting the challenge of balancing needs across different countries. Her visit to Moldova and upcoming trip to Romania aim to observe how inclusion is practiced. She praised Moldova's government for its clear vision for inclusion and stressed the importance of translating this vision into practical actions. Ritu expressed interest in the transition strategy, the inclusion of refugees in the National Development Plan, and how international financial institutions and the community can support these efforts. She agreed that financial and human resources are crucial for high-quality inclusion. She reiterated UNHCR's commitment to supporting Moldova and its partners and highlighted the importance of learning from other countries' experiences to benefit Moldova.

**Youssef Mhanna, World Vision Country Director:** emphasized the need to help those in need, strengthen teachers' capacity, improve the education system, and address space shortages in kindergartens, expressing World Vision's readiness to collaborate with relevant groups.

**Katie Lampe, Education WG Co-Chair:** thanked Mrs. Olaru for highlighting the challenges faced by refugee families and the education system. She mentioned that UNHCR and UNICEF are developing a roadmap and action plan to address these issues, to be discussed at the next education working group meeting and stressed the importance of promoting in-person education, urging all sectors to convey that schools are safe and welcoming.

**Vicente Palacios, ECHO Humanitarian Expert,** inquired whether there are discussions or plans to make in-person education mandatory for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.

**Valentina Olaru:** stated that any Ukrainian child arriving in Moldova can be integrated into the educational system, including kindergartens, by accepting a parental declaration of the child's previous educational level, allowing seamless placement in Moldovan schools.

**Anastasia Primov:** mentioned that while mandatory education for Ukrainian refugees is not currently required, it remains a future possibility as part of a new framework and vision that will be discussed moving forward.

**Guillermo Llinas, People in Need Country Director:** emphasized removing barriers to ensure high enrollment of Ukrainian refugees in Moldovan schools, criticized parallel systems, and urged their dismantling to encourage attendance and create incentives for parents. Stressed the need for accessible alternatives, addressing financial issues, and providing comprehensive support for proper integration and quality education for refugee children.

**Diego Nardi:** opened the floor for questions and shared an update on the upcoming refugee response plan,

	<p>covering a two-year timeframe. He highlighted the importance of a clear service package and the need for collaboration between humanitarian organizations, the Ministry of Education, UN agencies, INGOs, and the government. Diego emphasized discussions with World Bank, development partners to ensure comprehensive support and mentioned a recent event held by ECHO which discussed humanitarian-development nexus on Education.</p> <p><b>Oleg Palii, CDA Director:</b> emphasized that children from Iraq, Syria, and African countries quickly learned Romanian or Russian in Moldovan schools, suggesting that the language barrier is not the primary issue for Ukrainian children, but rather the will of their parents to enroll them.</p> <p><b>Ion Bambuleac, CCR Protection Officer:</b> suggested that involving Ukrainian teachers, who are also refugees or have temporary protection, could mitigate the language issue and help integrate Ukrainian children into Romanian-language schools.</p> <p><b>Valentina Olaru:</b> explained that Moldovan schools can implement a plan to teach in both Romanian and Ukrainian, though communities in northern Moldova often prefer Russian-speaking education. She emphasized that employing Ukrainian teachers is possible and encouraged them to fill teaching positions, such as at Taras Şevchenko School.</p> <p><b>Yulia Zinchenko, Women Support Force Director:</b> expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Research for their collaboration on a project involving Ukrainian mothers, teachers, and psychologists in Moldovan schools, emphasizing the importance of involving refugees in their integration process and on the decision making.</p> <p><b>Irina Basiul, AAP TF Co-Chair:</b> noted growing interest among Ukrainian parents in enrolling their children in Moldovan schools for the next academic year. She emphasized the need for direct communication with the refugee community to understand their concerns and suggested engaging refugees in discussions to develop effective strategies for encouraging enrollment and addressing problems.</p>	
<p><b>Session 4:</b></p> <p><b>Inter-Agency Winter Planning</b></p> <p>(15:30-15:45)</p>	<p><b>Diego Nardi:</b> shared two updates. The first was about the Interagency Winter Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interagency Winter Plan will coordinate winter activities from November 2024 to March 2025, assess funding, and identify gaps.</li> <li>• By June 28th, planning parameters will be shared for comments, and partners will report planned winter activities, targets, and funding needs, with information shared mainly with the Basic Needs and Cash Working Groups.</li> <li>• Main activities include winter cash assistance, shelter improvements, and community infrastructure support, aiming to support both refugees and host communities.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Interagency Winter Planning:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By June 28th: Share planning parameters.</li> <li>• By 21 July: Partners submit planned winter activities, targets, and funding requirements.</li> <li>• By end of August: Complete the interagency winter plan and appeal.</li> </ul>

<p>Speakers: Mr. Diego Nardi, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diego Nardi noted the inclusion of limited Non-Food Item distribution for highly vulnerable cases and announced a form for partners to submit their planned winter activities.</li> <li>By the end of July, compiled information will be shared with the Basic Needs and Cash Working Groups for sectoral winter strategies, with the interagency winter plan ready by the end of August.</li> <li>Diego and the Basic Needs Working Group discussed with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection the government's winter response.</li> <li>The Ministry highlighted the need for support in refugee accommodation centers, with around 24-25 centers expected to remain open, and flagged the increased vulnerability of households as consolidation progresses.</li> <li>Emphasis was placed on supporting households with persons with disabilities, individuals without caregivers, and other vulnerable groups.</li> <li>The Cash and Basic Needs Working Groups will coordinate with partners to consolidate targets, address gaps, and ensure coordinated delivery of assistance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Andrea Cuisana, BN WG Co-Chair:</b> updated that fewer RACs will close this winter due to ongoing consolidation, with the Ministry requesting a July assessment to identify vulnerabilities and recommend RACs for closure.</p> <p><b>Vicente Palacios, ECHO Humanitarian Expert:</b> emphasized ensuring the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund remains accessible to Ukrainian refugees this year, urging collaborative efforts to help vulnerable households benefit and maximize the use of integration and development funds in Moldova.</p> <p><b>Diego Nardi:</b> acknowledged Vicente Palacios' point. Last year, about 3,400 refugee households accessed. Diego emphasized the importance of keeping the fund open for refugees and noted that, although the legal framework does not explicitly mention TP holders' eligibility, there was flexibility in practice last year.</p>	<p><b>Support for Community Infrastructure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify partners with resources/capacity to implement community infrastructure improvements in refugee-hosting areas (BN WG).</li> <li>Support five remaining infrastructures and potentially identify more (BN WG).</li> </ul> <p><b>Government Coordination and Energy Fund:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and advocate for the inclusion of refugees in the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund.</li> <li>Collaborate with the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection to support refugee accommodation centers and support vulnerable households.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session 5:</b></p> <p><b>Inter-Agency Contingency Planning Update</b></p> <p>(15:45-16:15) Speakers: Mr. Diego</p>	<p><b>Diego Nardi:</b> provided an update on the contingency plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning figures remain the same as last year's update.</li> <li>Diego outlined steps for updating the Interagency Contingency Plan, including a survey for partners staying at least 12 months to gather information for an interagency workshop, involving representatives of RRP partners, sectors and the government.</li> <li>Following the workshop, sectors will update their contingency plans, which will be consolidated into the overall Interagency Contingency Plan by mid-September.</li> <li>The goal is to finalize the updated contingency plan, including total funding requirements and prepared measures, by mid-September.</li> <li>Stressed the importance of identifying and incorporating any additional preparedness measures into the</li> </ul>	<p><b>Update the Interagency Contingency Plan:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners with emergency response capacity to provide information through the Contingency Plan Update Form. The form will be shared during the first week of July.</li> <li>A CP Update workshop will be held in August with participants selected by sectors and government.</li> </ul>

<p>Nardi, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer</p>	<p>refugee response planning, highlighting ongoing efforts and ensuring all sectors address any pending needs.</p> <p><b>Dragan Markovic:</b> Dragan mentioned the RRP contingency plan's alignment with the government's planning and inquired about any updates on the government's planning process, as this is crucial for the contingency plan and RRP planning.</p> <p><b>Bertrand Blanc:</b> Bertrand noted that the government's contingency plan is complemented by the IA Refugee CP, and mentioned that nearly \$3 million in stockpiled resources would be transferred to the Ministry of Interior by UNHCR. He emphasized ongoing communication with MOI on CP, and highlighted the importance of binational contingency planning, noting 90 percent of refugees are expected to transit through Moldova.</p> <p><b>Diego Nardi:</b> emphasized the need for a clear, updated overview of partners in country, their operational footprint, and clear distributions activities in the contingency plan to ensure effective and efficient activation if the plan needs to be activated</p> <p><b>Ilija Talev:</b> asked Diego about the timelines and interrelation between the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) and the contingency (next 12 to 24 months).</p> <p><b>Diego Nardi:</b> explained that the contingency plan ensures coordination and serves as an initial funding appeal covering the first three months, during which a Refugee Response Plan would be developed or updated. While the CP funding requirements are not included as part of the RRP, he stressed that preparedness activities are integrated into the RRP. Preparedness activities included in the RRP should focus on risk reduction and system strengthening to help government systems respond to eventual new influxes.</p>	
<p><b>Session 6:</b></p> <p><b>Sector Updates / AOB</b></p> <p>Closing Remarks (16:15-16:30)</p> <p>Speakers: Mr. Diego Nardi, Inter-</p>	<p><b>Yurii Arnautov, IM WG Co-Chair:</b> provided an update on the Socioeconomic Insights Survey (SEIS), which will inform the RRP planning and monitor refugee socio-economic integration in Moldova. He noted that data collection, in partnership with Impact Initiatives and REACH, is ongoing and aims to be completed by the end of June.</p> <p><b>Andrew Painter, Protection WG Co-Chair:</b> provided an update and announcement regarding the National Housing and Population Census being conducted by the government of Moldova, emphasizing inclusion of refugees and stateless persons for accurate long-term planning, and urged those interacting with refugees to encourage their participation and address concerns about data confidentiality and eligibility. Andrew also suggested using the Green Line or UNHCR resources to help answer any questions refugees might have.</p> <p><b>Ross McDonald, IMPACT Country Director:</b> stated that Impact/Reach are supporting the National Bureau of Statistics in the census and offered assistance for any issues, encouraging participants to contact him for help.</p>	<p><b>Encourage Census Participation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote refugee and stateless person participation in the National Housing and Population Census.</li> <li>• Address concerns about data confidentiality and eligibility.</li> <li>• Distribute information materials to encourage participation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Share Stories for Reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit stories, pictures, and captions for the newsletter and quarterly reports with proper consent to inter-agency coordination team</li> </ul>

<p>Agency Coordination Officer</p>	<p><b>Diego Nardi:</b> requested that partners share stories, pictures, and captions for inclusion in the newsletter and inter-agency quarterly reports. He emphasized the importance of obtaining consent from refugees appearing in the pictures and focusing on positive stories and protection-sensitive portrayals. High-resolution images are preferred to ensure better quality in the reports. Diego also mentioned that a survey would be shared to gather feedback on the meeting and suggestions for improving future meetings.</p> <p><b>Anastasia Primov</b> thanked partners for their vital support over the past two years on both humanitarian and development agendas, emphasizing the importance of maintaining this dual focus.</p> <p><b>Bertrand Blanc:</b> concluded the meeting by thanking all participants.</p>	<p>(<a href="mailto:mdachrcf@unhcr.org">mdachrcf@unhcr.org</a>).</p> <p><b>Provide Feedback and Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in the survey for feedback on the meeting and future improvements.</li> <li>• Provide input on the format and agenda for upcoming meetings.</li> <li>• <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/g8mXgisQY4">https://forms.office.com/e/g8mXgisQY4</a></li> </ul>
<p>6. Details of the Next Meeting</p>		
<p>Date</p>	<p>TBC</p>	
<p>Time</p>	<p>TBC</p>	
<p>Venue</p>	<p>TBC</p>	