



Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG)

Meeting Details	
Date	19 th September 2024
Time	1:00-2:30pm
Chair	Chair: Dr. Ivan Duminica, Head of the Policy Service for Interethnic Relations, Ministry of Education and Research (MER) Co- chairs: Katie Lampe, Child Protection Officer, UNHCR; Loujine Khoury, Education Specialist, UNICEF
Email	lampe@unhcr.org ; ivan.duminica@mec.gov.md , ombaka@unhcr.org ; lkhoury@unicef.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Updates from MER:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) The enrolment numbers of Ukrainian children for the school year 2024/2025 in preschools and general education disaggregated by school level, gender, and directorate.b) Results of the state exams for 9th and 12th gradesc) Data on the number of students and preferred specializations for those entering vocational schools and universities.d) Update on the visit to the Refugee Temporary Placement Center at 6 Testemitanu Street.e) Updates from MER on the visit to Carpineni RAC, Licueil Stefan Holban and Gymnasium Dmitru Cretu.f) Updates from MER on Taras Shevchenko Gymnasium2. Discussion and feedback on the Education Priorities/Objectives for the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2025-20263. Updates on the Roadmap and Action Plan for the full inclusion of refugee children in the education system in Moldova.4. AoB<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) RRP 2025-2026 planning timelineb) Updates on trainings for teachers on Roma inclusion	
Information collection and relevant links	
Activity Info Platform: https://www.activityinfo.org	



Participants

- Dr. Ivan Duminica - MER
- Katie Lampe- UNHCR
- Loujine Khoury – UNICEF
- Diana Alexei, Chisinau Municipality
- Mary Ombaka, UNHCR
- Radica Jordan – CNPAC
- Lilia Gantatuc – Comisia Migratie
- Natalia Balta – Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation
- Maher Daboul – NRC
- Hanna Ursol – PiN
- Carolina Grosu – Laolalta
- Djavid Paknehad – CCR
- Olga Stus – Female Support Force
- Maria Vasquez – NRC
- Marcel Straton – Lumos
- Babachisvili Aliona - CNPAC
- Carmelia Corbu – ICRC
- Valentina Ungureanu – Secreteriat Comisiei Migratie
- Catarev Cristina – IGM
- Diana Antir – Caritas Moldova
- Liban Roman - CCR
- Ion Duminica- Roma Task Force
- Vlad Oleatovschi- WeWorld
- Vera Gurievschi, World Vision
- Maria Pislaraş - Charity Centre for Refugees
- Tabuncic Iurie, US Embassy.
- Mihail Platinda – UNICEF
- Cicale Liliene – AiBi
- Robyn Prinz – US Embassy
- Yuliia Zenchenko – Female support Force
- Alexanrina IroTrofin – Amici Bambini
- Ceban Roman - CCR
- Suroutou Dmitri- Peope In Need
- Irina Basiul- National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova (NCUM)
- Olesea Cazasu- National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova (NCUM)
- Olga Morozan – Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation
- Victor Rotaras – APSCF
- Nina Cuznir – Tarna Rom
- Normand Levesque – BSF
- Pinzari Olga – CRS
- Tusca Tatiana – CRS
- Irene Amoroso – Weworld
- Dominica Ivan– MEC
- Vitioglu Jeyna – Female Support Force
- Felicia Bulat – Reach/Impact
- Masum Billah - OHCHR



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Welcome and presentation of agenda	UNICEF co-chair Loujine Khoury opened the meeting and thanked members who had attended both in person and online. She invited Dr. Duminica, the chair, to share the latest updates in the sector.	
1. MER Updates	<p>1. Update from MER</p> <p>a) School Enrolment for the new school Year-2024/2025</p> <p>MER shared updates on enrolment for the start of the new school year, September 2024, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A total of 735 children were enrolled in kindergarten, a slight increase from June 2024 data of 727. The desegregation percentage is 51% girls and 49% boys. The age group with the highest enrollment number was 4-year-olds.• The number of refugee children enrolled in primary and secondary schools was 1626 children as of 19th September 2024.• Majority of new enrolments preferred schools with Russian language of instruction, with fewer opting for schools with Romanian language of instruction.• Amongst primary school students, the largest numbers were enrolled in 1st-4th grades (828). 742 children are enrolled in 5th-9th grade and only 56 were at Lyceum level (10-12th grade).• Analysis of district enrolment revealed that Chisinau had the highest enrolment with 869 children, followed by Balti and Gagauzia.• Most schools reported high number of vaccinated children although there was lack of vaccination reports in Cantemir, Calarasi and Besarebesca where there is need to do more work with the local authorities in this regard. Adversely affected regarding vaccination were Cantemir and Criuleni, and Taraclia where there was zero vaccination of children. MER will need to conduct more advocacy campaigns jointly with Ministry of Health, as vaccination of children is mandatory for their school enrolment. <p>b) Results of exams for grades 9 and 12</p> <p>Only 1 Ukrainian student took the national 12th grade baccalaureate exam. The 9th grade exam was taken by 47 Ukrainian students, of which 39 passed. Performance per subject shows that</p>	



Romanian language registered the lowest performance while History had the highest performance.

c) Ukrainian refugee children enrolling in Vocational Colleges and Higher Education

Data for September 2024 show that there were 92 Ukrainian students that are enrolled in different vocational colleges across Moldova. A total of 211 Ukrainian students are enrolled in higher education institutions.

d) Visits to Schools

MER shared an update on various school visits that were undertaken to address different school enrollment challenges:

- **Testimetaniu 6**

The REWG visited the T6 RAC, where Roma children had enrolled at Vasile Lupu gymnasium. During the visits, some problems related to conditions in the RAC were noted and referred to relevant partners. Following the visit, REWG partners distributed shoes and clothes for children that were enrolled at Vasile Lupu. Children who had not been vaccinated were to be vaccinated by 31st August 2024. On the first day of school, 27 of the 32 children in the RAC attended school.

- **Carpineni**

On 6th September 2024, the REWG visited Carpineni. The team was composed of MER, UNHCR, UNICEF, Tarna Rom and Roma Task Force representatives. They met with the refugee community and discussed the facilitation of education for children. There was increased interest in education by parents at the RAC and different Roma parents agreed to have their children enrolled in the two schools within the RAC's vicinity. Parents expressed concerns regarding sending their children to the only kindergarten at Lyceum Holbarn school due to distance from the RAC. MER arranged for the required transportation request with the DGETS. It was noted that PiN was supporting children at Gymnasium Cretu by setting up an EduTech labs to provide space for children whose parents express interest in online studies.

On Palestinian refugee children from Gaza Strip, the majority are continuing their online learning using the Palestinian education platform. The co-chair mentioned that according to the Palestinian embassy in Romania, children can either enroll formally



in local schools or continue learning online using Palestinian MoE education platforms. For children in the 12th grade who will be taking their official high school exams they can either continue learning online using the Palestinian Platform, or through registering to continue online learning with one school in Romania teaching the Palestinian curriculum. The embassy noted that the final exams for the 12th graders will be organized in this particular school in person.

e) Taras Shevchenko

MER noted that this is the only learning institution in Moldova that is offering classes (currently for the 1st, 4th, 5th, 6th grades) in the Ukrainian language. There is still a need for Ukrainian teachers, as well as for Romanian and English language and literature. Ukrainian teachers who are interested in teaching in the school should present their documents for vetting by MER. There is also a need for translation of textbooks into Ukrainian language. The chair noted that MER had had discussions with their Ukrainian counterparts to have the Moldovan curriculum translated into Ukrainian and the project was earmarked to start in January 2025.

MER expressed gratitude to all partners who helped with the renovation of the institution and mentioned that some needs remain (ex: canteen, sports hall).

Questions were raised on plans to close T6 RAC. The co-chairs noted that several partners are following up with MLSP and that further updates will be shared when available. The REWG and CP SWG will remain engaged in the process to ensure that the needs of the children in the RAC are taken into consideration.

On the questions regarding the situation of students who did not pass their 9th grade Romanian exams, MER noted that out of the eight students who failed, half of them were pursuing studies in professional institutions because they had certificates.

On the question of how many refugee students were admitted to university on scholarships, MER noted that there is an order from the Ministry relating to university scholarships. There was interest to know whether conditions of enrolment to university had improved for Ukrainian refugees and availability of scholarships for them.

REWG co-chairs to circulate spreadsheet of current covered and ongoing needs for partners to identify where they can add additional support.



	<p>CCR reported that they had started providing Romanian language training to children in Anenii Noi. They further shared that in collaboration with UNHCR they are providing backpacks to children. 32 children from the Left Bank received backpacks and seven children received shoes in Glodeni.</p> <p>2. Refugee Response Plan (RRP)</p> <p>The co-chairs noted that the RRP was being done for two years this time, covering 2025 and 2026. The RRP is a fundraising tool for the Ukrainian refugee situation, and it also allows sectors to plan accordingly. However, partners were cautioned that the fact that an activity is included in the RRP does not automatically qualify it for funding. Right now, sector leads are asked to develop objectives, indicators, and activities, aligning with other working groups, while the full narrative will be submitted in another week. Partners were asked to share inputs on the proposed objectives, activities, and indicators.</p> <p>Comments by partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggestion in activity 1.1.2 to make the wording broader and to include info sharing on the importance of education and other related topics.• Suggestion for activity 1.2.1 to include tutoring, accelerated learning, etc.• Question on 1.2.3 on MHPSS outside of school (this is covered in the CP sector).• Question on whether to include vocational training (to confirm with BNWG; higher ed will be added for education).• Question on focusing not just on enrollment, but also graduation (this will be reported by MER separately).• Suggestion to include PSS for parents to help prepare them to send their kids to Moldovan schools.• Suggestion to monitor dropout rates.• Suggestion on MHM in schools (to be included under WASH sub-working group). <p>3. Roadmap on Inclusion of Refugee Children</p> <p>The document has been under development for some time by the REWG co-chairs. Thanks to all partners for their inputs. Now that the draft is finalized, the next stage is costing of the various components in the document. Some components in the roadmap will be included in a coefficient developed to capture the needs of each refugee student, while other components, such as Romanian as a second language, will be costed separately. Once the costing is complete a donor event will be</p>	<p>Partners to share any final RRP inputs.</p>
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organized to support MER in raising funds to implement the roadmap. The consultant currently working on the costing will take about a month to two to finalize this exercise and validate the roadmap with MER.

4. AOB

- The RRP document will need to be submitted day after the meeting (20th September 2024). Any additional partner comments should be shared before the deadline for submission.
- Teachers Training – with an increasing number of Roma children enrolled in schools, MER, UNHCR and UNICEF collaborated to conduct training of teachers in three schools where Roma children are enrolled in Chisinau, Glodeni and Popeasca, as a pilot. Details of the training exercise to be shared in the October coordination meeting.
- Meals for school children at Taras Shevchenko- PiN noted the school canteen needs cutlery. Chisinau Municipality noted that so far, no partner has expressed interest in rehabilitation and painting of the school canteen. There is also still a need to rehabilitate the gym. It was suggested that the matrix on who is doing what at the institution be reshared so that partners can identify where else they might be able to support.