



Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG)

Meeting Details		
Date	3 rd of June 2025	
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: Loujine Khoury, Education Specialist, UNICEF & Katie Lampe, Child Protection Officer, UNHCR.	
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Agenda		
Agenda point	Time	Focal Point
1. MER updates regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The enrollment numbers of Ukrainian children for the school year 2024/2025 in preschools and general education.• Updates on education monitoring for children with different legal statuses learning in Moldova.• Updates on the 9th-grade exams in the Romanian language for Ukrainian students and their admission to the lyceum.• Updates on the 4th-grade exams for the Ukrainian class at Taras Shevchenko School & Updates on the translation of the Moldovan curriculum into Ukrainian.• Updates on the Vocational education for Ukrainian students.• Updates from MER’s field visits.• Update on the Roadmap Donors’ Roundtable event.	13:00 – 13:40	MER
2. Key findings from the Qualitative Education Assessment in the Transnistrian Region for refugee children and children with special education needs	13:40 – 14:00	UNICEF & Speranta87



3. AoB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned summer activities. University admissions for refugee students. UNICEF consultancies on Accelerated Education Program (AEP) and the Romanian language curriculum for the preparatory year. 	14:00 - 14:30	UNHCR & UNICEF
Information collection and relevant links		
Activity Info Platform: https://www.activityinfo.org		
Participants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Ivan Duminica - MER - Katie Lampe - UNHCR - Loujine Khoury – UNICEF - Christos Martinis – Education Officer deployed at MER. - Diana Alexei – Chisinau Municipality - Aliona Babachişvili- CNPAC - Natasa OMEROVIC - IOM Moldova 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Olesea Cazacu – NCUM - Buga Natalia– CCR - Dmitri Surovtov – People in Need - Evelina Mocanu – People in Need - Alesya Kovalchuk – Female Support Force - Iurie Tabuncic – U.S. Embassy - Ilhan Guvel – DG ECHO - Cristina Tîmbur- C.E. PRO DIDACTICA - Robyn Prinz, U.S. Embassy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natalia Balta – Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation - Alexandrina Trofin – Amici dei Bambini - Cristina Savin– NRC - Felicia Bulat - IMPACT Initiatives/ REACH - Djavid Paknehad – CCR



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Welcome and presentation of the agenda.	UNICEF co-chair opened the meeting and thanked members who attended both in person and online. She invited Dr. Duminica from MER, the chair, to share the latest updates in the sector related to refugee education.	
1. MER Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The enrollment numbers of Ukrainian children for the school year 2024/2025 in preschools and general education:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Preschool: 980 children.o School: 2,518 children.o Total: 3,510. <p>Currently, 2,175 refugee children are enrolled in schools that teach in the Russian language and 353 in schools that teach in the Romanian language, with an overall gender balance among students (48,62% girls and 51,38% boys). In terms of grade distribution, there are 1,205 students in primary school, 1,223 in gymnasium, and 112 in high school.</p> <p>Children Learning Online – EDUTech Labs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Online Learning: 369 children from Ukraine (188 girls, 181 boys).o Non-Formal Education Activities: 1,985 children (including 1,335 Moldovan children. And 730 Ukrainian children) <p>Following remarks from several partners, MER addressed an official letter to the Ukrainian Ministry of Education, requesting information regarding any decision to discontinue online education for Ukrainian children, either at the national or regional level, as there are concerns that this modality may be phased out in certain areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Updates on education monitoring for children with different legal statuses learning in Moldova:	



➤ ***Standard Operating Procedures (SoP) for collecting information on the recording of enrollment:***

On May 28, 2025, [a Ministerial Order](#) was signed approving the use of recording forms for children enrolled in educational institutions in the Republic of Moldova, including those attending online education. These forms also apply to children from refugee families. For children enrolled in formal education, the recording will be done directly at the school. For children following the Ukrainian online curriculum, parents or legal guardians must submit the completed form either in person or via email to the focal point of their local Education Directorate.

Currently, MER is collecting the names of focal points from all Education Directorates and will upload the relevant instructions and contact details on its official website. Additionally, MER will organize a meeting with the IGM to present the mechanism and coordinate the dissemination of this information to temporary protection beneficiaries. In parallel, UNHCR and UNICEF are preparing a leaflet containing all necessary information for parents and legal guardians, which will be distributed through all available communication channels.

➤ ***MIA and MER data sharing agreement:***

At the same time, based on the data-sharing agreement between the MER and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, steps are underway to connect MER's Education Management Information System (EMIS) with the Ministry of Internal Affairs' database. Currently, the information management departments of both ministries are working on the technical aspects of the data exchange process.

- **Updates on the 9th-grade exams in the Romanian language for Ukrainian students and their admission to the lyceum:**

MER issued [a Ministerial Order](#) introducing exceptional measures for the 2025 9th grade graduation exams and high school admission for Ukrainian refugee students who enrolled in the Moldovan education system after February 24, 2022. According to the order, these students are exceptionally exempt from taking the Romanian Language and Literature exam for non-native speakers. Instead, they will receive a certificate confirming their academic record and the results of the other exams they have taken. To obtain the full 9th grade graduation certificate, they will need to take the Romanian exam in one of the following two years—either in 2026 or 2027.



	<p>Despite not having passed the Romanian exam, these students will still be allowed to enroll in high school, provided they complete the Romanian exam later, during the 10th or 11th grade. Ukrainian refugee students who choose to take the exams in 2025 will benefit from the same rights as Moldovan students, with an exceptional allowance of attempting to pass the exam in one of the next two sessions — 2026 or 2027. Even if they do not pass, they will still be eligible to continue their education in vocational and technical institutions, with access to skills training in accordance with national legislation.</p> <p>- Updates on the 4th-grade exams for the Ukrainian class at Taras Shevchenko School. At the start of the 2024/2025 school year, four Ukrainian-language classes (for grades I, IV, V, and VI) with mandatory Romanian were introduced at “Taras Shevchenko” Gymnasium in Chişinău. In the 4th grade, 25 students took part in the national assessment for Romanian (oral), Mathematics, and Ukrainian language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Romanian: 14 students scored good or very good, 8 satisfactory. Three refugee students initially failed but passed on the retake.• Mathematics: All 25 passed; 24 achieved very good, good, or satisfactory scores.• Ukrainian: All students achieved good or very good results, demonstrating strong native language skills. <p>➤ Updates on the translation of the Moldovan curriculum into Ukrainian for Ukrainian refugee students: MER informed the REWG that it continues to receive an increasing number of requests from parents, currently around thirty, for the enrollment of Ukrainian refugee children in primary school. This growing interest reflects the trust parents place in the Moldovan education system and its inclusive approach, particularly in the early grades. In light of this, MER reiterated the need to translate 34 textbooks for grades 1, 2, 5, and 6 into Ukrainian. This is essential to ensure that homework and home-based learning activities are aligned with the national curriculum. MER emphasized that even a online version of these textbooks would be sufficient in the short term, as long as the materials are developed and translated. The Ministry noted that it has already demonstrated the capacity to manage such processes and called on all REWG members to support this critical need.</p>	<p>Action point: reshare the cost estimation for printing and translation of the Moldovan books to Ukrainian with the REWG partners.</p>
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- **Updates on the Vocational education for Ukrainian students.**

To support the integration of refugee youth into the education system, MER issued [a Ministerial Order](#) facilitating access to vocational and technical education in the Republic of Moldova. According to the order, Ukrainian refugees who pass the 2025 admission process for colleges, vocational schools, or centres of excellence in fee-paying places will pay the same tuition fees as Moldovan citizens. Additionally, Ukrainian citizens of Moldovan origin may apply for state-funded places under the same conditions as Moldovan applicants.

According to the Ministry's data, in September 2024 alone, 92 Ukrainian refugee students enrolled in vocational institutions in Moldova, choosing fields such as:

- Engineering.
- IT, computers, and electronics.
- Food technology.

- **Updates from MER's field visits.**

On May 14, 2025, members of the REWG, including representatives from MER, UNHCR, UNICEF, and PiN, visited Cahul to assess the integration of Ukrainian refugee children in the education system. The delegation visited "Dimitrie Cantemir" Lyceum and "Petr Rumeancev" Lyceum, where a total of 69 refugee students are currently enrolled.

A meeting was also held with refugee parents and the Cahul Education Directorate, focusing on the needs of students and encouraging the enrollment of children who are still studying online in Ukraine, to support their social inclusion and integration.

- **Update on the Roadmap Donors' Roundtable event.**

On April 1, 2025, MER approved, [the Roadmap for the Integration of Refugee Children into Schools in the Republic of Moldova](#). On May 26, 2025, the document was formally presented to donors in a Roundtable meeting. Developed in partnership with UNICEF and UNHCR, the Roadmap outlines the strategic directions for ensuring the educational inclusion of children displaced from Ukraine into the general education system. The Roadmap is accompanied by an expanded Action Plan for 2025–2026, which estimates a funding requirement of €35.5 million to enable the full integration of all refugee children from Ukraine into Moldova's education system.



	<p>UNICEF is already supporting the implementation of several key pillars of the Roadmap, including the Accelerated Education Programs and the preparatory year for Romanian-speaking schools. However, additional funds are urgently needed to scale up interventions and ensure national-level rollout. For this reason, significant fundraising efforts are ongoing, and MER, UNICEF & UNHCR will continue to engage bilaterally with donors over the coming weeks.</p>	
<p>2. Key findings from the Qualitative Education Assessment in the Transnistrian Region for refugee children and children with special education needs.</p>	<p>UNICEF, in collaboration with Speranza87, conducted a qualitative education assessment focusing on refugee children and children with special education needs in the Transnistrian region. The assessment began in December and is now nearing completion. Please see attached presentation for the main findings.</p>	
<p>3. AoB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summer activities: REWG and CP Sub-WG shared a compilation of summer activities in two versions: one for community use and one for internal coordination among partners. Partners are encouraged to share any new activities with UNHCR focal point Carolina Scifos, and a second version may be circulated in cases of new summer camps are organized. - University admissions for refugee students: UNHCR, as in the previous year, is preparing a flyer with basic information on university admissions for Ukrainian students, including application deadlines. Ukrainian students will still need to apply in person, as their diplomas are not included in Moldova's online system. A ministerial order with details on scholarships and budget-funded places is expected to be released in July. The flyer will be shared shortly, and partners are invited to consider organizing an information session, liklast year, to support university-age students. - UNICEF consultancies on AEP and the Romanian language curriculum for the preparatory year: UNICEF informed the REWG that an institutional consultancy has been advertised for the development and piloting of the Accelerated Education Program—one of the key pillars outlined in the Roadmap for the Inclusion of Refugee Children. The consultancy includes curriculum 	



	<p>development, teacher training, piloting in selected schools, and feedback sessions with students and teachers. The deadline for to apply is 10 June 2025.</p> <p>Additionally, an individual consultancy is ongoing for the development of Romanian language content for the preparatory year, which focuses on language, culture, and history. Consultations have already begun with MER, and feedback is being collected from teachers and students to inform the development and piloting of the curriculum.</p> <p>- CCR informed the REWG about several ongoing activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A refugee student from Gaza will participate in a graduation event on 11 June at 11:00, supported by classmates who helped cover related costs. Attendance by the President is expected.○ Nine children from Gaza are expected to take the high-school exams in Bucharest. CCR thanked UNICEF for their support in facilitating travel and accommodation.○ CCR & HOPE will hold a one-week summer school for approximately 50–60 children, including participants from Moldovan, Roma, Ukrainian, and Gagauzian backgrounds. A preparatory meeting is scheduled for June 5.○ A Ukrainian psychologist recently joined CCR and proposed organising psychosocial support sessions for refugee mothers and children during the summer, to be held twice a week in coordination with Chisinau Municipality.○ CRR is organizing a voluntary blood donation campaign on 20 June.○ Due to limited funding, large-scale summer events may not take place this year, and smaller activities are planned instead.	
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