Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG)

Meeting Details	
Date	21st of August 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: • The education monitoring mechanism for children with different legal statuses learning in Moldova. • MER's field visits.	13:00 – 13:30	MER
2. Update on RAC consolidation process.	13:30 – 13:50	UNHCR
3. Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2026: Indicators & Priorities.	13:50 – 14:10	UNHCR & UNICEF
4. AoB • Back to School Campaign • Preparatory program • AEP consultancy • Romanian Language Course content for school-age children.	14:10 - 14:30	NCUM, UNICEF & UNHCR

Information collection and relevant links

Activity Info Platform: https://www.activityinfo.org

Participants
- Dr. Ivan Duminica – MER - Loujine Khoury – UNICEF - Christos Martinis – UNICEF Education Officer deployed at MER - Katie Lampe - UNHCR - Cosmina Nazaru – MER - Olga Bitca – ROMNI - Lucia Cucu – ANTEM - Olesea Cazacu – NCUM - Irina Basul – NCUM - Dmitri Surovtov – People in Need - Alesya Kovalchuk – FSF - Yuliia Zenchenko – FSF - Iurie Tabuncic – U.S. Embassy - Marta Sterpu – Plan International - Veronica Dragan – CCR - Svetlana Moisa – CNPAC - Natalia Balta – Pestalozzi Children's Foundation - Stela Vasluian – Amici dei Bambini - Olga Pinzari – CRS - Maher Daboul – NRC - Cristina Savin – NRC - Ada Dulman – Caritas - Anastasia Buicli – MRCS

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	**-Updates on education monitoring for children with different legal statuses learning in Moldova:** On May 28, 2025, MER signed the Ministerial Order No. 806/28.05.25, approving the use of recording forms for children enrolled in educational institutions in the Republic of Moldova, including those following online education. In accordance with this order, 35 focal points have been appointed (one per Education Department), the focal points are responsible for collecting local-level data on refugee children who are enrolled in educational institutions in the Republic of Moldova or attend online classes in Ukraine, either in parallel or exclusively. On 4 August, MER & UNICEF met to discuss the possibility of transitioning this mechanism into The Education Management Information System (EMIS) by creating a new module for students following online education. The next steps include defining the Terms of Reference (TORs), deciding on the personal data fields to be included in the system, and connecting IGM data via the MConnect platform.	

	- **MER field visits** On 7 August 2025, MER, together with members of the REWG (UNICEF, UNHCR PiN, Tarna Rom), conducted a visit to Cărpineni to monitor the inclusion of refugee children. Currently, at the Dumitru Creţu Gymnasium, 25 Ukrainian (including children from the Roma community), and Palestinian refugee children are enrolled in the school. A meeting was held with the Education Department to review results from the past academic year and preparations for the new one. At the temporary placement centre of Cărpineni, MER and partners met with parents to discuss living conditions and access to education, especially the transition of children from online to in-person education. As a follow-up to the visit, an Open Doors Day was organised on 13 August at the Dumitru Creţu Gymnasium, attended by 24 children and parents. This led to the enrollment of 8 Ukrainian children, including 3 first graders, while another 15 children (9 Ukrainian and 6 Palestinian) will continue their studies online in the EduTech Lab. On 14 August, MER, as part of the Together for Education – Support for Refugee Families in Moldova campaign organised by CNPAC and NRC, delivered a webinar for Ukrainian parents. Over 40 participants received guidance on enrollment procedures, the admission calendar, required documents, and the recognition of diplomas between Moldova and Ukraine. In the same spirit, MER participated in the launch of the expanded *Better Learning Programme (BLP)*, organised by NRC and P4EC. The programme will reach more schools and communities across Moldova, including in Căuşeni and Ştefan Vodă, and will benefit refugee children. Over 100 teachers, school leaders, and community workers attended the session opened by Dr. Duminica, who underlined the importance of supporting the emotional needs of refugee and vulnerable children.	

2. Update on RAC consolidation process.	**- Update on RAC consolidation process.** UNHCR reported that as of 11 August, there are 20 active RACs in Moldova, hosting 1,066 people, including 93 persons with disabilities, 235 older persons (60+), 33 children aged 0–2, and 324 children aged 2–18. MLSP had announced the closure of 10 RACs in 2025, of which 6 have already closed. Two more (Cojusna and Ungheni) are in the process of closing, with final relocation planned by 31 August. Relocation options include transfer to other RACs, rental assistance, host family placement, or moving abroad, though challenges remain in securing adequate housing, especially for larger families, and ensuring income stability after rental assistance ends. On the education side, UNHCR highlighted that the number of school-age children in RACs has decreased significantly, though the group remains vulnerable. Four RACs were identified for follow-up visits: Teleneşti (6 school-age children), Donduşeni (33 school-age children), Drochia (9 school-age children), and one RAC in Chişinău (33 school-age children). Partners are invited to join these visits once scheduled to support these children in the school enrollment and provision of academic support	Action point: **To share the education tab with partners**
3. Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2026: Indicators & Priorities.	**- Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2026: Indicators & Priorities.** UNHCR and UNICEF reviewed the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for 2026, confirming that the indicators will largely remain the same as in 2025, with a focus on access to education, school environment, and system strengthening. Two changes were introduced: rephrasing one unclear indicator[1] and removing an EduTech Labs indicator[2] to avoid double-counting. As 2026 will be the final year of the RRP, UNHCR & UNICEF are working to ensure that refugee education priorities are embedded into the United Nations Strategic Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). Proposed additions aim to capture refugee inclusion in the national education systems, ensuring that achievements under the RRP are sustained within broader development frameworks. Partners will receive the updated indicator list for review and are encouraged to provide feedback, especially if there are indicators that are not yet fully reflected. ***-Activity Info:*** UNHCR informed partners that when activities were submitted to Activity Info at the end of 2024, they included confirmed plans for 2025 and tentative submissions for 2026. Due to funding changes and shifts in priorities, all sectors will now need to review their indicators, and partners will be asked to resubmit their 2026 activities. The process is expected to take place from late September to mid-October, following the finalisation of indicators by mid-September and the technical	Action Point: Share the RRP 2026 with partners for their comments.

[1] # of refugee and vulnerable Moldovan children and adolescents (including Roma children and children with disabilities) benefiting from adapted education services, assistive devices in schools through the provision of assistive devices, appropriate transportation, and specialized and adapted learning programs.
[2] # of newly hired educational staff to mentor and monitor children learning online and facilitate non-formal education classes in educational institutions

	upload by the information management team. If activities remain unchanged, partners can simply resubmit previous entries, but any adjustments in projects, budgets, or targets must be updated to ensure accuracy. While the process may be repetitive, efforts are being made to keep it as light and user-friendly as possible. Partners were also invited to share feedback on any challenges faced with Activity Info submissions this year	
3. AoB	- **Back-to-school campaign** NCUM presented key updates of their outreach effort to increase awareness among Ukrainian refugee families about the benefits of enrolling children in Moldovan schools. NCUM reported that their outreach activities reached over 350,000 people through 17 posts, videos, animations, and posters, including a viral video with 94,000 views. Posters were distributed at border crossings, schools, streets in Chișinău, and community centres, with information sessions also held in Bălți, Ocnița, and other localities. The campaign continues until mid-September (see presentation). *MER:* On 25 August at MER, Female Support Force will hold a roundtable on the topic of primary and secondary education for refugee students, with the participation of MER, refugee parent representatives and 35 education departments and schools. The roundtable will provide an opportunity for parents and schools to raise their questions and concerns related to school enrollment, directly with education authorities. *UNICEF:* A coordination meeting has already taken place between NCUM & FSF. If further back-to-school activities are planned, smaller groups can be organised to strengthen coordination and avoid overlap in targeting the same groups or schools. Other actors, for example, NRC, who plan similar activities in the coming weeks, can also be involved to coordinate specific interventions as needed. PiN suggested that, in addition to digital posters, physical posters should also be shared with organisations working closely with schools, so they can be displayed directly inside school buildings and cover a wider geographic area. It was also recommended to create a simple mapping of back-to-school support services (financial aid, backpacks, vouchers, school supplies), similar to the mapping done for summer activities, in order to improve referrals and information sharing with the beneficiaries	Action Point: An Excel template will be circulated for partners to fill in their contributions, so that information can be compiled and shared before the school year starts.

	- Preparatory Program Consultancy The preparatory program, a key pillar of the Roadmap agreed with MER, will provide refugee children and Moldovan children from the diaspora with Romanian language, history, and culture to support their integration in Moldovan schools. UNICEF and MER are hiring a consultant to design the legal framework, define hours and subjects, and finalise the certification process so the program can serve as a bridge into formal school enrollment. **- AEP consultancy** A UNICEF consultant is now hired and working with MER until December 2025 to design the Accelerated Education Program (AEP) framework, teaching materials, required training for teachers and certification needed for the program. **- Romanian Language Course content for school-age children** Within the preparatory program, MER and UNICEF have engaged consultant Lucia Cucu to develop Romanian language content specifically for refugee school-age children and Moldovan children from the diaspora. Based on consultations with students and teachers, she has already completed an initial assessment and begun designing the course materials, which will form part of the preparatory year framework. (see presentation) **-Farewell Note** The meeting concluded with a farewell to Loujine Khoury (UNICEF), marking her last REWG session after three years of dedicated coordination and support to refugee education in Moldova. Colleagues from MER, UNHCR, and partners expressed gratitude for her openness, technical expertise, and commitment to collaboration, noting that many achievements would not have been possible without her coordinating this effort.	