Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG)

Meeting Details	
Date	23rd of October 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: Vera Gurievschi, Education Specialist, UNICEF & Katie Lampe, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR.
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Agenda

Agenda point	Time	Focal Point
1. MER updates regarding: • The enrollment numbers of Ukrainian children for the school year 2025/2026 in preschools and general education. • The enrollment numbers of Ukrainian students admitted to universities on a tuition free base for the year 2025/2026 • The enrollment numbers of Ukrainian students studying in colleges/vocational schools. • Updates on the education monitoring mechanism for children with different legal statuses learning in Moldova. • Updates from MER's field visits.	13:00 – 13:40	MER
2. Romanian Language Mapping tool: Findings	13:40 – 13:50	UNHCR & UNICEF
3. Presentation of the project My Professional Path: Systematic Career Guidance in the Modern School	13:50 – 14:00	Asociația Gestalt Terapie și Psihodrama din Moldova

4. AoB (RRP Submissions 2026, Preparatory program, AEP & Romanian language consultancies)	14:00 - 14:30	UNICEF & UNHCR

Information collection and relevant links

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

Participants

- Dr. Ivan Duminica – MER
- Alisia Parfentieva – MER
- Vera Gurievschi – UNICEF
- Christos Martinis – UNICEF Education Officer deployed at MER
- Katie Lampe – UNHCR
- Carolina Sclifos – UNHCR
- Sorina Pinzaru – UNHCR
- Lucia Cucu – ANTEM
- Dmitri Surovtov – People in Need
- Alesya Kovalchuk – FSF
- Ala Marciuc – American Councils
- Tatiana Zaloj – TdH
- Felicia Bulat –IMPACT/ REACH Initiative
- Mariana Stratulat – JICA
- Alexandru Nicolaescu, Tdh Moldova
- Alexandrina Trofin– Amici dei Bambini
- Olga Pinzari – CRS
- Tatiana Pusca, CRS
- Veronica Dragan – CCR
- Maher Daboul - NRC
- Mariana Stratulat, JICA
- Natalia Balta – Pestalozzi Children's Foundation
- Nina Cuşnir – Tarna Rom

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Welcome and presentation of the agenda.	The **UNICEF** co-chair opened the meeting and thanked the members who attended, both in person and online. He invited Dr. Duminica and Ms. Parfentieva from MER, the chair, to share the latest updates in the sector related to refugee education.	

1. MER Updates	**Enrollment of Ukrainian children (2025/2026 school year):** The official data on the enrollment of Ukrainian children for the 2025/2026 school year in preschools and general education are not yet available. **Children Learning Online – EDUTech Labs** -**A total of 192 Ukrainian children** have been attending formal online learning classes (103 girls and 89 boys). -**385 Ukrainian children** are participating in both formal and non-formal education activities. **The enrollment numbers of Ukrainian students admitted to universities on a tuition free base for the year 2025/2026** University admissions (tuition-free basis): As of October 2025, 85 Ukrainian students are enrolled on a tuition-free basis in Moldovan universities (71 in bachelor's and 14 in master's programmes). The highest numbers are at Moldova State Pedagogical University, Moldova State University, and the Academy of Economic Studies, all located in Chișinău. The University of Cahul admits Ukrainian students on a paid basis only. **The enrollment numbers of Ukrainian students studying in colleges/vocational schools.** 117 Ukrainian students are studying in colleges and vocational schools: 47 in Chișinău, 13 in Bălți, 11 in Comrat, and 46 in other regions. The most popular vocational specializations are cooking and auto mechanics. **Ukrainian language classes (Ștefan Vodă):** Following a request received on 3 October 2025 from the General Directorate of Education in Ștefan Vodă district, MER approved the introduction of Ukrainian language instruction at Dmitrie Cantemir Gymnasium. The school hosts 41 Ukrainian refugee students. Two extracurricular groups will be opened, one for primary and one for secondary level, taught by Ms. Olha Dolhir, whose Ukrainian teaching qualifications have been officially recognized by MER. **Updates from MER's field visits.** MER, together with REWG conducted a joint monitoring visit to Basarabeasca on 23 September 2025. At Gymnasium "Ivan Bondarev," there are 38 Roma pupils and 11 Ukrainian refugee children. At	

	Lyceum "Alexander Pushkin," there are 20 Roma pupils and 5 Ukrainian refugee children. The team also visited an after-school class implemented by People in Need and a literacy class organized by the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation. A roundtable was held with the local education authorities, school staff, and the Roma community mediator to discuss inclusion, dropout prevention, and cooperation between schools, families, and authorities. **Transportation challenge (Ştefan Vodă)**: On 3 October 2025, MER received a request from Dmitrie Cantemir Gymnasium in Ştefan Vodă regarding the need for an additional school bus. Approximately 10-15 refugee children residing at the temporary placement center in Popeasca face delays and early departures due to limited bus capacity (16 seats), which must make two trips daily to serve children from two different villages. **Updates on the enrollment recording mechanism for children studying online** As already mentioned in the previous REWG meeting, many parents, especially those whose children are studying online outside Moldovan schools, remain reluctant to record their children's learning status. So far, only three Education Departments (Ştefan Vodă, Rîşcani, and Hînceşti) have received completed enrolment recording forms from parents of children studying online, for a total of 9 submitted. MER contacted the educational focal points in these three districts to discuss how parents reached them, identify any challenges, and gather feedback on the process. It was noted that, in all cases, when focal points identified a parent whose child studies online, they referred them to the nearest school, where school staff assisted the parent in completing the form. This feedback is valuable and will be taken into consideration when discussing potential amendments to the mechanism. Following the last REWG meeting in September, MER, UNICEF, and UNHCR also met with PiN to explore how the EduTech Labs could support the dissemination of this information to parents of children studying online, help them access additional guidance, and, if possible, collect feedback directly from parents on this procedure. MER also confirmed that it has requested from IGM the disaggregated data on children granted temporary protection status, but the data is still pending.	Action Point: MER requested partner support for an additional bus to ensure all refugee children can attend classes on time and stay until lessons end.
2. Romanian Language Mapping tool: Findings	**Romanian Language Classes Mapping: Findings** REWG created a mapping tool for the Romanian Language Courses currently provided by partners. Based on the data collected through this tool and completed by partners during the past month.	Action point 1: Coordinate adult Romanian classes with the

	Currently there are 61 active Romanian language classes across 32 municipalities and 20 raions. Six provider organizations deliver these classes, with PiN holding the largest share with 36 entries. The other organizations are CCR 10, PCF Moldova Educational Centre Pro Didactica with 6, TARNA ROM with 5, Caritas with 3, and Amici dei Bambini with 1. The largest concentration is in and around Chișinău with 17 entries. The next highest are Comrat and Bălți. Compared to the previous mapping, entries increased from 55 to 61, while raions decreased from 26 to 20 and municipalities from 38 to 32. Primary and secondary school aged children are the focus of almost all classes, with adults appearing in only a small share. Levels are mostly Beginner, with a smaller number at Intermediate and very few Mixed, so provision for higher proficiency is limited. REWG highlighted the need for additional classes at intermediate/advanced level classes. Average intensity is about three sessions per week, within a range of two to five. Reported total capacity across classes is about 1,247 seats. **Romanian Language Curriculum & Teacher Preparation** The Romanian Language Curriculum for refugee and foreign students has been officially approved by the Ministry of Education and Research (MER). To support its implementation, Training-of-Trainers (ToT) sessions are scheduled for November-December, organized by UNICEF with the support of MER specialists. These sessions aim to strengthen teachers' capacity to apply the new curriculum effectively and to ensure consistent teaching practices across all regions. In addition, the Refugee Education Working Group (REWG) will organize a dedicated online orientation meeting for all partners currently providing Romanian language courses. The meeting will introduce the structure, methodology, and key learning outcomes of the new curriculum. MER encouraged all implementing partners to review and align their existing teaching materials and lesson plans with the newly approved curriculum to ensure coherence and quality in language instruction nationwide.	Inclusion/Livelihoods WG to avoid duplication and/or add a separate tab to the current mapping. Action point 2: MER will organize an online orientation meeting on the Romanian Language Curriculum for REWG partners.
3. Presentation of the project My Professional Path: Systematic Career Guidance in the Modern School	**The Association of Gestalt Therapy and Psychodrama** in Moldova presented the project *"My Professional Path: Systematic Career Guidance in the Modern School,"* to be implemented during the 2025–2026 academic year in two pilot institutions in Chișinău, Lyceum Mykhailo Kotsiubynsky and Lyceum Taras Shevchenko, both hosting a high proportion of Ukrainian refugee students. The initiative aims to establish a comprehensive career-guidance system that helps students, including those affected by displacement, make informed educational and professional choices. It responds to challenges such as the lack of structured career orientation in Moldovan schools and the gap between parental expectations and adolescents' aspirations. (see presentation)	

3. AoB (RRP Submissions 2026, Preparatory program, AEP & Romanian language consultancies)	**RRP 2026 submissions** The inter-agency team is reviewing entries for accuracy; organizations may be contacted to fix typos/missing data. Sector-level validation will follow; no action needed unless contacted. **AEP & Romanian language consultancies** UNICEF informed the REWG that the Romanian Language Consultancy has been finalized and approved. The Accelerated Education Programme (AEP) Consultancy has progressed to the programme-drafting stage following the completion of the desk review, while the Preparatory Programme Framework Consultancy is advancing according to schedule. **Upcoming transition of UNHCR Education Focal Point and next REWG meeting** Katie Lampe, co-chair of the REWG, informed partners that the November meeting will be her last REWG meeting as she will conclude her assignment in Moldova at the beginning of December. Sorina Pinzaru (UNHCR) will take over as UNHCR's Education Focal Point. During the transition period, both Sorina and Katie remain available for coordination and inquiries.	