UN REFUGEE RESPONSE COORDINATION IN ROMANIA

Education Sub-Working Group meeting

28 September 2022, 10:00 – 11.30 am

Venue- Online (Zoom)

1. Review of last agenda
2. Tour de table
3. Q&A
4. Aob

- 4000 children registered in the Romanian school this year; the Minister of education requested to facilitate online education
- This is the official platform for education : https://osvitoria.org/en/the-all-ukrainian-online-school/#:~:text=This%20is%20the%20first%20and,the%20request%20of%20the%20state.&text=he%20All%2DUkrainian%20Online%20School,part%20of%20school%20life%20later
- To organize a coordination meeting to assist the county school inspectorates
- World bank is having a forum today to see how this long-term European project can fit
- IOM, UNICEF, Minister of Education will have a meeting in order to have one cultural facilitator in specific schools
- Minister of Education from Ukraine support integration but they refuse assimilation
- Many social bottlenecks: from provision of food-to keep and bring children in school, we are exploring who shall take care of these elements, municipalities demonstrated some initiatives

Save the Children updated that they were in the protection working group meeting and were surprised to see how the education was really a repetitive issue, they are interested on how children can access education. A constant issue of accreditation, finding space for refugees, language, accessibility, heavy days.

Under SEIRCAR Project PLAN - JRS updated that they already conducted education needs assessment in Constanta, Galati, Braila, and Bucharest. Once the report is finalized, they will share with the SWG members. Stefan will update the education activities ongoing in Constanta.

We must identify special additional needs, to bring back all the accountability mechanisms that we have or don't have.

JRS suggested to find out how many are newly enrolled in the new semester, some of them misunderstood the registration. In august they runned registrations for Bucharest, Constanta, Braila, and Galati and were misunderstandings (e.g., they filled as audience while they are not).

Some of the Ukrainian teachers were asked to monitor the activities of the audience children, the main notice was that these children will not stay longer in the Romanian educational system. We had Ukrainian children that did not pass the exams and not promoted in the next year.

JRS was in a meeting with the Ministry of Education, the State Secretary was unable to be present in these meetings. They have more than 60 Ukrainian teachers in Braila, Constanta, Brasov, and they asked for a national conference with Ukrainian authorities for sharing new practices. Last week 16 Ukrainian teachers from Bucharest ended the intensive course of Romanian language, they had two weeks of intensive classes of Romanian. They had cultural mediators for communities, the problem is not necessary for them it is also for the authorities to understand the role. For the advocacy the zero point is to identify the children needs.

They have 12 schools and education activities and enrolled more than 1000 children.

Q: How we can organize a workshop and to have a strategy for advocacy?

We have a work plan- to be shared by Jean Benoit.

UNICEF highlights that it will be good to complete all the tools that have been circulated within the working group, to have good practices that are being shared by us. Some of the activities are complementary, we will report as different institutions & different agencies some numbers, we are talking about the same children, but are complementary activities that are supported. If we can manage them in the SWG, to clarify how many unique children we are supporting with complementary education. We know for now that we have more than 4000 children enrolled since the beginning of the crisis, but this is not the picture of the day, some of them left already back to Ukraine and we need to be aware that we have a picture today but the next week the situation varies a lot. We need to be prepared for the winterization and for the high prices for energy, either in school or other centers.

Regards early education services, there are opportunities and challenges, mainly in terms of services for very young children(nurseries), for the preschool the situation is better but there are also opportunities in terms of quick inclusion or integration.

There are also efforts from UNICEF which will develop a pilot in learning Romanian as a second language also involving Universities, the Ministry of Education and other NGOs.

Q: How the current response can also benefit host communities?

JB to share the link of 5Ws

Next meeting: 12 October 2022, 10:00-11:30 am, online (Zoom)