

C#4 Livelihoods and economic inclusion working group meeting 3rd nov

Minutes of meeting #4 Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Working Group		
Location, Date & Time	Online Teams Meeting, Thursday 3 Nov 2022, from 13:00 to 14:00	
Facilitators	Christian Renson, Lucian Dinu, and Victoria Moren	
Participants	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adriana Filip 2. Andreea Vrînceanu 3. Astrid Hamberger 4. Balazs Vegh 5. Cristina Savin 6. Diogo Cabral 7. Gedeon Nijimbere 8. Iris Alexe 9. Katarzyna Hanula 10. Lamis Al Hasan 11. Manea Andreea 12. Mario Pavlovic 13. Monica Ingeaua 14. Monika Zaczek 15. Nurhak Yilmaz Ayaz 16. Radu Niculescu 17. Raluca Teodor 18. Roxana Popa 19. Stefan-Florentin Lorint 	
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief Introduction and Tour De Table <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Updates, successes, challenges, and suggestions for the working group • UNHCR updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working group engagement and meetings on a county-level ○ Upcoming coordination meeting of RO government working groups ○ Interest check for HIAS side event • Requesting updates on 5Ws, progress towards National Plan of Measures and Contacting Information • Open floor for discussion / updates 	
Main Topic	Discussion	Action Points
Introduction of new working group facilitators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucian Dinu, program coordinator at IOM, is taking over the co-chair role in the working group from Vladimir Mitkovski who has left Romania for a mission in Ukraine. • Victoria Moren, who recently joined the UNHCR team as a livelihoods and economic inclusion associate, will support in coordinating the working group meetings. 	

<p>Working group engagement and meetings on a county-level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a greater outreach effort to expand the working group’s network and better engage its participants on a community-based level. The working group facilitators will be reaching out more bilaterally to all members. Moreover, Christian and Victoria will be traveling to the counties with the largest refugee populations and needs (including i.a. Iasi, Galați, Tulcea, Brasov, Timisoara, Suceava, Cluj and Constanța) ideally on a monthly rotation to reach out to the networks there and organize the working group to be hosted in the various counties' central areas of operation. • On a county level, volunteers from the working group can become ‘focal points’ that host other members to attend the monthly meetings in their facilities, to enable more networking and informal discussions. While still attending online, this will hope to improve networking and reveal more needs, sharing of best practices and opportunities for coordination and resource sharing. • Depending on the need, the working group may form temporary task forces that work together to advance on issues of common interest. For example, working to jointly prepare for a job fair through “job readiness mobilization”, or to better align project efforts within a certain area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those interested in becoming a county ‘focal point’ hosting other members for future working group meetings can reach out to Christian and Victoria.
<p>Tour de Tablet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adriana Filip – Director, Regional Adult Training Center Cluj <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Center provides Romanian language training for Ukrainians • Andreea Vrînceanu – Director, CATTIA Center Brasov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andreea is new to the working group. • Astrid Hamberger – Coordinator, Migrant Integration Center Brasov <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Center assists Ukrainian refugees and other migrants in Brasov • Balazs Vegh – Information Management Associate, UNHCR Romania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New member of the Information Management team at UNHCR in Bucharest, and new to the working group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anyone that comes across employers who are offering employment opportunities for Ukrainian refugees is encouraged to refer them to the online platform Jobs for Ukraine (jobs4ukr.com) to register and post these opportunities. • Those interested in subscribing to the Information Management Group can do so here: UNHCR Romania (list-manage.com)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucian Dinu - Project Coordinator, IOM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New co-chair of the working group • Diogo Cabral - Senior Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Officer, UNHCR Poland • Gedeon Nijimbere - Child Protection Officer, UNHCR Romania • Iris Alexe - President, Novapolis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Novapolis has opened a center for Ukrainians in Contanța providing services in the Southeast region of Romania. ○ They are also involved in advocacy actions and work on employment under the coalition for the rights of migrants and refugees • Katarzyna Hanula – Microfinance Center Poland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based in Brussels ○ The microfinance Center is dealing with access to finance for refugees, working with entrepreneurship, and looking at how to possibly establish a fund that could deploy unrestricted funds to NGOs and refugees in Romania. • Lamis Al Hasan – Youth and Education Program Development Manager, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Lamis is covering both Romania and Moldova but is currently based in Moldova. ○ NRC is working in Romania through local partners. Currently, they have two partnerships working with youth and delivering Romanian and English language classes • Manea Andreea – Child Protection Counsellor, Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CNRR provides legal assistance to asylum seekers, beneficiaries of temporary protection, and unaccompanied minors. • Mario Pavlovic – Protection Officer, UNHCR Romania • Monica Ingeaua – Project Manager, Ateliere Fara Frontiere (AFF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AFF provides employment assistance to Ukrainian refugees in Romania and helps to solve various integration-related issues. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monika Zaczek – Jobs4Ukraine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jobs4Ukraine provides employment and learning opportunities for refugees based in Romania. ○ Also hoping to expand their services to Poland and other European countries soon. • Nurhak Yilmaz Ayaz – Country Coordinator in Romania and Livelihood and integration coordinator, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DKH’s headquarters are in Berlin ○ In Romania, DKH is working with 2 implementing partners and they are about to start new projects with livelihood and social inclusion components. • Radu Niculescu – Partnership Program Manager, Mercy Corps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Romania, Mercy Corps is providing grants to 11 local partners that support refugees in the country and offer cross-border aid distributions. These partnerships are ending by the end of 2022. Next year Mercy Corps will end its operations in Romania, and focus on Moldova. • Raluca Teodor – Civil Society Development Foundation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Raluca is mainly responsible for the special calls for proposals that are part of the refugee response. She said that most awards that are under revision will go towards the inclusion of refugees. ○ Civil Society Development Foundation works in partnership with Mercy Corps • Roxana Popa – Founder and executive director, Jobs4Ukraine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This year, Jobs4Ukraine is focusing on providing easy access to employment opportunities online via their website and offline via the RomExpo refugee center. Currently, they are also going into refugee centers to see how they can provide further support. ○ Additionally, Jobs4Ukraine offers language courses through partnerships. For next year, they are 	
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	<p>also looking to start offering entrepreneurship opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In partnership with IOM, Jobs4Ukraine are organizing a job-fair on the 16th of November where they are looking to bring about 200 job seekers and facilitate as many job-on-the-spot hires as possible. This is especially targeting those with lower digital skills who cannot access the online platform. ● Stefan-Florentin Lorint – Information Management Officer and co-lead of Information Management Working Group (IMWG), UNHCR Romania <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The data collection for the Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) has been finalized in close to 10 areas in Romania. The preliminary findings are expected to be finalized by the end of next week to inform the 2023 Refugee Response Plan (RRP). Findings will most likely be presented at the IMWG meeting on the 25th of Nov. ○ At the next IMWG (11th Nov), a fair amount of new information will be presented, including information on site monitoring and protection profiling. ○ Those interested in subscribing to the IMWG can do so here: UNHCR Romania (list-manage.com) 	
<p>UNHCR Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nov 10th coordination meeting with RO government working groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNHCR will attend a coordination meeting with Madam Turza’s cabinet to discuss the restarting of the government working groups, and how to best harmonize our activities. ● Training on Activity Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An invitation has been sent out to those working group members who expressed an interest in participating in the UNHCR-organized Activity Info training held in three sessions on the 15th, 16th, and 17th of November. Participants only need to assist to one. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Those interested in a possible side event organized by HIAS (10th / 11th Nov) on their experiences of rolling out a modified version of the graduation approach in South America, can reach out to Christian or Victoria.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNHCR is planning to support the roll out Romanian language courses for individuals who have the intention to seek employment. The working group will be informed when this is finalized. • Interest check for HIAS side event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is an interest, HIAS will be available to do a side event in Bucharest (either on the 10th or 11th Nov) on their experiences of rolling out a modified version of the graduation approach in South America. 	
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<p>Open floor for discussion/updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica Ingeaua – AFF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For AFF, one of the biggest challenges is to identify providers of Romanian language classes. Monica inquired about the contact details from the other working group members who said that they are providing language classes to refugees. • The following working group members put their contact details in the chat in response to Monica’s inquiry: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CRFPA LUJ: Adriana Filip, adriana.filip.crfpacj@anofm.gov.ro 2. NCR: Lamis Al Hasan, Lamis.alhasan@nrc.no 3. IOM: Lucian Dinu, iombucarest@iom.int; 5 Constantin Daniel str, Bucharest • Adriana Filip – Regional Adult Training Center Cluj <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government’s county employment agencies (AJOFM) provide career counselling services. • Adriana will provide the contact details for her focal point at the national government employment agency (ANOFM) so that this focal point can perhaps help in coordinating more engagement with AJOFM offices at the county level on issues related to career counselling and life planning sensitized to the needs and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahead of the coordination meeting with the RO government (10th of Nov), all working group members are encouraged to send any questions or key points of concerns that they wish to communicate to Christian.
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	<p>perspectives of those forcibly displaced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Iris Alexe – Novapolis<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Iris inquired about how the working group members can be involved in the coordination meetings with the government working groups.• Christian said that he will happily collect the working group members questions and key points of interest related to economic inclusion bilaterally so that this can be communicated in the upcoming meeting. For issues beyond livelihoods, Christian can also share the contacts for the focal points of the other UNHCR working groups (education, basic needs, etc.).	
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