Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG)

IREWG Monthly Meeting – 30 November 2023

Meeting Details: Education Working Group Monthly Meeting	
Date	**30 November 2023**
Time	13:00-14:30
Chair **Co-Chair**	Ivan Duminica (MER) Katherine Lampe (UNHCR) Fadia Jbara (UNHCR)
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Agenda	
1. Update from MER 2. Update from Inspection General of Migration (IGM) on their school integration project 3. Presentation from Tarna Rom on their literacy project for Roma children and adolescents 4. Support needs related to school enrollment 5. Reflections on successes and challenges from 2023 6. AOB: Activity Info	
Information collection and relevant links	
Activity Info Platform: https://www.activityinfo.org/	

Participants	
- **Katherine Lampe - UNHCR** - **Fadia Jbara - UNHCR** - **Carolina Sclifos- UNHCR** - **Ivan Duminica - MER** - **Martha Glover Short – CRS** - **Mihai Cotorbai – PiN** - **Jana Ungureanu- IGM** - **Nina Cusnir- Tarna Rom** - **Diana Alexi - Chisinau Municipality** - **Gabriela Scutaru** - **Diana Prisacaru-APSCF** - **Martin Kunze - Youth One World** - **Ryusuke Kugai- Peace Winds Japan**	- **Giulia Ciancio Paratore – WeWorld** - **Natalia Balta - Pestalozzi Children's Foundation** - **Natasa Omerovic – IOM** - **Lorina Ghitu – CCF Moldova** - **Tatiana Zaloj -TDH** - **Camelia Corbu- ICRC** - **Cristina Savin** - **Kyriakos Giaglis** - **Valentina Ghenciu - Lumos Moldova**

Summary of discussions and agreements/action points

Agenda	Discussion	Actions Points
1. MER updates	As of November 27, 2023, the number of Ukrainian children enrolled in Moldovan preschools is 619 children in 205 institutions distributed as follows: - up to 2 years – 15 children - 2 years -20 children - 3 years – 107 children - 4 years – 167 children - 5 years – 154 children - 6 years- 133 children	

	- 7 years 23 children Disaggregation by gender is 51 % girls and 49 % boys. Total number of students enrolled in Moldovan schools is 1,618 students in 231 institutions: - 11.12 % children enrolled in Romanian schools - 88.88 % children enrolled in Russian Schools	
2. IGM Presentation on School Integration Project	IGM presented their project to promote the school integration of non-Moldovan children in Moldovan schools. The project is supported by UNICEF and AVE Copiii, and aims to help integrate non-Moldovan children into education in the Republic of Moldova as well as support peaceful coexistence with Moldovan children. More information can be found here: IGM interested in integrating children of foreign citizens into education in the Republic of Moldova, as much as in living together in harmony with Moldovan children | General Inspectorate for Migration (gov.md)	
3. Tarna Rom Presentation	Tarna Rom presented their literacy project for Roma children and adolescents.The literacy classes are held in RACs in 5 locations (Glodeni, Testimiteanu, Cojusna, Costesti and Ungheni) and are open also to the people living in the community. In all RACs there are two groups for children aged 5-11 and 12-18 years old. In some RACs such as Ungheni and Cojusna, there is an additional group for adults who are attending literacy classes. The literacy classes are held in Romanian every day from Monday to Friday and start at 14:00. The teachers have not undergone any standard training; however, they all have many years of experience teaching in the local schools.	Suggestion to discuss with MER a standardized/ accredited curriculum on teaching basic literacy to children who are not literate.
4. Support needs related to school enrollment.	Education WG co-chair/UNHCR mentioned that despite efforts of MER and partners, school enrolment numbers are still quite low, and education sector partners need to continue to work to support school enrolment of Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools. Some suggestions from partners on this topic included:	

	- Partners noted that there are similar interventions and projects implemented, and further coordination is needed to avoid overwhelming people with many similar activities. - Chisinau Municipality noted that a mapping of children's education needs would be helpful. Sometimes they organize events and only a few children show up, so they would like to conduct more targeted programming that fits existing needs. - Children studying online need to be encouraged to continue to participate in in-person activities. - It was noted that some organizations organize activities for children who are studying online outside schools or in RACs during school hours, which leads to children sometimes skipping their online classes to attend the activity. The EWG co-chair noted that it is not acceptable for organizations to organize children's activities during school hours.	EWG to share this concern with other WGs and ensure that partners are fully informed to not organize children's activities during school hours.
5. Reflections on successes and challenges from 2023	Indicators extracted from ActivityInfo based on partners' reporting showing the successes and challenges from 2023 were presented: • Number of children who received learning materials – **35,086** • Number of individuals benefitting from sector related trainings and/or other capacity building activities (Education)- **4,636** • Number of children provided with hot meals in formal and non-formal education settings- **2,837.** • Number of people who participated in the awareness-raising sessions (Education) and number of individuals that received information on rights and available services related to sectoral activities disaggregated by gender and age (Education) – **1,296**	EWG co-chairs will compile a more thorough summary of all ActivityInfo year-end indicators to present at the January EWG meeting.
6. AOB: Activity Info	**<u>ActivityInfo Reporting:</u>** • All partners are kindly asked to make sure they add all their education activities in ActivityInfo.	There will be no December EWG meeting. Meetings will resume in January 2024.