



SECTOR: Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CP SWG)

Meeting Details	
Date	9 August, 2023
Time	15:00-16:30
Chair	UNICEF
Reporting	UNHCR
Email	lampe@unhcr.org , frossi@unicef.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Update from the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection2. Update on Temporary Protection3. Update on RAC Consolidation4. ICRC Presentation5. Update from Blue Dot6. AOB	
Information collection and relevant links	
Please use the below link to fill out information	
Link to operational data portal: https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784	
Participants	



1- Flore/UNICEF (Co-chair) 2- Diana/Chisinau municipality 3- Angela/Chisinau municipality 4- Ina Scaticailov/MLSP 5- Carolina/UNHCR 6- Tatiana/CRS 7- Martha/ CRS 8- Natalia/ CCF Moldova 9- Octavian/CCF Moldova 10- Cristina/ Terre des Hommes 11- Simona/ Terre des Hommes 12- Iulia/CNPAC 13- Sevan/ World Vision 14- Alexandrina/Early Starters Intern.	15- Margaux/ Libraries Without Borders 16- Corina/REACH 17- Lucy Strickland 18- Sachiko/AAR 19- Iva/DRC Moldova 20- Olga Ojog/ CDA 21- Myriem/ICRC 22- Iulia/CIDDC 23- Martin/ Jugend Eine Welt 24- Igor/ M&E 25- Hanna/ACTED 26- Constanta/ CONCORDIA 27- Raluca/ IMPACT Initiatives 28- Loredana/IOM	29- Alexandru/ DRC 30- Elloi/ We World 31- Valentina/ LUMOS 32- Domnica/ LUMOS 33- Natalia/ UNFPA	
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Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Introductions & CP SWG Agenda	The co-chair and newly arrived participants were introduced. The meeting's agenda was presented for approval. Participants were also requested to mark their attendance and the new participants introduced themselves.	
Updates from the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	The MLSP is collecting data from the local and territorial guardianship authorities regarding unaccompanied children and children accompanied by unauthorized caregivers. From the begging of the year through 7 th August 2023, 153 children unaccompanied children and 432 children with “unauthorized caregivers” were registered and 295 certificates authorizing the border crossing on the exit from Moldova were issued. The territorial Guardianship Authority is currently monitoring 3 unaccompanied refugee children and 8 with unauthorized caregivers. The identified children have a form of social protection, 3 are placed in foster care and 4 in the guardianship services.	



	<p>Children with unauthorized caregivers are in the process of establishing or have established custody, being the most common form of protection. From January to August 2023, custody was established for 105 refugee children.</p> <p>The MLSP noted that not all of 105 children came as separated or unaccompanied, and some crossed the border accompanied by a parent/legal representative.</p> <p>The MLSP shared the update that under the National Child Protection Program 2022-2026, the Ministry is seeking support for two implementing actions under the first objective of the plan. First, on point nr. 2, referring to developing the mechanism of consulting the child's views in the process of decision making and approval of the instructions of consulting of the opinion of the child in the policy documents and case management. Second, on point nr. 9, referring to development of the guide for internal policies for child protection, including online, for the actors working with children. The MLSP encouraged local and national NGOs with expertise and interested to contribute to reach out directly.</p> <p>The Co-chair acknowledged the importance to work together to support MLSP in providing protection to the most vulnerable children.</p>	<p>The Call for Expression of Interest to be shared through the coordination groups.</p>
<p>Updates on Unaccompanied and Separated Children and Temporary Protection</p>	<p>Olga Ojog, CDA Counselor, provided an update on the support for the registration of unaccompanied and separated children for Temporary Protection. CDA combined the lists from the MLSP, from AVE Copiii and UNHCR database and reached out to these families to determine if the unaccompanied and separated children living with them were already registered for TP, and if not, if support is needed. The process is still ongoing, and the number of applications increased, giving the upcoming deadline to register for TP.</p> <p>The data for July, counting only the separated children, indicates 11 children pre-enrolled in Stefan Voda district, 8 in Tiraspol, 3 in Cahul, Falesti and Hincesti.</p> <p>CDA noted as challenge that the lists are not up to date and in some cases, more UASC children were identified. Also, not all the people provided with a consultation want to apply for TP.</p> <p>An example was given where the family is consulted and explained the consequences if a legal status is not obtained, as well as the advantages of TP. However, in the process it is discovered that the family is not residing in Moldova and comes only to get cash assistance.</p>	<p>Update on the completed report to be provided when the report will be ready.</p>



In Donduseni, 20 separated children received TP and 18 people are still deciding. The majority of these have Ukrainian phone numbers in the database and there is a supposition that the families do not reside on the territory of Moldova. These are Ukrainians residing the bordering districts, north of the country.

Lastly, there are third country nationals who fled the Ukrainian war and are not eligible to apply for TP. CDA acknowledged that it is difficult to have a complete database with all separated children, as the numbers are always shifting and due to the movement of population it is difficult to track.

The Deputy Mayor of Chisinau asked if there is disaggregated data for Chisinau?

CDA stated there are 250 cases for Chisinau, from the data provided by UNHCR, accounting for unaccompanied and separated children. However, this might not be updated.

The Deputy Mayor noted that Child Protection Department of Chisinau is currently conducting a mapping of the refugee children and asked if this data can be shared with them as it's crucial for these children to be monitored by the authority.

The MSLP noted that for cases with unauthorized caregivers it is mandatory to refer to the Guardianship Authority. The most recent data from Chisinau does not indicate such cases. CDA noted that in cases where there is a power of attorney on the caregiver, the child is not counted as separated by the state. Also, the power of attorney documents are different in their purpose. Particularly for TP, such types of cases should be referred and coordinated with the child protection authorities.

UNHCR noted that IGM accepts power of attorney documents if the purpose of the document states that the caregiver is allowed to represent the child on documentation purposes. A clarification was provided that the verifications for UNHCR cash assistance are ongoing and the follow up is done on the cases for UASC.

The Deputy Mayor of Chisinau noted that it would be good to use the Border Crossing Points to handover the leaflets or to introduce a declaration that the caregiver is required to report to the guardianship authority, as there is a risk of losing these children and it is difficult to identify them. This will be complimenting the existing mechanism. The Deputy-Mayor asked if this can be a proposal from the CP SWG and noted the advantage of the follow up and monitoring by the CP authorities.



	<p>CDA clarified that the mechanism established at the border crossing points is involving the police and the guardianship authority in establishing the status of the child. As such, the caregiver should already be informed about the rights and obligations in relation to the child. However, in practice this is not the case.</p> <p>CCF Moldova –noted it will be difficult to keep track of people fulfilling this obligation, also that a legal representative cannot be assigned through a power of attorney document. It will be more efficient for the Border Police to register the data of children with unauthorized caregiver and pass the data with the local guardianship authorities for the follow up.</p> <p>UNICEF Co-Chair highlighted that even with a mechanism at the BCP established, there are children who became separated on the territory of Moldova. UNICEF agreed on the municipality’s point of coordination of data and suggested a follow up meeting between UNICEF, UNHCR and CDA and Chisinau municipality. The verification at the border has the objective to verify if the children need any specific assistance and facilitate referrals.</p> <p>The co-chair noted the strong advocacy of the CP SWG to ensure that children have access to services, regardless of their status and members were encouraged to alert the cases where children were denied access because of their of lack of legal status.</p>	
Update on the RAC Consolidation	<p>UNHCR provided an update on the process of RAC Consolidation, launched by MLSP, and supported by the Basic Needs Working Group. Approximately 20 RACs will be closed by the end of 2023. Please see more details in the attached presentation.</p> <p>UNICEF Co-Chair acknowledged that some children face some risks during the relocation and the CP SWG needs to ensure that children continue to access services after the relocation and the focus on mitigating the risks.</p> <p>Second, as some children exposed to the risk of violence, neglect and abuse could be identified, the CP SWG needs to ensure that the case workers are trained, and children are referred to the child protection specialists and services. Further updates to the RAC Consolidation will be provided during the next meetings.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor of Chisinau noted that the Child Protection Directorate from Chisinau is currently doing monitoring visits in all Chisinau RACs to identify the children at risk. So far, 109 children were evaluated, and the process will continue until the end of August.</p>	<p>CP Annex shared with the members of the CP SWG.</p> <p>Chisinau Child Protection Directorate to provide a short update after the assessment is done and to contact the members for</p>



	<p>Representative of Association of Women with Legal Career asked if in the process of accommodating the displaced people from Ukraine, particularly Roma families with multiple children, specific support is being provided?</p> <p>Aware of the challenges, UNHCR noted that more partners to be involved, including the Roma task force to ensure alternative solutions could be found and disseminate information.</p>	further referrals identified in the process.
ICRC presentation	<p>ICRC delivered a presentation on Restoring Family Links Services in Moldova – a core program with the main objective to support the people fleeing the Ukrainian war who lost contact with their family. All possible reasons linked to armed conflict are accounted for. After a case is identified, documentation, tracing and locating the person are the following steps. ICRC is using the global network of the ICRC and Red Cross network, including Field activities, door to door activities and dialogue with both parties of the conflict.</p> <p>In Moldova, ICRC collected a couple of cases, and it was noted the difficulty to collect information as people are scattered through the whole territory of the country. ICRC is disseminating information and advocacy on the project. The cases of unaccompanied minors, who lost contact with their family members can also be referred. The hotline number and contact information are included in the attached presentation.</p> <p>The Co-chair noted that physical copies can be disseminated in the location and spaces of activities and suggested a meeting with AVE Copiii to see if there are any unaccompanied children who are not in contact with their family.</p> <p>UNHCR advised that ICRC establish a connection with Child Protection authorities, as such types of cases would be monitored by the authorities and the children will be placed in the services provided by the government, with the help of NGOs.</p>	
Update from Blue Dots	<p>The Blue Dot Otaci mentioned that some people living in Ukraine are crossing for short term stay. Blue Dot is providing counseling and information on Temporary Protection, however, the majority of people are declaring their intention for a short-term stay.</p> <p>It was noted a slight decrease in the activity for July 2023. The flow of people is steady, however, people are not in need of specialized services. The CP specialist from Otaci did not use the Blue Dot space while assisting 11 children at the border. In some cases, children are returned to Ukraine without the child protection specialist</p>	Chair and Co-chair of CPSWG will follow up with Border Police on the situation of children



	<p>being called to assess the case. The Border Police just checks that a family member is meeting the child in Ukraine. The information is reported, but no measures are ensured, and concerns remain about the training of the border police to evaluate the risk for vulnerable children.</p> <p>The Co-chair noted the upcoming training for the Border Police where these concerns will be raised, and the concern should be reiterated. The pendular movement between Moldova and Ukraine is acknowledged and it is an individual choice to access the services, or to apply for Temporary Protection. However, we need to maintain the services for people who decide to stay in Moldova.</p> <p>Association of Women with Legal Career noted that the Border Police, who is the first actor interacting with people crossing the border, should be a part of the multidisciplinary team able to understand the risks faced by refugees crossing to Moldova.</p> <p>The Co-chair acknowledged that the humanitarian assistance cannot be conditioned to Temporary Protection. Children have the right to access services, based on the need and the main objective should be ensuring the access, along with encouraging them to apply for Temporary Protection.</p>	<p>returning to Ukraine, to ensure that their best interests are being taking into account.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>LUMOS, with the support of UNICEF is doing a mapping of refugee children with disabilities and asked for support in identifying these children. Assistive technology and materials will be procured to improve access to education and social inclusion of CWDs. Lumos noted that children identified during the municipality mapping will be also referred to LUMOS.</p> <p>The co-chair updated the group on the ongoing Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) and thanked the members for the comments. It was noted the rationalization of the questions. Any relevant updates will be shared.</p> <p>The GBV Safety Audit of 2023 will focus on refugee women and girls, as well as ones from the community. Adolescents will be also a target group. Some partners will be contacts for the Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussion.</p>	<p>A follow up message on LUMOS Project has been sent to the CP SWG.</p>