UN REFUGEE RESPONSE COORDINATION IN ROMANIA

Youth & Adolescents Sub-Working Group meeting

24 January 2024, 11:00 – 12:30

Venue- Hybrid (UN House/Teams)

Agenda:

1. Updates - Inter-Agency
2. Discussion on YAD TF - 2024
3. U-Report MHPSS Polls
4. Sector Updates and other

Participants: National Youth Council (FNT), The Duke of Edinburgh International Award Foundation, International Organization for Migration (IOM), Save the Children, Junior Achievement (JA), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Romanian Angel Appeal (RAA), UNICEF

1. Updates - Inter-Agency

The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) was launched on the 15th of January in Geneva.
The RRP Romania will be launched probably in the second part of February.
The idea of establishing a working group focused on social cohesion is under discussion.
Overall, the conversation revolves around addressing the existing challenges in refugee support in the planning for 2024 – focus on potential solutions, for instance more collaboration and establishing roles around the advocacy efforts.

2. Discussion on YAD TF - 2024

It was a challenging year, we had to adapt and work together more.

Some benefits of YAD TF in 2023:

- Information sharing and better understanding of what each organization is doing
- Platform for collaboration between organizations
- Collaborating we have reached more teenagers than we could do alone.
- The advocacy points shared in the Inter-Agency brough youth into attention of different stakeholders, including ministries.
- RRP2024 contains priorities on YAD due to collective contributions

Some shortcomings of YAD TF in 2023:

- Competition on resources and same YAD group
- Difficulty to reach and then keep YAD engaged
- Lack of participation of public authorities representatives in the meetings

Possible ways forward in 2024:

- Collaborating further – on specific objectives (events, topics, coordinating with specific roles for every meeting etc.); on common milestones.
- Narrowing down the advocacy points, advocating for them together and individually and discussing milestones in the YAD TF meetings

- More push on synchronising with public authorities on milestones
- Monthly reports are important for visibility of the needs in this area of work.
    - Facilitating the way of sending monthly reports – maybe a template on the sharepoint that everyone can complete and rechecking access on the sharepoint (some members say they cannot access it)
- Mobilize recourses for common nation-wide events/days for a common, complementary approach – proposal to start a template and calendar for events in 2024.
- Participation of adolescents – for example by using U-Report Europe tool to gather opinions & needs of Ukrainian youth – dissemination of the tool, work on polls, using results as basis for programmes and advocacy

3. U-Report MHPSS poll

- The poll on mental health disseminated with Ukrainian YAD is closed; the results can be seen online or in the document saved in the YAD TF sharepoint. The current poll is on 2024 needs.
- Some insights:
    - Coping with Stress
        - the most common strategies involve social interactions; talking with friends (19) and family (14).
    - Searching for Mental Health Information
        - Online Search: 18 respondents search online for topics related to mental health.
        - Professional Help: 10 look for specialists online, and 4 consult a therapist directly.
        - Peer and Experience-Based: 6 check with friends, and 16 learn from experience.
        - Inactive: 11 haven't thought about searching for such information.
    - Perceived Support Needs for Teens
        - Counseling: One-on-one counseling is seen as the most needed support by 33 respondents.
        - Other Support: Group counseling (7), online helplines (6), peer support (3), school programs (2), and parenting programs (4) are less frequently identified needs.
- For Romanian members of organizations that are testing the poll: please always choose “other” and write “test”, so that test trials of the poll can be excluded from the analysis.

4. Status updates & other

In the following months:

- RAA will focus on education, on mentoring and collaboration with DofE on preparing adolescents for employability.
- FNT activity at the Youth Centers will include workshops with 3D printer, financing small initiatives of adolescents and youth
- FNT will organize a workshop for active volunteers promoting U-Report tool between 9-11 February

There is an open call of the Ministry of Youth, Family and Equal Chance dedicated to youth projects – deadline: 15 February - Anunt_CNPTS-2024.pdf (gov.ro)

Several members encountered issues with accessing YAD TF SharePoint. The problem was referred – to be discussed if any problems persist in the following meeting – or members can write directly to amavlea@unicef.org.

Conclusions:

- Members will receive a survey on 2024 mapping & planning
- Members will receive the updated version of the advocacy points – to review and decide whether to narrow them down and work together on them
- TAD TF's Terms of Reference will be shared again – for potential common discussion on updating them
- **Next meeting: 29 of February/Thursday from 11.00 (online or f2f at the UN House).**