

Terms of Reference

Temporary Regional Cash Working Group

Ukraine Refugee Situation

BACKGROUND

In March 2022, UNHCR and partners launched the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) to promote and implement a comprehensive response to support efforts by neighbouring countries to protect and assist refugees coming from Ukraine and strengthen the resilience of host communities. UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) and in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of inter-agency partners and other stakeholders. Within the framework of the RRP and building on existing country-level humanitarian coordination structures, an inter-agency Regional Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) chaired by UNHCR has been established in Geneva to support efficient situational information management and foster country level coordination as required.

With the increasing support to refugees arriving from Ukraine in surrounding countries by several actors, and with Cash Working Groups being established in some of these receiving countries, including Poland, Moldova and Romania, the Regional Cash Working Group for the Ukraine Refugee Situation (thereafter 'the regional CWG') aims to promote coherence among actions taken at country-level, through a regional perspective. The regional CWG will also support coherence with the Ukraine Cash Working Group by providing one forum where information will be shared. Representatives from the regional CWG and the Ukraine CWG will participate in both groups to support the alignment of the responses for inside Ukraine and the receiving countries for cash programming.

The response in the surrounding countries of Ukraine is anchored in the national leadership of the governments, as well as local actors. International actors arriving in the surrounding countries aim to support and complement only and not set up parallel structures or massive assistance programmes de-linked from national and local efforts.

GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP

This regional CWG will be co-led by UNHCR and IFRC.

MEMBERSHIP

This regional CWG allows for a broader membership than the country based CWGs in which only operational agencies providing assistance on the ground are members. It will include interested agencies and other actors planning or supporting the response in the surrounding countries.

OBJECTIVES

This regional CWG will focus on fostering a coherent approach across countries with a focus on:

- Reinforcing a local approach by advocating for local leadership, co-chairmanship and participation in country CVA CWGs (e.g. translators are provided), supporting governments and local actors with capacity-strengthening by promoting the translation of tools, guidance and global standards in CVA at the local level.
- Ensure that cash assistance is pursued and reflected as a key transfer modality of assistance and protection, and that it is used as a cross-cutting modality across sectors, and that is budgeted for accordingly and in line with a basic needs approach.
- To support gender-sensitive programming, the Regional CWG will link with and support women-led/women's rights organizations, pay attention to robust gender data, including sex, age, and disability disaggregated data and ensure that [the IASC Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action](#) is well consulted to promote a safe and dignified environment for appropriate interventions to women, girls, boys and men.

- Support strong information sharing on cash assistance across responses and country-level CWGs, as well as with other related working groups.
- Provide technical advice and propose guidance to in-country cash coordination bodies as required.
- Promote security of data; encourage interoperable systems and/or joint platforms; and reduce duplicate data-collection and overlapping of other data-related activities between partners.
- Tracking of cash assistance at the regional level.
- Support on advocacy on cash assistance, if needed.
- Resolve common challenges on cash coordination and elevating these as relevant.
- Support cross-fertilization of good practices among country-level CWGs and provide technical support on collaborative cash programming, where required.
- Promote coordinated approaches in assistance across countries.

TIMEFRAME

A temporary regional CWG is established for 6 months. For the moment, this Regional CWG is meant to be temporary in view of the generous inclusion of refugees in the national systems.

MEETINGS AND PERIODICITY

The regional CWG will convene, virtually, on a weekly basis, on Wednesdays at 13.00 hours Geneva time. Ad hoc meetings may be called at short notice in case of critical issues with a regional dimension. Minutes of the meetings will be circulated among all members in a timely manner.

REVISION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference guiding the structure and activities of the regional CWG will be reviewed after three months and/or based on immediate needs as agreed by the members.

UNHCR
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