



## Cash Working Group MOLDOVA

Meeting Details	
Date	8 September 2022 - Next meeting on 22 September 2022
Time	09.00 am to 10.30 am
Chair	Yigit Anil Gurer, CBI Officer, UNHCR
Reporting	Natalia Postaru, Associate Programme CBI Unit Officer
Email	<a href="mailto:mdachcbi@unhcr.org">mdachcbi@unhcr.org</a>
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Open discussion on Winterization - Cash and Voucher Programmes – Ministry of Labour and social Protection</li> <li>2. Moldova GBV Risk Analysis in cash and voucher assistance (CVA) – UNFPA.</li> </ol>	
Information collection and relevant links	
Moldova operational data portal: <a href="https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784">https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784</a> Link to operational data portal: <a href="https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784">Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation (unhcr.org)</a>	
Participants	
Felicia Bechtoldt - Secretary of state, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MoLSP) Ina Ursan – Implementation Unit, MoLSP Valentina Harovschi - International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) Francesca Reinhardt - International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Martina Gastaldello – OHCHR Moldova Volkan Pirincci - Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe Anatol Donu – Caritas Czech Republic Eugeniu Rotari – Concordia Proiecte Sociale Constanta Cravet - Concordia Proiecte Sociale Eirini Aletra - Catholic Relief Services (CRS) James Whitaker – REACH Abandokht Sarkarati - United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Daniele Pedretti – Help Age	Nicolas Karadjian – HEKS/EPER Xavier R Sire – United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Andrei Girleanu – ADRA Moldova Yuliia Yanchenko – HELVETAS Ion Gradinari – HELVETAS Doina Craciun – Charity Center for Refugees (CCR) Gangan Mihail - Law Center for Advocates (LCA) Jane Muriithi – International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Arzum Karasu – Action Against Hunger (AAH) Pietro Mirabelli - Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) Zinaida Adam – UNDP SALIH Ziad – IOM Dustin Achgill - ACTED Zinaida Adam – UNDP



GUZUN Sorina – IOM	Solidarity International Elena Cordova – IDC Comrat (International Christian Truly Foundation)
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**Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points**

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p><b>Agenda Point 1</b> <b>Open discussion on Winterization - Cash and Voucher Programmes</b></p> <p>Felicia Bechtoldt – Secretary of state, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MoLSP)</p> <p>Inna Ursan - MoLSP <b>Ministry of Labour and Social Protection</b></p>	<p>The meeting focused on discussion on how the humanitarian actors can support the Government and assist persons in need of assistance during the winter period.</p> <p>State Secretary gratitude the CWG partners for the support that has been provided to Ukrainian refugees and vulnerable Moldovan people affected by the crisis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since the beginning of the initiation of cash programme in Moldova, UNHCR - Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MoLSP) has been performing joint efforts to coordinate the cash related activities in Moldova under the umbrella of Cash Working Group (CWG).</li> <li>• Three (3) mainstream winterization cash programmes implemented/to be implemented soon by the UN agencies and MoLSP: a) Ajutorul Social &amp; APRA, b) UNHCR Cash Assistance for Refugees, b) UNDP - MoLSP Energy Vulnerability Fund – including reimbursement of gas &amp; electricity bills of vulnerable Moldovan families, c) WFP Cash Assistance for Families Hosting Refugees, d) Shock-Responsiveness Programme (quadruplet proposal) for vulnerable Moldovan HHs with disabled persons; single-parent households; households with more than 3 children (part of APRA but not of Ajutorul Social).</li> <li>• The MoLSP kindly appealed to the CWG partners (humanitarian actors) to support the government-led response to poverty to focus on the Moldovan families hosting/not hosting refugees as the target group - cannot be covered by the MoLSP or UNHCR-UNICEF-WFP programme - due to their increasing needs of the vulnerable families during the winter period.</li> </ul>	<p>The key message of the MoLSP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MoLSP invites the CWG partners (humanitarian actors) who have resources to focus on the Moldovan families hosting/not hosting refugees as a target group due to their increasing needs - cannot be covered by the MoLSP (with a transfer amount of MDL 700 (36 USD) for HH during five (5) months: November-December 2022 and January-March 2023).</li> <li>• The MoLSP does not foresee a considerable gap for the refugee population and recommends that partners focus on Moldovan families hosting/not hosting refugees in need of assistance during the winter period.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Based on the MoLSP information, in the SIAS social assistance database there are 250,000 households<sup>1</sup>.</li><li>• 40,000 vulnerable Moldovan HHs will be covered under the Shock-Responsiveness Programme, and UNHCR will provide coverage for refugees with a top-up for winterization of MDL 700 (36 USD) to the current beneficiaries (supported with MDL 2,200 per person/month).</li><li>• The MoLSP is working on the development of a “Crisis Module” under the MoLSP information systems where vulnerable Moldovan households will be stored. The module is planned to be completed by October 2022. The Module will enable collection of the data on vulnerable Moldovan HHs across the country, verified at local/community level. The vulnerable HHs will be identified, and the list of beneficiaries will be validated by the social workers at the local level from each community. The cash partners who intend to target the vulnerable Moldovan HHs will be able to share their beneficiary list with the Ministry, and the Ministry will be able to cross-check the beneficiaries for de-duplication with APRA and shock responsiveness programme (targeting Moldovan families not hosting refugees with specific profiles) as well as among the referrals through this module. Additionally, MoLSP may explore the ways of sharing the beneficiary lists with the humanitarian actors who intend to target Moldovan households in need of assistance. This mechanism will ensure that more vulnerable population could be assisted during the cold period through the harmonized system. The proposed transfer value by the MoLSP for different target groups (Moldovan families hosting/not hosting refugees) is MDL 700 per household in line with Government’s sessional assistance programme, APRA.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “Crisis Module” is planned to be developed that will enable to cross-check the lists of beneficiaries by avoiding duplication, and harmonization of the assistance, ensuring social coherence and supporting the implementation of country-wide coverage. UNHCR will recirculate the form on the winterization plan with the CWG partners who intend to adjust the planned activities and recalculate their target group to vulnerable Moldovan households (hosting/not hosting refugees) for the winter period.</li></ul>
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<sup>1</sup> The data adjusted based on the information provided by the MoLSP.



<p><b>Agenda Point 2</b></p> <p><b>Moldova GBV Risk Analysis in cash and voucher assistance (CVA).</b></p> <p>Abandokht Sarkarati, UNFPA</p>	<p>In June 2022, the Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group (GBV SWG) and Cash Working Group (CWG) jointly conducted a rapid GBV risk assessment exercise to assess potential GBV risks for refugees that may be created by this Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) programming in Moldova and to recommend enhancement of the response to mitigate the risks<sup>2</sup>. The findings of the exercise were reviewed and validated by both CWG and GBV SWG partners<sup>3</sup>.</p> <p><b>Main findings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online registration for appointment (previously requested) with risk of exclusion for some specific groups. Limited awareness of existing support services such as mobile registration teams.</li> <li>• As majority of refugees are women and children being hosted by the local communities - risk of abuse and GBV in the hosting arrangements.</li> <li>• Differences in transfer values received between refugees and vulnerable households - risk of community tension.</li> <li>• Separated children (particularly young girls) and older persons could be excluded from consultations regarding expenditure decision-making processes, which may increase their risk of violence and vulnerability to trafficking.</li> <li>• Remaining gaps on information sharing and Complaint Feedback Mechanism (CFM knowledge increased from 15% to 82% between two rounds of PDM).</li> </ul> <p><b>Mitigation measures and ways forward:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Information sharing to be increased:</b> on eligibility criteria, enrollment centers, CFMs, available GBV services, PSEA reporting mechanisms.</li> <li>• <b>Increase coordination with protection/GBV actors</b> including local WLOs, increase mobile teams. <i>At the onset of the response, development of tools (inputs on PDM, CoC for hosting families, IEC materials, GBV safety audits, etc.) in close coordination with Cash actors and local Women Lead Organization (WLO).</i></li> </ul>	
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2 23 GBV and CVA experts participated from International and Local NGOs and the UN system: Acted, ADRA, Artimida, Asociatia Impotriva Violentei, Charity Center for Refugees, CRS, INTERSOS, IOM, OHCHR, Plan International, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNWOMEN, Women’s Law Center.

3 It is worthy to mention that after the exercise there have been some recent changes in the cash enrollment process of UNHCR that will be mentioned under relevant point.



- **Frontliners to be fully trained** on safe handling of GBV disclosures and referral pathways and PSEA. Importance of wearing visibility gear and name tags. *GBV actors are providing capacity building to CVA frontliners (incl. Hotline operators and volunteers) on GBV/PSEA/pocket guide, signed CoC Community at home/in the community.*

- **A second GBV Risk Analysis of cash programming for host population on plan.**

**AOB**

- CWG participants are familiar with 5Ws, and all actors have access to record their activities for avoiding duplications and overlapping while responding to the needs of the refugee population in-country. In case of any new organizations who do not have access, they can inform UNHCR at [mdachcbi@unhcr.org](mailto:mdachcbi@unhcr.org) to obtain access to updating 5W matrix – [link](#).