

Cash Working Group – Poland

Minutes of Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 3:00 PM – online + in person, UNHCR Country Office in Warsaw

Co-chaired by: Gokalp Arslan, arslanm@unhcr.org; Ahmed Ali Mustafa ahmed.ali@pah.org.pl

Agenda:

Topics	From	To
General updates	15:00	15:30
MEB / transfer value survey results and discussion	15:30	16:00
UNHCR winterization PDM results	16:00	16:15
NRC/PCPM Endline PDM report for MPCA	16:15	16:30
Task Force updates	16:30	16:40
AOB	16:40	16:45

Meeting minutes:

Topics	
General updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The organizations below shared their updates on CBI activities and plans, including challenges related to their program:<ul style="list-style-type: none">UNHCR: the status of the programme, projections until the end of the year for targeted cash, including winterization.PAH: Started the registration in 2 new locations by providing cash through electronic voucher (FSP is Santander bank) <p>Action point: Partners to update the 5W document on the activities regularly and report their implementation in Activity Info.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">CWG Co-chairs attended the ISCG Meeting held on 16 May and shared the updates from the CWG with the heads of sectors in Inter-Agency in Poland. <p>Action points: Partners to fill and update the</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Contingency Planning Matrix by 31 MaySurvey on NGO's funding needs by 26 May

<p>MEB / transfer value survey results and discussion</p>	<p>As agreed in the previous ad hoc CWG meeting held on 28 April, co-chairs shared the survey concerning the MEB and transfer value approach with partners prior to the meeting, and the survey was filled out by 11 organizations (Oxfam, IRC, UNHCR, DKH, Mercy Corps, ADRA Polska, PAH, NRC, IOM, Action Contre la Faim, PCPM).</p> <p>UNHCR has presented the key results of the survey:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners are ready to go with a light approach considering the available options (10/11), relying on Survival MEB by Instytut Pracy i Spraw Socjalnych (IPISS) (8/11). • As the majority of the respondents (8/11) prefer, it was decided that a three-month duration for cash assistance is a reasonable timeframe that can guarantee immediate support. • Using the same methodology as the last year, the Survival MEB in 2022 (775 PLN per person), adjusted by inflation and CPI (6%) gives the transfer value of 820 PLN per person. This figure is a 15% increase per person and between 15-30% increase in the transfer amount depending on the family size. The new transfer values will be shared by the co-chairs in a separate e-mail and are expected to be effective July 2023. • UNHCR will conduct a Multi-Sector Needs Assessment in June-July whose results will be released in September – October 2023 and the MEB and transfer will be revised accordingly. <p>Action points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Co-chairs to calculate the MEB / transfer values as per the current inflation/CPI figures (to be) provided by the Polish government and share the updated values with CWG partners. 2. Partners to revise the MSNA tool and provide feedback to co-chairs with their human resource support for data collection. 3. Partners willing to participate in MSNA data collection should contact UNHCR, Gokalp Arslan at arslanm@unhcr.org or Andrii Mazurenko at mazurenk@unhcr.org
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UNHCR Winterization PDM results	<p>Conducted between 28-31 March 2023 with 352 HHs (representing 882 individuals) who benefitted from UNHCR's one-off Winterization Top-up in 2023. Cash was provided 1000 PLN per person and up to 3000 PLN per household.</p> <p>Key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More than half of beneficiaries reported that the assistance improved their living conditions significantly (44%) or moderately (32%); reduced financial burden significantly (58%) or moderately (30%); and reduced stress significantly (53%) or moderately (33%).• The top expenditure items were food and beverages (84%), followed by health (64%), clothes/shoes (33%), rent (32%), and hygiene items (26%).• 16% of the respondents could meet all, 20% more than half, and 38% half of their basic needs, whereas 5% stated that they cannot meet any of their basic needs.• 91% of the HHs did not have any difficulties related to assistance or receiving/withdrawing or spending the cash assistance.• 66% of the households resorted to at least one negative coping mechanism. The most common coping mechanisms are relying on less preferred and less expensive food (63%), using part of their savings (55%), and reducing expenses on non-food items (46%).• 98% prefer an assistance modality including cash.
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<p>NRC/PCPM Endline PDM report for MPCA</p>	<p>The data was collected through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Baseline survey: October-November 2022, conducted at registration, 167 respondents ➤ Operational PDM: conducted between 2 to 4 weeks after registration, 180 respondents ➤ Endline PDM: January 2023, 2 - 4 weeks after the project, 261 respondents. <p>Key results (full report here):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% of respondents interviewed for endline chose to have the full amount transferred to them at once and 10% preferred to receive the assistance in 3-month instalments. • Between October/November and January, it was observed an increase in the number of HHs that have a family member working in Poland (by 20%) and receive Ukrainian state benefits (by 8%). • The results confirm a general trend of decreasing opportunities for free housing for Ukrainian refugees in Poland. • At endline, 91% of respondents were satisfied and 6% were somewhat satisfied with the amount of cash assistance. • The results from FGDs show that accommodation is the single biggest challenge facing Ukrainian refugees in Poland (as rent starts from 3500 PLN). • 92% of respondents planned to stay in Poland for a longer period, 7% did not know and 2% planned to return to Ukraine. • Only 17% of respondents were able to rely on their savings.
<p>Task Force updates</p>	<p><u>Social Protection Task Force:</u></p> <p>The Social Protection TF prepared a survey with the purpose of knowing the perception of governmental and humanitarian actors regarding the access of the population in situation of vulnerability and/or exclusion to the social protection system in Poland and will share it with the respective institution once it is finalized.</p> <p>Action points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SPTF to finalize and share the tool to circulate with governmental and humanitarian actors. 2. Partners to inform SPTF on their knowledge and experience on (barriers) the access to governmental support for Ukrainian refugees. <p><u>Deduplication Protection Task Force:</u></p>

	<p>The status of the use of RAIS by partners is presented. The lack of updated assistance information results in a group of vulnerable people not receiving assistance from any organization due to being identified as duplicate. Current practice, with exceptions, is that the partner only updates the beneficiary list prior to assistance.</p> <p>Action points: UNHCR to organize a meeting to discuss with partners on their feedback and decision. Ideally, partners using RAIS' to use its block and assistance functions with the payment information (assistance date, amount, status) posterior to the distribution of assistance and reconciliation to avoid false duplication.</p>
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-chairs proposed a harmonized PDM tool and approach for the MPCA. <p>Action points: Co-chairs to share the PDM tools in an e-mail and partners who show interest to inform the co-chair, uploading relevant tools and documents.</p>