



CASH WORKING GROUP MOLDOVA

Meeting Details	
Date	<i>07 December 2023</i>
Time	<i>13:30 to 15:00</i>
Co-Chair	<i>Yigit Anil Gurer, CBI Officer, UNHCR</i>
Reporting	<i>Natalia Postaru, Associate Programme CBI Officer</i>
Email	<i>mdachcbi@unhcr.org</i>
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WFP – Top-up financial contribution 2. UNHCR – FAQs on UNHCR’s cash assistance programme in Moldova 3. UNHCR – Target Analysis Moldova 4. Updates from the CWG Partners 	
Participants:	
Fadel Daoud – WFP Marina Turcanu – WFP Andrei Banu – WVI Eirini Aletra – CRS Artion Sici – UNICEF Dustin Achghill – ACTED Katri Hoch – SDC Mary Khozomba – NRC Daniele Pedretti – Helpage Kyriakos Giaglis Diana Prisacaru	Jomari Borlongan – IFRC Hleb Salauyou – IFRC Valentina Harovschi – IFRC Ana Cemirtan – Plan International Hanna Ursol – PIN Ibrahim Marte – IOM Selma El Khawad – IOM Irina Guban – UN Orfan Shahada – AAH Diana Taran – AAH Galina Bercii – AAH Marina Turcanu – WFP

Summary of discussions and agreements/action points

Agenda	Discussion
WFP – Top-up financial contribution	WFP, in collaboration with IOM and UNFPA, are going to support with a one-time top-up financial contribution to cover the additional expenses of the vulnerable Moldovans (all over Moldova) who are targeted from MLSP database:

	<p>--- elderly people born before 1945 and receiving below 3,000 MDL – will receive 3,000 MDL;</p> <p>--- HH with adults with severe disabilities – will receive 5,000 MDL;</p> <p>--- HH with children with severe disabilities – will receive 5,000 MDL;</p> <p>--- pregnant, lactating women and at least 1 child between 0-2 years old – will receive 5,000 MDL.</p> <p>The total budget is in amount of 226,000,000 MDL (equivalent of 12,500,000 USD). The payment period is between 15 December 2023 and 15 February 2024, the beneficiaries will have 3 weeks to collect the cash assistance at the Post Office.</p>
<p>UNHCR – FAQs on UNHCR’s cash assistance programme in Moldova</p>	<p>This document outlines upcoming adjustments to the cash assistance programme of UNHCR Moldova. In 2024, this programme will undergo a number of changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The first change will require that cash beneficiaries have legal status in the Republic of Moldova. This will ensure that the lawful stay of recipients of cash assistance is secure in the country, that they are able to access available government services, and that they are able to re-enter Moldova should they need to temporarily leave the country, including to travel to Ukraine to visit family, their property, or address other matters. ➤ The second change will increasingly target UNHCR assistance to those who are most vulnerable, taking into account the growing self-reliance of refugees in Moldova, as well as decreased funding for UNHCR’s programmes. <p>Starting in 2024 UNHCR will provide cash assistance to vulnerable refugees from Ukraine and their families who reside in Moldova, under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current recipients of UNHCR’s cash assistance programme will continue to receive payments as usual until 31 January 2024. After that, the beneficiaries must demonstrate that they have obtained legal status in Moldova. • New refugee arrivals from Ukraine residing in Moldova will receive an initial two months of cash assistance according to the current (and broader) vulnerability criteria to help them settle in. After, they will need to demonstrate that they have obtained a more secure form of legal status in the country. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Ukrainian nationals will not be eligible for cash assistance unless they meet one of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They are family members of a Ukrainian refugee and were displaced from Ukraine to Moldova after 24 February 2022, and they had residence status in Ukraine prior to displacement. Non-Ukrainians are also expected to obtain legal status in Moldova. ○ They had received a form of international protection in Ukraine, including refugee status and stateless status. • Non-Ukrainian nationals must also obtain a legal status in Moldova. UNHCR will review individually the cases of those who are unable to obtain legal status for reasons beyond their control to determine if they are still eligible for cash assistance. • Persons with Moldovan citizenship (including those with dual nationality) will not be eligible for cash assistance. <p>The beneficiaries should inform UNHCR about their legal status.</p>

	<p>Individuals who are not eligible for an initial two months of cash assistance are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moldovan nationals. • Third-country nationals who are not a family member of a Ukrainian refugee and/or who did not have refugee status or stateless status in Ukraine. • All nationals who fled Ukraine and who do not intend to remain in Moldova but rather immediately transit to another country. <p>Mobile teams are available to facilitate the access to the UNHCR cash programme for people with disabilities, limited mobility, older people, or others with severe medical conditions who are unable to approach a Centre.</p> <p>Verification exercises will continue to be conducted periodically as per current procedure to confirm the presence in Moldova and to update the personal information.</p> <p>The documents provided by the government to beneficiaries are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Temporary Protection (TP) identity card; - Asylum-seeker certificate; - Refugee Status Beneficiary ID; - Humanitarian Protection ID/certificate; - Stateless Applicant ID; - Stateless Status ID; - Residence permit. <p>The Law Center of Advocates (CDA) is UNHCR’s partner who is providing free legal counselling and the beneficiaries can benefit of it.</p>
<p>UNHCR – Target Analysis Moldova</p>	<p>Analysis of vulnerability to meet basic needs for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad categorical targeting used since onset of emergency • Need for a revision of the targeting approach • Desire to have a more data-driven approach – and based on a scoring formula • Utilization of a Rapid Socio-Economic Profiling Exercise <p>Vulnerability categorization is calculated on a composite score of three variables from the data set:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Economic capacity (expenditure) 2. Negative coping 3. Food consumption

	<p>The HH Vulnerability classification is divided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extremely vulnerable ▪ Highly vulnerable ▪ Moderately vulnerable ▪ Not vulnerable
<p>Updates from the CWG Partners</p>	<p>UNICEF: Refugees with TP are eligible to receive monthly childcare benefits (1,000 MDL per child, 0-2 years old). The childbirth grant is a one-off benefit in amount of 10,000 MDL -lump sum benefit- which may increase to 20,000 MDL per newborn starting from January 2024. Also, there is a monthly social allowance for children with severe disability, which is paid at 100% of the minimum pension.</p> <p>The application can be made at any Territorial Agency of National Social Insurance House, preferably near the place of residence indicated in the TP, or online through www.servicii.gov.md or www.cnas.gov.md. The applicant must show the following documents: ID (including a copy of it), birth certificate of children and TP. It applies to all benefits, whereas for social allowance for children with acute disability, the applicant should also confirm the child's disability by providing the disability certificate. Authorities most likely will ask for a self-declaration regarding the applicant/family that does not receive a similar benefit in Ukraine. More details could be found below:</p> <p><i>Link on childcare benefit and childbirth grant:</i> Indemnizație unică la nașterea copilului Indemnizații adresate familiilor cu copii Casa Națională de Asigurări Sociale (gov.md)</p> <p><i>Link on social allowance for children with disability:</i> Categorii de persoane beneficiare Alocații sociale de stat Casa Națională de Asigurări Sociale (gov.md)</p> <p>AAH: Cash for winterization (complementary support) – the first and second rounds already have started; targeted around 363 Moldovans in Stefan Voda, Balti and Causeni; 6 rounds, 700 MDL each beneficiary. From December 2023 till May 2024. Linella vouchers will be targeted during winter season.</p> <p>IOM: finished the registration for November for MPCA in Transnistria, includes a winter top-up. From November 2023 till March 2024. The cash for rent is continuing.</p>



	<p>PIN: winterization projects, December distribution of winter clothes for vulnerable Moldovan and Ukrainian school-aged children, 500 children target, mainly in the child friendly spaces areas and digital learning centers are located (covering Anenii Noi, Balti, Causeni, Ocnita, Stefan-Voda, Ceadir-Lunga and Comrat). And cash for utilities for 100 HH vulnerable which are planned to be covered through referrals, especially the refugees affected by RAC's closure in the same locations and possibly to cover Moldova HH hosting refugees. The payments for utilities will be done in 4 rounds - 50 Euro per round.</p> <p>ACTED: reached the caseload for 65 HH per 2023. Is continued to be paid monthly, those who were enrolled first are receiving their 6-month timeline. Setting a new caseload in 2024 will start, most probably, in early spring.</p>
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