

## Minutes of the Cash Working Group, Bulgaria

[15 February 2023], [10:00]

UNHCR office, Sofia (Online)

|                              |                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chairperson</b>           | Lea Kraitem (UNHCR)                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Attendees</b>             | Catholic Relief Services, CRW, CARITAS, UNICEF, BRC, IOM, Agency for Social Assistance (ASA), USRF                                                  |
| <b>Agenda of the meeting</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UNHCR CBI Approach 2023</li> <li>▪ Partners updates (Winterization + 2023 Plans)</li> <li>▪ AoB</li> </ul> |

### Summary of Discussions and Action Points

#### 1) Presentation by UNHCR Senior CBI Officer from regional bureau of Europe on UNHCR CBI Approach for 2023

Presentation is attached with the minutes.

Participants have expressed interest in supporting through the Cash Working Group the collaborative effort in shifting CBI activities to be aligned with national systems and supporting unmet specific needs of refugees.

#### 2) Partners Updates

Key updates from the Agency for Social Assistance:

- The Agency for Social Assistance continues with the one-time assistance of 375 BGN for 2023.
- On the territory of Bulgaria around 51,103 applications have been submitted to the ASA since the beginning of the war. 50,341 applications have been approved to finance a total of 87,023 people.
- Food vouchers continue to be provided (last extension was until the end of February) to cover as many households as possible. 35,449 PoCs have received a total of 35,847 food vouchers. The total of around 40,000 vouchers must be provided by the end of February, 2023.
- The issue that Ukrainian children with disabilities do not have access to additional financial aid, as per Bulgarian law, since ASA needs to assess the latter's parents' income and the Ukrainian embassy does not provide this info, was reiterated. USRF mentioned that they are working closely with the Embassy on providing this info, so that the assessment could be done, and children with disabilities, who are Ukrainian TP holders, could eventually get a hold of this financial aid.

- **Action Points**

- CWG to be held once per month.
- CWG partners to jointly collaborate and strategize on aligning CBI activities with national systems and focus cash assistance to allow refugees to fulfill their basic needs.