

<b>Date</b>	15 October 2024	<b>Location</b>	Hybrid - UNHCR office and online on MS Teams
<b>Chair &amp; Co chair</b>	UNHCR, Agency for Social Assistance	<b>Note taking / minutes</b>	UNHCR
<b>Participating organizations and members</b>	<b>Agency for Social Assistance</b> (Rumyana Boyadzhieva), <b>Bulgarian Red Cross</b> (Aleksandra Vasileva, Martin Kirov, Romy Kaminskas), <b>Foundation for Access to Rights</b> (Zineti Yetim), <b>IFRC</b> (James Bellamy), <b>IOM</b> (Mariya Samuilova), <b>UNHCR</b> (Hayoung Kim, Gokalp Arslan, Amin Abbasi, Gergana Dimitrova, Marchela Dzhardova), <b>UNICEF</b> (Maria Zlatareva),		
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updates on 2024 cash programming</li> <li>2. De-duplication tool presentation</li> <li>3. AOB</li> </ol>		
<b>Agenda Point</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Agreed Decisions / Follow-Up Actions</b>	
<b>Updates: UNHCR and Partners' cash programs</b>	<p><b>UNHCR:</b> UNHCR will target around 3,000 HHs from the 2022-2023 caseload, focusing on specific needs and with high dependency ratios. Transfer value: 900 BGN - to combine it into a one-time transfer. This sum includes MPCA (400 BGN) and Winterization (500 BGN). Expected to do payments in November.</p> <p>Regarding the education allowance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Families with at least one child aged 6-17: 300 BGN per child.</li> <li>2. University grants (cash for higher education): 70 applications of all nationalities until now. The deadline for application is the end of October 2024 (might be extended). The application form link is <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ol> <p>The different cash programs can be combined.</p> <p><b>BRC:</b> Pre-paid cards for education supplies, parallel support activity (September 2024: children enrolled in Bulgarian schools 200 BGN; nationwide): 194 prepaid cards in total have been provided.</p> <p><b>IFRC 2024 winter support:</b> Around 300,000 USD funding for winter grants. For now, the target is 1000 HHs and implementation is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. One-time amount of 565 BGN per HH, focusing on newly arrived individuals in 2024, 80% on Ukrainians, and 20% other nationalities.</p>	<p><b>UNHCR</b> to share the vulnerability selection criteria UNHCR uses for CBI with IFRC.</p> <p><b>UNHCR</b> will share key messages that are developed for the upcoming program with Cash Working Group members.</p>	



	<p><b>Self-registration:</b> The form will be ready by early November. Applicants will make their own application, upload data, official documentation provided by authorities (no matter the nationality) and specific documents are requested concerning the program (Ex. health disability).</p> <p>Concerning de-duplication, it is done between IFRC and UNHCR, only for similar programs and based on the regional level/agreement.</p> <p><b>UNICEF:</b> No current cash programs.</p> <p><b>IOM:</b> Ongoing one-time food and cash voucher program for families – amount: 200-250 BGN for food vouchers for all new arrivals and families with children; 280 BGN voucher card for families with three children and specific needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vouchers can be topped up for extremely vulnerable cases</li> <li>- Distributed around 3000 cards since 2022. 2024: availability of 1,000 vouchers, 400 remaining to distribute.</li> <li>- No confirmed 2025 budget for cash distribution for vulnerable groups. CBI has been included as an activity for new Asylum, Migration and Integration Funds (AMIF), but this activity has not yet been approved as it requires a procurement and tendering process.</li> </ul>	<p>If 2025 CBI should be approved under AMIF, <b>IOM</b> will keep the Cash Working Group updated.</p>
<p><b>De-duplication tool presentation</b></p>	<p>New simple de-duplication tool – using encryption measures to protection personal data – was presented by UNHCR, which partners can use to compare data and avoid duplication of beneficiaries. For now, participants agreed that there is no risk regarding duplication for cash programme 2024 due to the different target groups and purposes (i.e., winter needs, education grants, multi-purpose cash) (an updated 5W matrix is also separately shared).</p> <p>Should there be possible overlaps with UNHCR and IFRC for the 2024 winter cash for non-Ukrainians, the de-duplication tool can be used.</p>	
<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<p><b>National poverty line:</b> The Bulgarian government has issued a resolution<sup>1</sup> to raise the poverty line to 638 BGN, starting January 1, 2025. This marks a 21.3% increase (112 BGN) from the current 2024 poverty line of 526 BGN. The change will specifically impact financial aid for individuals with disabilities, social assistance programs, and child protection services.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> [Resolution](#) in the website of the Council of Ministers, also available on official [website](#) of the Bulgarian Ministry of Labour.