



Cash Working Group - Meeting Minutes

Location, Date & Time	Online, Teams Meeting, Tuesday, 27 August 2024, from 16:00 to 16:45
Facilitators	Razvan Cateriniuc (Romanian Red Cross), Ahmad Zia Furmolly (UNHCR), Ana Maria Cosma (SCR)
Participants	Ana Maria Cosma (Save the Children) Horatiu Tatar (UNHCR) Razvan Chiriacescu (Red Cross) Ahmad Zia Furmolly (UNHCR) Yusuf Bofozoda (UNICEF) Diana Chiriacescu (FONSS) Larisa Dumintrescu (BRCT Suceava)
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and brief Introduction• CWG updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Romanian Red Cross○ UNHCR○ Save the Children• Updates from all partners• CWG indicator• Upcoming workshop• AoB
General updates	UNHCR <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cash has been delivered to 3,200 people;- In the coming weeks, approximately 1,400 people will be assisted;- About 4,700 people have received financial assistance;- A total of 5,700 people are targeted by the end of 2024;- Deduplication has been carried out in collaboration with IFRC and BRCT Suceava;- The registration program for financial assistance has been completed;- Checks are being conducted on cases requesting support to assess the current situation;- Discussions are ongoing regarding winterization efforts.

IFRC, RR

New CVA interventions:

- Cash for Health: 610 registrations equaling 760 individuals, payments have not yet been sent out. Plan to send out 92.700EUR to 618 individuals (491 applications) soon.
- MPC: payments have been sent to 494 families. 364 HH successfully received assistance, 9 families are still waiting for reimbursement due to misspelled names and failed IBAN transaction. 121 families are unreachable or no longer live in Romania.

SC has started the distribution of basic needs vouchers:

- Vouchers (value 630 lei) based on case management by social workers for vulnerable families with children. The support is provided for one month and only once. So far, 466 vouchers have been distributed to 145 households in Iași, Suceava, Bucharest, and Galați.
- Vouchers (value 300 lei) based on social assessment and eligibility criteria. So far, 99 vouchers have been distributed to 35 families in Bucharest and Galați.
- The vouchers will continue to be distributed until the end of November or the beginning of December.

FONSS

- Cash assistance for rent has been provided to 20 households, approximately 56 people, in Nicolina Center and nearby areas.
- Support is offered following assessments conducted by social workers based on well-established vulnerability criteria.
- The funds are allocated by UNHCR.
- The maximum amount families can receive is €315, depending on the family's situation, the contract signed with the landlord, and the rent amount (some families pay less, while others pay more, but they cannot receive more than €315).
- Payments are made directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts opened in Romania.
- In situations where multiple families live in the same apartment, evaluations will be conducted, and they will receive individual support, either for rent or for their specific needs.
- 6,140 social vouchers, each worth 15 lei, have been distributed (these can be used for a variety of products), with a total value of 500 lei per family.
- The vouchers are provided only once and are available to beneficiaries in Iași and a few cases in Bucharest.
- A study was conducted in Iași regarding rental costs, revealing that prices are significantly higher, especially after government changes related to financial support for refugees from Ukraine.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Similar situations are found in other cities as well.
	<p>UNICEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing discussions with government officials, particularly with the Ministry of Labor. - Work is being done on a package that includes information to guide beneficiaries through the steps required to access benefits. - Identifying solutions to help beneficiaries access social benefits step by step. - Efforts are underway to design technical support packages for government materials, specifically for the Ministry of Labor, emergency situations, and social protection, to assist them in responding to crisis situations. This support package may be launched in October. <p>CWG Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is necessary to establish the RRP indicators for 2025-2026. - For 2024, the indicators are already set: number of individuals receiving cash assistance; number of individuals receiving multi-purpose cash assistance; number of individuals receiving cash assistance for social economic inclusion. - It is important to assess how many organizations will apply for cash assistance, after which a strategy will be developed. - The proposal is to reclassify the indicator "number of individuals receiving cash assistance for social economic inclusion" as "number of individuals receiving cash assistance for sectoral cash." - Coordination between the working groups is essential.