



## Cash Working Group MOLDOVA

Meeting Details	
<b>Date</b>	13 December 2022
<b>Time</b>	10.00 to 12.00
<b>Co-Chair</b>	Adrian Efros, Head of the Joint Crisis Management Centre Yigit Anil Gurer, CBI Officer, UNHCR
<b>Reporting</b>	Natalia Postaru, Associate Programme CBI Officer
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:mdachcbi@unhcr.org">mdachcbi@unhcr.org</a>
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Updates on Cash Sector and Coordination with the Government of Moldova</li> <li>1. Q&amp;A</li> <li>2. AOB</li> </ol>	
Information collection and relevant links	
UNHCR Operational Data Portal Moldova - <a href="https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/MDA">https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/MDA</a> Moldova Cash Working Group - <a href="https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/318?sv=0&amp;geo=680">https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/318?sv=0&amp;geo=680</a>	
Participants:	
Adrian Efros - Joint Crisis Management Centre Georghe Bobeico – Joint Crisis Management Centre Igor Prodius – Bureau for Migration and Asylum Teresa Caterino – Action Against Hunger Daniele Pedretti – Help Age Moldova Celine Brixander – UNFPA Bianca Miccione – ACTED Salomé Haugazeau – Solidarite Moldova Mihail Cutie – Child, Community, Family (CCF Moldova) Andrij Dichtaruk – Caritas Czech Republic Cristina Rogojina – Caritas Czech Republic	Ala Svet – UN Women Cristian Slobodeaniuc – People in Need (PIN) Eirini Aletra – Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Doina Craciun – Charity Centre for Refugees Andrei Girleanu – ADRA Moldova Sorina Guzun – International Organization for Migration Mihaela Lavrov – Peace Winds Japan Tamayo Haraguchi – Peace Winds Japan Rei Doi – Peace Winds Japan Fadel Daoud – World Food Programme (WFP) Michel Gerges – World Vision International (WVI)



### Summary of discussions and agreements/action points

Agenda	Discussion
<b>Introduction and Welcome</b>	<p>The Cash Working Group (CWG) met in an extended meeting with the participation of the Joint Crisis Management Centre (JCMC). The meeting aimed to create an open dialogue between the government and humanitarian organizations implementing cash programmes for refugees and Moldovan families hosting/non-hosting refugees in Moldova. The CWG partners were encouraged to address questions and emphasize the problems and needs to find common solutions under governmental guidance.</p>
<b>Agenda</b>  Open discussions on Cash Programmes	<p>Welcome message of the Head of the JCMC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emphasized that the Government of Moldova appreciates the efforts of the cash actors working in the field to cover the needs of both refugee and host communities.</li> <li>• Underlined that since the beginning of the crisis, 3 mainstream/country-wide programmes have been developed: Cash Programme for Refugees under the UNHCR umbrella (with support of UNICEF and UNFPA), Cash Programme for Moldovan families hosting refugees under the WFP umbrella, and the Response Programme to poverty developed and implemented by the Government (Ministry of Labour and Social Protection – MoLSP).</li> <li>• The CWG is the leading and unique platform for coordinating cash-related activities co-led by UNHCR and MoLSP.</li> <li>• Recommendation of the government is to unify the humanitarian organizations’ support and align to these 3 mainstreaming programmes developed under the coordination of the Moldovan government.</li> <li>• Highlighted that 9 months after the crisis and emergency situation, it is important now to underline the achievements, understand the challenges, identify the gaps, share the observations, and channelize the efforts to improve and harmonize the further cash interventions from the different partners.</li> </ul> <p>The Government’s observations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance must be provided equitably throughout Moldova by following harmonized targeting criteria and implementation of programmes at country level. Focusing only on specific rayons might carry out risks in terms of social cohesion and creating tensions and discrepancies at the local level.</li> <li>• To better synchronise the activities, identify the humanitarian needs of beneficiaries, and coordinate the activities and interventions with the MoLSP on cash, accommodation, employment interventions, etc. as after 9 months of crisis we have a common understanding of what can be improved in 2023.</li> <li>• Cash Actors should pay specific and high attention not to duplicate efforts and avoid provision of assistance to the same beneficiaries.</li> <li>• In case there is an additional assistance for refugees observed in specific locations or country-wide, it is important to coordinate such plans/activities/interventions with the Government of Moldova and CWG as some targeted assistance may carry out some risks, could not be foreseen by the implementors but the Government can provide consultation/guidance on such initiatives.</li> </ul>



- The humanitarian organizations providing assistance to Moldovan families are encouraged to use the “Crisis Module-aid.md-” developed by Government of Moldova. MoLSP is ready to collect and verify data of vulnerable Moldovan families as per the eligibility criteria set by the partners. The partners who tend to engage in this platform have already been provided with the relevant information and communication details from the MoLSP to launch their campaigns.
- Re-emphasize about the previous discussions held at CWG with high level representation from the MoLSP on the needs. On many occasions, MoLSP appealed to the CWG partners (humanitarian actors) to support the government-led response to poverty to focus on the Moldovan families hosting/not hosting refugees as the target group – cannot be covered by the MoLSP or UN–MoLSP Joint Programme on Shock Responsive Social Protection.

Potential solution identified by the CWG partners:

- Identify tools that could apply to the Moldova context to maximize assistance and available funding and avoid duplication of assistance. UNHCR currently explores reaching appropriate tools that can be used for avoiding duplications for cash-based intervention to refugees. RAIS is a tool being utilized in different operations and UNHCR Moldova is now examining the process to roll-out this platform in Moldova.
- For cash assistance to host communities, aid.md has a functionality to de-duplicate the beneficiaries. This is also one of the key reasons of encouraging the partners to engage in this module.
- In case of an undocumented person or with inappropriate identity documents, the Identification Personal Number (IDNP) can be used as a unique identifier. The IDNP can be generated by the refugees using the “dopomoga.gov.md” platform. This number is assigned by the system as per request. The persons who have not requested IDNPs while entering to the country-at the border point-, can obtain numbers by approaching the Multifunctional Centres of the Public Services Agency.

Main issues raised by the CWG partners:

- The funding opportunities would be relatively limited for many partners starting from next year.
- Considering funding limitations and the requirement for transition from the emergency cash assistance, the partners should start working on implementation of more targeted eligibility criteria to assist the most vulnerable ones.
- Due to limited funds, small NGOs could not cover all the regions in Moldova.
- De-duplication methodology based on geographical split between the cash partners may not work for refugees as there is a high mobility among refugee community.
- Issues of the beneficiaries’ documentation: especially for elderly people with old version of the identity card/passport (transcription) cause problems with financial providers (Post offices – deliver mechanism) to provide the entitlements. Also, there are big issues with the documents of the representatives from the Roma community, separated/unaccompanied children and persons with disabilities.
- Introduce extra methods of verifications – documentation, including the people with double citizenship (Moldovan and Ukrainian), especially for residence from UTA Gagauzia and Transnistrian region.



- Pendular Movements: UNHCR together with its implementing partners (CRS, Caritas Moldova and Diaconia) are trying to keep the most updated information on active cases of Ukrainian beneficiaries, through conducting various verification methodologies at different stages of enrolment activities (in-person pre-enrolment, regular in-person verification, verification interviews via HH visits). These actions help to identify the population some beneficiaries who claim that are staying in Moldova but are leaving to Ukraine and coming back and forth. The persons who could not be verified are inactivated and their assistance are ceased.

Sector Update by Some Partners:

- PIN is involved in cash programme since the beginning of the crisis and offered support to Moldovan families hosting/non-hosting refugees. PIN covered 17 rayons. Since started the programme main changes are related to the eligibility criteria. PIN is now working on putting in place a more targeted approach for eligibility to their programmes.
- UNHCR launched its cash for refugees' programme in late March, few weeks after the crisis. So far, UNHCR reached out more than 106K refugees with MPCA assistance. Similarly with the other partners, UNHCR is also working on the transition from emergency cash to more targeted approach.
- Help Age Moldova – targeting the refugee elderly people (50+), focus in 7 regions (at North, South and Center), because of the limited budget, they plan to target circa 600 individuals (with winter support) and tried to avoid the duplication under coordination mechanism.
- UN Women plan to implement a cash for work programme. The main objective of the programme is to encourage refugee women to be employed by strengthening their skills through vocational training programmes.