

Cash Working Group – Poland

Minutes of Meeting

Date and Time: Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 3:00 PM – online + in person, UNHCR Country Office in Warsaw

Co-chaired by: Gokalp Arslan, arslanm@unhcr.org; Agnieszka Nosowska anosowska@pcpm.org.pl

Agenda:

| Topics | From | To |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| UNICEF's cash programme | 15:00 | 15:30 |
| General updates | 15:30 | 15:45 |
| Winterization | 15:45 | 16:05 |
| IRC PDM results | 16:05 | 16:20 |
| Task Force updates | 16:20 | 16:25 |
| AOB | 16:25 | 16:30 |

Meeting minutes:

| Topics | |
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| UNICEF's cash programme | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- UNICEF's primary approach is to collaborate with national and local governments to fulfill social protection commitments.- Key partners in this effort include ZUS and municipalities. Together, they have implemented the 500+ child grant programme, benefiting a total of 199,080 children in 2022. <p><u>Poznan Municipal Family Assistance Center (MOPR), 'Response to the Urgent Needs of Refugee Children and Families in Poland' project, financial support for children in interim care:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Financial support to temporary guardians of Ukrainian children who arrived in Poland after February 24, 2022, via the Municipal Family Assistance Center (MOPR) Poznan.- Primary objectives include providing food, clothing, healthcare, housing, education, and cultural needs for these Ukrainian children in temporary care.- Financial support: 500 PLN per child per month during interim care, with the possibility of increasing it to a maximum of 5000 PLN in total when combined with other benefits.- The first payments were made in December 2022. Expenditure from October 2022 to August 2023 totaled 657,677.30 PLN.- There are currently 182 temporary guardians supporting 211 Ukrainian children.- Efforts are made to assist refugees in integrating into their new living conditions. Assistance is undertaken by temporary guardians. |

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| | <p><u>Municipal Social Welfare Centre in Gdynia, Implementation of Tasks Within The Cooperation Agreement with UNICEF:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOPS-Gdynia started a partnership with UNICEF in September 2022. - Refugees seek assistance at an information center, where social workers assess HHs/Ind needs. - Financial support: Max 2,000 PLN per family per month (average 1,600 PLN) for 1, 2, or 3 months. Covers housing, food, essentials, childcare, clothing, and medical expenses. Supported housing budget: 105,100 PLN. Financial support, with a budget of 1,800,000 PLN, targeting 255 individuals and 90 families, and achieved 649 individuals and 211 families. - Other assistance is provided to families in extreme situations (motherhood, health, old age) with direct cash disbursements, following an assessment by social workers. |
| <p>General updates</p> | <p><u>Partner Updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Oxfam:</u> Completed direct implementation by distributing the last 3 installments to 300 households. In September, focused on capacity building with Better World and Ukrainian House as implementing partners. - <u>IFRC:</u> Completed implementation in Poznan and Bydgoszcz at the end of August, currently in the reconciliation phase. Planning FSP mapping soon. - <u>UNHCR:</u> Updated eligibility criteria, registrations extended to December 2023. Partners are welcome to refer vulnerable cases (through Kashinde Hassani hassanik@unhcr.org and Rashad Aliyev aliyev@unhcr.org). A PDM is to be conducted starting 25 September for MPCA. <p><u>RRP 2024 and MSNA:</u></p> <p>The RRP 2024 workshop was held by UNHCR with more than 100 participants on 13-14 September in Warsaw. Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) preliminary results were presented.</p> <p>RRP Timeline for partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RRP Workshop: September 13-14, covering MSNA and strategy. - Deadline for Expressing Interest in RRP 2024: September 29 for budget and focal point designation. - Submitting Projects: Submissions begin on October 2. - Deadline for Detailed Project Submissions by Partners: October 20. |
| <p>Winterization</p> | <p>An ad hoc meeting took place on September 1st with organizations interested in the Cash for Winterization activity for 2023/2024.</p> <p>It was agreed to continue using the same methodology, including transfer values and modalities as 2023 - 1000 PLN per person, to a maximum of 3000 PLN per household, recommended to be paid as one-off lump-sum transfer. A guidance note is attached as part of the meeting minutes.</p> |

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| | <p>Partners are to submit details of their planned and implemented activities to the 2023/2024 Winterization Matrix and Cash assistance 5W as well as report their completed activities in Activity Info database.</p> <p>A bundle for winterization will be created for deduplication.</p> |
| IRC PDM results | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PDM data collection took place between June 14 and July 5 with 367 respondents who MPCA via two vendors - Moneygram and Dipocket. - Overall, 99.7% of participants assess the selection process for the cash program as fair. - Only 33% of all participants reported that they could cover all their basic needs. - 46% of participants reported that they have other unmet needs (not necessarily specified as basic needs). The ones cited most often are healthcare, medicines, and money for housing (rent). The key limitations to meeting these needs are limited language proficiency and disability/health limitations. - 99% of people feel safe traveling to and from their place to receive assistance while receiving assistance, and upon return to their place. For 93% of participants, it was easy to access cash assistance. - On average, 67% of received cash was spent to cover basic needs, which corresponds to 2.786 PLN on average. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rent or shelter: 44% of received cash was spent to cover rent, which corresponds to 2008 PLN. o Medical expenses: Among participants mentioning medical expenses, 62% indicated that they purchased medications, 19% paid for one-off appointments and 9% mentioned purchasing medicines specifically prescribed by the doctor. Among the households that mentioned covering medical expenses with the received cash, on average 20% of funds was spent on medical expenses, which constitutes spending 707 PLN on average. - 30% of the respondents are employed in Poland. 81% have temporary contracts, and 19% have permanent contracts. 48% of participants who are currently unemployed are interested in relocation if they have a job offer. |
| Task Force updates | <p><u>Social Protection TF</u>: The final document on the alignment options for the social protection system in Poland is to be reviewed by the partners and Protection sector, and is to be finalized and presented in the upcoming meeting in October.</p> |
| AOB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A joint PDM tool, incorporating feedback from all partners, will be developed. The PDM will include agreed common indicators. - Partners are to provide input and update the FSP Mapping document. |