MINISTERUL MUNCII ȘI PROTECȚIEI SOCIALE AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA

Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

AD-HOC CASH WORKING GROUP Meeting

Meeting Details	
Date	*15 January 2025*
Time	*10:30 – 11:30*
Co-Chair	*Yigit Anil Gurer, CBI Officer, UNHCR*
Reporting	*Natalia Postaru, Associate Programme CBI Officer, UNHCR*
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Agenda

- Introduction
- Programme Updates
- Presentation of Market Monitoring Results (Magenta Consulting)
- 2024 Achievements

Information collection and relevant links

Operational Data Portal – Ukrainian Situation in Moldova

Participants:

Djavid Paknehad – Charity Centre for Refugees
Almothana HASAN – ACTED
Athina NALMPANTI - ACTED
Stefan PRISACARU - ACTED
Artiom Sici - UNICEF
Ursol Hanna - PIN
Valentina HAROVSCHI – IFRC
Iana Semionova – Magenta
Ibrahim Marte - IOM
Irina STEFAN – Laolalta
Ana URSACHI - IMPACT INITIATIVES/REACH
Felicia BULAT – IMPACT INITIATIVES/REACH
Eirini ALETRA – CRS
Daniele Pedretti - HelpAge
Samuel Wood - HelpAge
Viorica Bulat – World Vision

Summary of discussions and agreements/action points

Agenda	Discussion

Programme Updates from CWG Partners	**WFP (World Food Programme):**
	• **Cash Programme for Vulnerable Moldovan Families:**
	  ○ Target: 27,500 households
	  ○ Assistance already delivered to 42,000 households
	  ○ Cash-out period extended beyond February
	• **Refugee Housing Assistance – Round 17:**
	  ○ Verifications complete; payments for 5,200 households to be processed by mid-January
	  ○ WFP now managing the entire caseload (CRS no longer involved)
	PIN (People in Need):
	• **Cash for Education:**
	  ○ 1,318 beneficiaries (72% Ukrainian, 28% Moldovan)
	  ○ Transfer value: €108.00 per child
	• **Winter Clothing Vouchers:**
	  ○ 917 beneficiaries (60% Ukrainian, 40% Moldovan)
	  ○ Transfer value: €82.00 per voucher
	• **Winter Programme Updates:**
	  ○ Further updates to be shared in upcoming CWG meetings
	World Vision:
	• **Ongoing Cash Assistance:**
	  ○ 1,070 households; 800 MDL for winterization
	  ○ Next distribution planned for January
	• **Additional Cash Programmes:**
	  ○ Target: 1,100 households (including people with disabilities)
	  ○ Transfer value: $250
	  ○ Distribution starts end of January/early February
	• **Voucher Program for Winterization:**
	  ○ 80% of distribution completed; target: 4,000 households
	• **Vocational Training Initiative:**
	  ○ Target: 1,100 beneficiaries (IT and computer skills over 3 months)
	• **Vouchers for Food, Hygiene, Baby Products:**
	  ○ Distribution concludes end of this month; target: 8,000 beneficiaries
	ACTED:
	• **Cash for Winterization:**
	  ○ Targeting 2,890 households

	UNICEF:
	• Raised query regarding the **synergy between child disability cash transfer programs** and national schemes
	• Highlighted **challenges in disability certification** for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova
	• Programme reached over **7,000 households** (refugees and host community) via social protection programs
	CCR (Charity Centre for Refugees):
	• **Voucher-Based Program Achievements in 2024 (with support from Help):**
	  ○ Food and hygiene: 4,505 beneficiaries (70% refugees, 30% Moldovans)
	  ○ Medical products: 1,613 (100% refugees)
	  ○ Clothing and shoes: 2,045 (80% refugees, 20% Moldovans)
	  ○ School supplies and uniforms: 1,235 children (100% refugees)
	  ○ **Voucher value:** €50 per household
	  ○ Coverage: Nationwide

Presentation of Market Monitoring Results – Magenta Consulting	Magenta Consulting presented findings from the fourth round of Market Monitoring Results.
	
	The presentation was focus on the results of the market monitoring study conducted by Magenta Consulting. This study has been carried out four times, with the initial assessment followed by quarterly market monitoring surveys.
	
	Methodology:
	• **Customer Survey:**
	  ○ Sample: Ukrainian refugees and host communities (Right Bank); refugees only (Left Bank)
	  ○ Data collection via face-to-face and phone interviews
	• **Retailer Survey:**
	  ○ Randomly selected shops across markets and supermarkets
	  ○ Interviewees: Retail decision-makers
	Data Collection Period:
	October 17 – November 1, 2024 (prior to the heating season)
	Key Focus Areas:
	1. **Price Changes:**
	  ○ Up to 30% increase in perceived prices for essentials
	  ○ Refugees reported higher increases, particularly for food, hygiene, and medical items
	  ○ Retailers confirmed non-food item price hikes (up to 15%)
	2. **Regional Differences:**
	  ○ Lower non-food item prices in Transnistria
	  ○ Decreased prices for fuel (gasoline, diesel); increased for coal and firewood
	3. **Availability:**
	  ○ Basic food items remain widely available
	  ○ Refugees less aware of firewood and coal availability

	○ Stable fuel availability outside of heating needs 4. **Affordability:** ○ Slight decline in overall affordability ○ Refugees reported higher affordability for items like clothing and potatoes ○ Stable fuel affordability **Summary of Key Findings:** • Price increases most notable in urban areas and among refugees • Slightly lower prices in Transnistria for some non-food items • Consistent product availability • Perception of decreased affordability, though fuel costs remained relatively stable
2024 Achievements of CWG	UNHCR as co-leader of the CWG presents the **2024 Achievements of CWG - Refugee Response Plan 2024** • **Advancing Targeting Practices -** Organized a Targeting Workshop to support partners with tools like a scorecard methodology, promoting a standardized approach while respecting partner autonomy. • **Transfer Value Alignment -** Conducted a review of MPCA and winter assistance transfer values to ensure consistency across partner programs in Moldova. • **Enhanced Use of RAIS -** Boosted platform engagement: 13 partners onboarded, with 6 actively using RAIS for deduplication across various cash programs. • **Technical Guidance Across Sectors -** Provided tailored advice to sectors like Protection and Basic Needs (e.g., Cash for Rent programs). • **Market Monitoring Insights -** Completed **two rounds of market monitoring**, utilizing results to track price trends and assess market accessibility for refugees and host communities. • **Increased Local Coordination –** Strengthened presence in **local coordination forums**, promoting CWG activities, engaging local partners, and offering guidance on cash program implementation. • **Winter Response Implementation -** Planned and initiated the **winter response activities** within the CWG sector. • **Harmonized Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) –** Continued efforts toward adopting **common PDM indicators** to enhance program evaluation and impact measurement.