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	*20 March 2025*
Time	*14:00 – 15:00*
Co-Chair	*Yigit Anil Gurer, CBI Officer, UNHCR*
Reporting	*Natalia Postaru, Associate Programme CBI Officer, UNHCR*
Email	*mdachcbi@unhcr.org*

Agenda

1. Introduction.
2. Updates on UNHCR's MPCA Programme - Transfer Value Reduction - Initial observations on how beneficiaries are adjusting and implications for other cash programs.
3. Coordination and Mitigation Measures – Exploring collective solutions to minimize risks for vulnerable families.

Information collection and relevant links

Operational Data Portal – Ukrainian Situation in Moldova

Participants:

Daniela CIUMAC – Secretariat of the Coordination Committee for Migration and Asylum
Hanna URSOL – People in Need
Aveen Jalal KHALEEL – Norwegian Refugee Council
Viorica BULAT – World Vision Moldova
Andrei BANU – World Vision Moldova
Fadel DAOUD – World Food Programme
Felicia BULAT – IMPACT/REACH
Stefan PRISACARU – ACTED
Violeta PREPELITA – CRS
Djavid PAKNEHAD – Charity Centre for Refugees
Roman CEBAN - Charity Centre for Refugees
Marte IBRAHIM – International Organization for Migration
Valentina HAROVSCHI – IFRC Moldova Country Office
Irina STEFAN – Laolalta
Catarina DRAGALIN – INTERSOS
Marie LAFFETER – ACTED

Summary of discussions and agreements/action points

Agenda	Discussion
Updates on UNHCR's MPCA Programme - Transfer Value Reduction - Initial observations on how beneficiaries are adjusting and implications for other cash programs *-Yigit Anil Gurer- UNHCR*	**During the meeting the main points were focusing on:** • Updates on UNHCR MPCA program and reflections from refugees about transfer value reduction, decision effective from 1st of April 2025 after the last Cash Working Group (CWG) meeting. • UNHCR presented an overview of an analysis conducted based on the Specific Needs of the refugees after the targeting exercise. • The main objective of the meeting is to understand how to put in place collaborative efforts to fill in the gap in terms of the consequences of the reduced transfer value for MPCA. **Updates on UNHCR MPCA Program and Refugee Reflections on Transfer Value Reduction** Following the last CWG meeting, where the reduction of transfer value was presented, UNHCR has taken several steps to engage with stakeholders, community leaders and understand the feedback on the changes: • Discussions were held with the **AAP Task Force**, which includes key actors responsible for communicating with refugees. • Meetings were conducted with **Protection Working Group partners** and the **Protection Advisory Group** to discuss concerns over the reduced cash transfer value. • Engagement with **community leaders** to gather feedback. • Continuous monitoring of refugee reactions through social media and field visits in collaboration with LAOLALTA colleagues. • Sharing of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and background documents with partners and refugees to ensure proper information flow among the partners and beneficiaries. **1. Refugee Feedback:** • The reduced transfer value would affect the purchasing power of the beneficiaries. • Refugees with specific needs (e.g., medical conditions, elderly individuals) will be particularly affected. • Some refugees acknowledge that while the reduction is unfortunate, they prefer it over the exclusion of more individuals from the program, allowing a broader reach. • Queries received primarily pertain to implementation timelines and new transfer value amounts. • **Implementation Date:** April 2025. • **New Transfer Value:** 1,625 MDL. **2. Dissemination of Information Campaign** To ensure transparency and effective communication, UNHCR has implemented the following: • Development and distribution of **FAQs and explanatory documents**. • Utilization of **field visits** and **social media monitoring** to assess reactions. • Strengthening outreach efforts through **field collaborations** post-CWG meeting. **3. Overview of Analysis on Specific Needs of Refugees Post-Targeting Exercise** A comparative analysis was conducted to understand changes in the target population before and after the targeting exercise.

	Key Findings from the Analysis: **Pre-Implementation of Targeting Exercise (June 2024):** • **Initial Caseload (July 2024):** 16,500 households • **UNHCR is using the score card methodology for targeting and prioritization** to identify eligible and ineligible people. For ineligible people, UNHCR put in place the Reconsideration process. • **Gender Breakdown (Pre-Targeting):** 62% female, 38% male • **Individuals with Specific Needs (Pre-Targeting):** 46% • **Older persons (Pre-Targeting):** 22% **Post-Targeting:** • Following the implementation of the refined targeting approach and the completion of all reconsideration reviews, the final eligible caseload as of the end of October 2024 consisted of 7,706 households, comprising 15,643 individuals. Among the eligible individuals, 66 percent were identified as having specific needs, while 34 percent did not present any specific needs. • The breakdown of specific needs within the eligible caseload is as follows: 24.5 percent had serious medical conditions, 23.2 percent were older persons at risk, 22.7 percent were women at risk, 15.1 percent were single parents, 10.5 percent were persons with disabilities, and 1.6 percent were unaccompanied or separated children. • In terms of gender distribution, 72 percent of the eligible individuals were female and 28 percent male. Children accounted for 11 percent of the caseload, while adults made up 89 percent. Among adults, those aged 18 to 59 represented approximately 46 percent of the total eligible population, and 42 percent were older persons aged 60 and above.
Coordination and Mitigation Measures – Exploring collective solutions to minimize risks for vulnerable families.	**Discussion on Collaborative Efforts to Address Transfer Value Reduction Consequences** **Proposed Actions:** • Establish collective efforts to mitigate the impact through complementary programming. • Partners are encouraged to fill the gap of 575 lei (MEB - 1,625 lei = 575 lei per person/month) if they have resources and identify the same families targeted by UNHCR or IOM. RAIS platform enables identification of the beneficiaries, and this complementarity serves the purpose of the **Common Cash Facility (CCF)** framework. These initiatives by the partners strengthen the effective usage of the resources and better coverage of the needs of the vulnerable people. • Explore potential **additional support mechanisms** for vulnerable groups affected by transfer value reductions. • Collaborate with partners to **bridge gaps in assistance** through alternative support channels. • Continue monitoring and gathering feedback from refugees through field teams and social media.

	Clarification on Topping Up and Using RAIS - If providing cash to a beneficiary already receiving MPCA from UNHCR or IOM, partners can top up the gap of 575 lei per person to fill the gap between MEB and the reduced transfer value. - In this case, using RAIS is necessary if the duplication with other MPCA programme (primarily IOM and UNHCR) is already identified. - If a vulnerable person is identified who is not being assisted by IOM or UNHCR, the partner can provide the full amount of 2,200 lei. - The same situation applies in Transnistria. **Conclusion - Next Steps:** • CWG Partners agreed to check their internal capacities to contribute complementary assistance and help bridge the gap where feasible. • Partners will have one week for internal discussions to determine involvement in ongoing assistance programme based on the available funding from other organizations resources. • A separated technical meeting will be organized for better coordination of the complementary assistance how to operationalize for filling the gaps for most vulnerable households.
Rental Assistance Programme *- Andrea Cuisana- UNHCR*	**Rental Assistance Program Updates:** - The Co-leader of the Basic-Need Working Group provided updates on the rental assistance program. - CRS confirmed the budget for rental assistance for 2025, including for the host community. - Pending information from ACTED and IOM, who were partners last year.