

# Regional Cash Working Group (CWG) Ukraine Refugee Situation

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## 6 April 2022 - Meeting Minutes and Action Items

**Chair:** **UNHCR** (Scott DiPretoro) & **IFRC** (Emma Delo)

**Participants:** **CaLP** (Lynn Yoshikawa), **CRS** (Jennifer Weatherall), **ICRC** (Clara Setiawan), **(IOM)** (Francisco Astudillo, Juliana Hafteh), **Mercy Corps** (Diana Tonea), **NRC** (Tim McInerney), **UNICEF** (Pamela Dale), **UNHCR** (Marian Schilperoord, Annika Sjoberg), **UN Women** (Ekram Elhuni), **WFP** (Giancarlo Cirri, Marie-Helene Kyprianou), **WHO** (Jetri Regmi), **WVI** (Isidro Navarro, Amos Doornbos)

### Action Items

- Share the Regional CWG TORs with country-level CWGs for awareness and to solicit any specific requests for support from the regional CWG.
- Request the country-level CWGs to share key information (4Ws, minimum data requirements, grant values, data platforms etc.) and present/share with the group on a rotating basis on their progress and any issues in which they may need support.
- Share minimum data fields that have been agreed to in each country, along with their status, language and any variations between each country.
- IFRC to facilitate a discussion at next WG meeting on localized capacity building.
- Chairs to follow up on Romania CWG invitation to join their meeting next week focused on de-duplication and minimum data sets.

### Meeting Minutes

- The minutes from the 30 March meeting were endorsed.
- The revised TORs now include an objective on data protection, language on localization and capacity building, and clarify the relationship between the Regional CWG and Ukraine CWG. These were endorsed by the group and are considered final. They can be revised as needed based on feedback and additional endorsement from the group.

### Data Sharing presentation

- On behalf of the Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD), **WVI** provided a presentation on Digital and Data Interoperability. This shared the CCD's learning on sharing of the appropriate data and how they de-duplicate across 14 agencies and with local counterparts. Their data sharing agreement templates are available on the CCD website. The key learnings in the process were: 1) We are deduplicating individuals not households, 2) we should collect/share the minimum data possible, 3) consider how to deduplicate using a technology agnostic approach, 4) biometrics should not be a requirement. The advantages and disadvantages of common registration systems vs. multiple systems and their effects on de-duplication and data use by individual actors were discussed. A Q&A session followed.
- **UN Women** noted that there is a balance to be struck between the need to ensure sex with age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) and the collection of minimum data (to assure data protection is duly place). The SADDD would ensure that the different programme interventions can meet the differentiated needs of women, girls, boys and men.

CWG Working modalities - *With the finalization of the TOR, feedback was requested by UNHCR on what the group saw as their priority initiatives and how best to move our work forward.*

- There was a consensus to bring together key information (such as the 4Ws) as well as to respond to requests for support from the national CWGs.
- **UNHCR** and **UNICEF** advised against creating task teams on specific subjects.
- **UNICEF** recommended for the group to address issues such as access to data, scale up and scale down of assistance, and providing guidance on how long organizations should be planning to provide emergency cash assistance.
- **UNHCR** recommended to have chairs from the various CWGs (Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia, Romania and Moldova) to participate in our Regional CWG meetings for them to identify and discuss the support needed. This can also be done on a bilateral basis between the chairs of the Regional and Country-level WGs.
- **CaLP** noted that the Global CWG can provide a forum for information sharing. The Regional CWG can brief this group when needed. Linkages can also be created with Social Protection WGs.
- **NRC** recommended that the WG could seek to connect the dots on longer term issues, such as implications of regulation change as it pertains to FSPs in Ukraine, how to address return scenarios in case FSPs are unable to provide cash transfer services or have liquidity issues, shifts in EU policy.
- **IFRC** recommended that we assess how to jointly support localized and national capacity building. This could include how to bring new staff or partners quickly up to speed on guidance related to cash, including providing translators and translation of key materials.

#### Alignment of cash programs with national social protection systems to enable transition of assistance

- **UNHCR** suggested that the WG could develop guidance on strategies for aligning with social protection systems. This could include assessing issues in the various countries and then identifying what advocacy or initiatives may be needed to help ensure a transition.
- **UNICEF** noted that in some instances there is a government representative participating in the Cash WGs, which helps ensure information flow on how many are registered in national assistance programs as well as keeping updated on their plans.

#### Linkages/information flow with local and global CWGs

- WG co-chairs will reach out to local CWGs to assess their needs and identify their gaps, which in many cases are still in the planning stage and trying to map out who is doing what and where
- National WGs will be invited to present to Regional CWG
- Linkages will be explored with the global Cash WG

#### AOB

- **CaLP** had a conversation with Ukraine CWG to see about establishing a group focused on learning to sit under the Monitoring Task Team. CaLP will follow up with the Regional CWG co-chairs on a proposal for a similar learning initiative, for which ToRs are still being developed.
- **UNHCR** advised that general cash trainings may be needed for local partners and new staff. A coherent approach for these trainings should be developed.
- Members were advised to propose any agenda points for the next meeting, as well as if they wish to present on any specific topics.