

Cash Working Group – Poland

Discuss the revision/recalculation of the MEB and MPCA transfer values

Minutes of Meeting

Date and Time: Friday, April 28, 2023, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM – online + in person

Agenda:

Called for in the previous CWG meeting on 19 April, this ad hoc CWG meeting was held on 28 April to discuss the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) basket and transfer values for MPCA in Poland.

Meeting minutes:

UNHCR delivered a presentation, including the information:

- Background on the calculation of MPCA MEB in March 2022
- Considerations to calculate MEB:
 - Full or Light MEB approach
 - Government data or independent data or own data
 - Survival MEB or Full MEB?
 - Single MEB or multiple MEB (Geography, profile)
 - Which items to include/exclude and monetize?
 - Income sources?
- Survival MEB and MEB calculations by Instytut Pracy i Spraw Socjalnych (IPISS)
- Results from various assessments and PDMs conducted by partners in 2022 and 2023
- Expenditure items and percentages
- Ability to meet basic needs through MPCA
- Income sources by the government and through other sources
- POCs' demographic information
- Further Considerations
 - Transfer duration?
 - Cash for Protection?
 - Defining the most vulnerable
 - Alignment with government programs and criteria
 - Top ups? (Winterization, Specific Needs, Rent, etc?)

Partners provided inputs related to their own assessment data related to specific expenditure items, and more particularly rent, health (including medicines), and education.

The majority of the organizations stated that they will continue to assist new arrivals rather than long stayers – for whom several top-ups, targeted and protection cash are planned or provided.

The survival MEB calculated by the government in 2022 and [published on 30 March 2023](#) is 775 PLN per person, and with an additional 4.9% for the inflation in the first quarter of 2023, results in 814 PLN per person as the transfer value. This is 13% higher than the previous transfer amount (710 PLN) calculated back in March 2022 with the same methodology.

No decision was taken on whether to use Polish Government's data as a reference, which items to include or exclude, going with a lighter approach or calculating the MEB independently, or the transfer duration. It was agreed to compile more data and circulate a survey to get feedback from the partners on their preferences and potential support for the revision of transfer values.

Action points:

1. Partners will provide information on further assessments and studies relevant to the MEB calculation with co-chairs by 8 May COB, uploading their data on the [shared folder](#).
2. Followingly, co-chairs will compile the results and share them with partners, along with a survey on the topics discussed to revise and calculate the MEB and/or how to proceed with the methodology.
3. Partners will fill out the form by 10 May COB. Co-chairs will analyze and present the data in the upcoming CWG meeting on 17 May, and finalize the transfer values in case a consensus is reached or build a roadmap for the revision.