Regional Refugee Response Plan
For the Ukraine Situation

# Basic Needs Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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| **Location, Date & Time** | UNHCR Conference Room (Alexandrina) and Online, Teams Meeting, Wednesday, 14 June 2023, from 10:00 to 11:30 |
| **Facilitator** | Kylie Alcoba Wright (Snr Operations Associate UNHCR), Ahmad Zia Furmolly (Assc Programme CBI Officer UNHCR), Hangoo Lee (Cash and Voucher Delegate for IFRC) |
| **Participants** | UNHCR, International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), World Vision, Salvati Copii, Salvation Army Romania, IKEA, Good Neighbours Japan, HIAS, CORE |
| **Agenda** | • Update on Population Trends<br>• CO-Lead of BNWG with CWG<br>• Post 50/20 Cash (UNHCR and IFRC)<br>• Winterisation 23-24 plans<br>• Partner updates<br>• AoB |
| **Agenda Topic** | **Main Discussion and Action Points in BLUE** |
| **Update on Population Trends** | • The political context has changed with a new RO Prime Minister appointed. We are still in transition with the New Governmental assistance programme.<br>• As from the beginning of the war, 93.6 K Ukrainian individuals in Romania were registered by 11/06. There is an expected increase of population flow for winter in Romania.<br>• Population movement trends: 2.095.943 individuals are Border crossing to Ukraine.<br>• Population Movement trends: 135.243 Temporary Protections were issued in Romania. The majority are adult females. The gender for children is more or less balanced of which around 5.000 are elderly.<br>• Border crossing is in constant monitoring by UNHCR. Many exits flows have been reported into Bulgaria; indeed, numbers have tripled in terms of daily exits to Bulgaria.<br>• Soon after the collapse of Kakhovka dam, we are still vigilant from UNHCR side on potential human displacement in Romania; **we are constantly analysing the BN involved in cooperation with partners and stakeholders.** |

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| | • Fast track transfers from Palanka to Husi: 14.000 transfers by DSU, UNHCR and IOM from Moldova to Romania; the situation seems to remain stable. |
| **CO-Lead of BNWG with CWG** | • BNWG has adjusted its co-leadership with Cash WG as per the interconnection between the technical work on cash and the portfolio of Basic Needs sector. In particular, Cash co-leaded for information on post 50/20 transition cash together with IFRC.<br>• Partners' views on the thematic focus of the BNWG and presentation of their programs are most welcomed.<br>• Update on UNICEF: UNICEF WASH Office Cathal O'Connor has left the Romania Operation and nobody was designated yet at his place to attend the BNWG. |
| **Post 50/20 Cash (UNHCR and IFRC)** | • **UNHCR provided an Update on Cash implementation into the new system during the top up MPCA 50/20 transition period-criteria. UNHCR tool will be available for all working groups.**<br>• Top up cash to support refugees shall be based on a harmonized approach, UNHCR ad IFRC are working for top up cash. Agreement on some criteria for people accessing cash through CWG;<br>• Number of cash transfers done in actual delivery: our target have been 35.000 people, enrolled 30.000 individuals; **the plan is to deliver this week in pipeline 3.000 individuals.**<br>• At the regional level, **in cooperation with IFRC deduplication is ongoing with 4000 deduplicated identified** – around 12.000 individuals in total.<br>• The transfer value is around 569 RON per individual.<br>• No cap to enable families with large family members with accommodation, one-time payment is agreed with CWG.<br>• UNHCR Cash for Protection: KOBO based vulnerability scorecard methodology is linked with UNHCR registration in ProGres to identify the most vulnerable people; the established target is between 3000-3500 households;<br>• Transfer value planned: MPCA + inflation rate of around 630.<br>• The established frequency is of 4 months assistance in the long-term.<br>• **Design stage for Appeal and referral mechanism: the objective is to prevent the exclusion errors, once the design is finalized partners will be updated. CBI is working on a new design to discuss the final validation of results of the scorecard from Brasov (partners are also invited to attend).**<br>• Cash programme will be deduplicated with multi-purpose cash (covered under CWG).<br>• **We are aiming to identify and prioritize the distribution of limited cash assistance to the most vulnerable persons who may not have the capacity or possibility to support themselves (sectoral cash to encourage employment).** |
| **Winterisation plans 23-24** | • **A preparedness action plan (contingency) is crucial to be drafted and has to be discussed in our common platform**.<br>• UNHCR requested partners to submit their winterization plans for 2023-24 (mainly October and November) after identifying the needs (NFIs distribution) within the respective areas.<br>• UNHCR is seeking to find a modality of in-person meeting for the winterization plans. |

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| | • Potential Cash top-ups are currently in the pipeline.<br>• Shelter sub-sector: this analysis also implies an assessment on accommodation (collective and transit centres) to endure preparedness actions in the case of new emergency; the objective of the site monitoring assessment is to improve the conditions of the available/active community centres in coordination with the Department for Emergency Situation (DSU). The goal is to also identify challenges and gaps in the delivery of food or provision of winterization components.<br>• World Vision requested whether other projection of needs assessment is to be conducted by the end of the year, aside from post distribution-monitoring of cash, MSNA, ABA – according to UNHCR IM, **the plan is to run in the beginning of Autumn another winterization assessment (September) in order to validate our planning figures.**<br>• IFRC requested UNHCR if the target group for the NFIs distribution has been identified – the scope is to look at the most vulnerable; **some assessments for locations on what would be the projected vulnerable groups should be performed in order to ensure complementarity**. This is the reason why in cooperation with the National authorities, **UNHCR is conducting distribution monitoring.** |
| **Partner updates** | • IFRC: on 50/20 transition cash we are fully coordinated through CWG – applied same transfer values, frequency and criteria. We launched a new self-registration mobile application (for the new people) who are not in the database of UNHCR. We can reach more people without a de-duplicated payment. IFRC received in total 27.000 registrations through 6 days for the Cash Programme. 15.000 were eligible to get the payment as being in Romania is a criteria for accommodation (geo-localization). **IFRC will start our payment this week, where 7.000 people will get paid this week.** An improved mechanism should be developed to complement between the Government and CWG in order to align as much as possible between IFRC and UNHCR programs as well as with the Government plans.<br>• **World Vision: the organization is about to implement a similar Program for cash as the one from IFRC for the 2nd semester.** Multi-purpose, registered index of 37% people registered people are clean after the deduplication. Proposal of extending the effort in full cooperation and complementarity.<br>• World Vision: the Distribution manager of the organization conducted an assessment on what is needed for the NFIs in coordination with three partners; the result is that the demands for half of July and August months will not be covered. Since World Vision will not be able to readjust the portfolio, **there was a request advanced to the BNWG for conducting a distribution assessment especially for food and hygiene kits. Advanced request for partners to connect with them in gapping demand for Iasi, Romexpo and Brasov (CATTIA centre).** |
| **AOB** | • All information regarding the BNWG is available on the BNWG SharePoint.<br>• The recording and transcript of this meeting are available on the SharePoint.<br>• UNHCR requested each partner to support with the submission of the monthly report per sector.<br>• UNHCR and the respective partners will convene in July for the next BNWG. |
| **Next meeting: July 2023 (date TBC) from 10:00 to 11:30 (combined with CWG)**<br>Location: UNHCR Conference Room- Alexandrina 20-22 and Online, Teams Meeting | |