



Cash Working Group - Meeting Minutes

Location, Date & Time	UNHCR Conference Room (Alexandrina) and Online, Teams Meeting, Tuesday, 12 th of March 2024, from 15:00 to 16:30
Facilitators	Ahmad Zia Furmolly (UNHCR), Horatiu Tatar (UNHCR), Razvan Cateriniuc (Romanian Red Cross), Sebastian Balanica (UNHCR), Yusuf Bafozoda (UNICEF)
Participants	Ana Cosma (Save the Children) Irina Pascu (Action Against Hunger) Kylie Alcoba Wright (UNHCR) Ramy Maksoud (PATRIR) Alice Mihailescu (World Vision) Nataliia Cholan (World Vision) Ahmed Al Braikfani (Action Against Hunger) Ylenia Franco (UNHCR) Diana Chiriacescu (FONSS)
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome and Introduction2. CWG Updates (UNHCR, Save the Children, Romanian Red Cross)3. Presentation: Refugees' inclusion into SP cost analysis and updates - UNICEF4. Presentation: Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) Cash for Protection- UNHCR5. Cash Activities Mapping and Coordination (Cash activities, Transfer value, eligibility determination and deduplication)6. AOB
CWG Updates	UNHCR Presented the eligibility criteria and transfer value of the current Cash for Winterization programme in line with CWG categorical eligibility criteria and transfer value, which was endorsed by CWG for Cash for Winterization programme during period November – December 2023. UNHCR assisted over 1400 individuals with Cash for winter assistance, while the payment and deduplication process for over 900 individuals are in the pipeline. 82 households were identified as duplicates following the deduplication process with Save the Children and Romanian Red Cross.

	<p>UNHCR has also presented the progress on the inter-agency vulnerability scorecard recalibration. The new scorecard was validated by all member partners on the 1st of March. UNHCR is planned to use the scorecard to select the most vulnerable refugees for Cash for Protection programme which will commence at the beginning of April 2024. Only refugees meeting the pre-eligibility criteria will be invited for detail vulnerability assessment. The pre-eligibility is similar with the categorical eligibility criteria used for Cash for Winterization. The selected households will be provided 4 installments in value of RON 630/individual, and deduplication will be made through UNHCR Refugee Assistance and Information System (RAIS).</p> <p>Romanian Red Cross RRC reported that has concluded the cash for winter programme at the end of February as well as the Cash for Health programmes. RRC reported to have assisted 8,631 individuals with cash for winter, while 470 individuals previously registered with them, received assistance for health-related issues, in total amount of CHF 53,530.</p> <p>Save the Children Romania SC continued to deliver voucher assistance for Winter period. A total of 308 people, comprising approximately 101 families, received support under this initiative. Each beneficiary was allocated 600 RON to cover for their basic needs. SC will continue the distribution to cover the basic needs for approximately 146 beneficiaries in Bucharest and Timisoara, by offering vouchers of ROM 600 per beneficiary until the end of March. Save the Children also plans to continue offering financial support for vulnerable cases through the distribution of vouchers, and the initial value will be about RON 630 per voucher. However, depending on funding, SC will not be able to cover the full transfer value as per CWG methodology paper and the transfer value may need adjusted. Regardless of the program they will continue to make the deduplication with other organizations through the RAIS platform.</p>
<p>Updates from all partners</p>	<p>FONSS</p> <p>During January-March 2024, FONSS distributed together with its partners (Inima de Copil in Galati and Four Change in Bucharest) 11.700 winterization vouchers to 900 persons, from Iasi, Galati and Bucharest. The value of each voucher is 50 lei and each person received vouchers in total amount of EUR 130, and the vouchers were exclusively for non-food items (NFI). Additionally, they have started the cash for rent distribution in Iasi and Bucharest). From the 103 households evaluated so far, 87 were already paid.</p> <p>FONSS has confirmed to have carefully deduplicated during the distribution of the winterization vouchers and advised that will come back with further details. A reminder was sent in the email.</p>

	<p>World Vision WV distributed paper vouchers for food - from October 2023 to February 2024. WVR delivered 5186 vouchers reaching 12653 beneficiaries in 5 locations: Bucharest (Romexpo), Constanta (WVR social store) and Happy Bubbles from Valcea, Cluj, Suceava and Iasi.</p>
<p>Presentation: Refugees' inclusion into SP cost analysis and updates - UNICEF</p>	<p>UNICEF presented briefly the result of cost analysis on refugees' enrollment into the national social benefit programmes based on available data. The cost analysis is shared with government and there is no update on the government decision yet. Moreover, UNICEF also briefly shared their recent work with World Bank and plans for technical support to the Ministry of Labor for 2024.</p>
<p>Presentation: UNHCR CBI PDM</p>	<p>UNHCR has presented the post distribution monitoring results for the Cash for Protection programme. The data collection has started in on 22nd of November and ended on 15th of December. The presentation is attached to the email.</p>
<p>Cash Activities Mapping and Coordination</p>	<p>CWG Chair presented a new file for the mapping activity so the partners can provide information on any cash programme planned for this year. The format was explained, and the file is attached to this email. The Cash/voucher mapping activity will support the CWG to update the methodology paper accordingly as well as identify areas that are harmonized and require technical support. Moreover, the Cash/voucher mapping activity will enable the CWG to support the deduplication process. It was indicated that the mapping activity is not replacing the needs for reporting via inter-agency activityInfo. All cash/voucher activity need to be reported through Activityinfo. CWG chair briefly presented the IA CBI dashboard and Service Advisor website, where most of the services available for refugees are presented by location, sector and requested CWG members to check and report to AI team in case there is need for update.</p>