



Cash Working Group - Meeting Minutes

Location, Date & Time	Online, Teams Meeting, Tuesday, 28 st of May 2024, from 15:00 to 16:30
Facilitators	Razvan Cateriniuc (Romanian Red Cross), Ahmad Zia Furmolly (UNHCR), Ana Maria Cosma (SCR), Kateryna Biehu (Good Neighbors Japan)
Participants	Horatiu Tatar (UNHCR) Alice Mihailescu (World Vision) Hiromi Ikeda (Good Neighbors Japan) Ramy Maksoud (PATRIR) Dan Manolache (AIDRom) Nataliia Cholan (World Vision) Yusuf Bafozoda (UNICEF) Olena Shevchenko (Romanian Red Cross) Alexandra Mararu (IOCC) Andreea (Good Neighbors Japan)
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and brief Introduction• CWG updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Romanian Red Cross○ UNHCR - Cash for Protection change of program name○ Save the Children• Updates from all partners• Presentations<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)- Good Neighbors Japan• AoB

<p>General updates from Co-chairs</p>	<p>UNHCR UNHCR concluded enrollment for the Cash for Winter programme in March 2024 with a transfer value of 720 Ron and one-off payment. 2800 individuals were assisted. The remedial payments for those missed to withdraw their assistance are still ongoing.</p> <p>UNHCR started a new Cash assistance programme for refugees with specific needs (renamed Cash for Protection). Two levels of eligibility: pre-eligibility criteria (same as for the Winterization programme) and inter-agency Vulnerability Scorecard (the inclusion rate is 28-30%). If people meet the pre-eligibility criteria, they are invited for a vulnerability assessment and the most vulnerable cases based on the vulnerability score they would be assisted. The transfer value is 630 Ron, with 4 months payments. Over 1400 people have already found eligible, and 879 individuals have been assisted (the current average family size is 2.5). The enrolment is planned until the end of September and the payment should be concluded by the end of December 2024</p> <p>IFRC, RR New CVA interventions are planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cash for Health: June-July 2024, to target approx. 500 individuals, registration through AccessRC with assistance of the Health Centers, transfer value, tranches, eligibility criteria – to be determined - MPC: August-September 2024, to target approx. 2000 individuals, self-registration through AccessRC, transfer value, tranches, eligibility criteria – to be determined <p>SC SC plans to start the distribution of 2000 vouchers (transfer value 630 lei) based on case management made by social workers for vulnerable families with kids. The programme starting June 2024 and continue until September-October 2024. SC is monitoring the situation and effects of Government Assistance Programme to consider the payment of rent in case of termination of this programme. Eligibility criteria - to be determined.</p>
<p>Updates from all partners</p>	<p>AIDRom AIDRom is starting two cash programmes; Social Voucher and Emergency Cash assistance with the support of UNHCR. The social assistance voucher programmes target vulnerable refugees to cope with basic needs. The social project is covering western part of Romania: Timis, Arad, Oradea. The programme covers around 1000 individuals with a max of 400 lei per person. On the other hand, emergency cash assistance targets vulnerable refugees with one time assistance for emergency situations: sudden death of family members, medical situation, through provision direct cash assistance. Transfer value: between 400 and 2000 lei, depending on the emergency. Selection will be done with social workers. The procurement</p>

	<p>process for emergency cash assistance to cover the whole country will be launched next week. It would be direct cash through FSP.</p> <p>World Vision</p> <p>WV continues to provide in-kind assistance (hygiene kits) and vouchers (transfer value 225 RON, total 11531) to beneficiaries (1 voucher+1 hygiene kit for one family) in Bucharest, Constanta, Galati, Suceava, Tulcea, Iasi, Valcea. 8300 vouchers already distributed, 20000 people reached. WV plans to distribute the remaining vouchers to the host community. Planned end of the programme - end of June 2024.</p> <p>WV is starting cash for livelihood programme with support of UNHCR: The provision of sectoral cash for livelihoods is conditioned to participants attendance to major events during the project implementation. The transfer value is about 200-250 lei to support participants with transport costs or other essential needs during the projects. The project is planned to be implemented during June-July 2024.</p>
<p>Presentation Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM)- Good Neighbors Japan</p>	<p>Good Neighbors Japan presented the Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) results of their project - a 3-month MPC with a transfer value of RON 568. The results showed that 271 respondents from 316 assisted HHs (1177 individuals) participated in the PDM. Most of the supported HHs come from Bucharest, Constanta, Galati, Navodari). 91% of respondents indicated that they preferred cash assistance over other modality of assistance. 82% reported that the cash arrived as expected, 72% spent the full amount, 97% had no problems receiving or withdrawing money. The main HHS expenses reported by beneficiaries were: food (87%), rent (69%), utilities (70%), health costs and medicines (68%), clothes and shoes (49%). 72% observed a general increase in the price of goods or services. The main coping strategies to meet basic needs reported as: skipping rent or debt payments (≈34%), moving to poorer quality accommodation (≈29%), taking out a new loan (≈18%), preventing a child from attending school (≈18%). The main source of income reported: savings (≈43%), support from friends or family (≈35%), formal work (≈14%), loans (≈13%), informal or seasonal work (≈11%), UN or other NGOs (≈1.5%). Results: in terms of living conditions, ≈55% reported significant positive impacts and ≈36% moderate; in terms of reducing financial burden, ≈50% significant positive impacts and ≈46% moderate; in terms of reducing stress, ≈59% significant positive impacts and 37% moderate.</p>