

Meeting minutes

Shelter / NFI VOUCHERS

- *Venue: UNHCR Office (16 Lavrska Str.)*
- *Date: March 10th, 2015*

Agenda

1. Introduction, 5 min;
2. Presentation of findings by each participant (5-7 min for each, PPP are welcome);
3. Discussion on findings and trends, summary (10 min);
4. AOB.

1. Introduction, 5 min.

Everyone introduced themselves briefly.

Igor announced what would be discussed at the Shelter Cluster meeting (Thursday, 14.00) and this meeting.

2. Presentation of findings by each participant

ADRA

ADRA is working with voucher system, in cooperation with Canadian government. Voucher system is used with Metro (as only Metro responded among all the possible partners).

Each card has the name of the person. 3300 uah (calculated in October per family). The card can be used once (1 day/1 time), and Metro keeps it. Then they report on what items were purchased and how much was spent. Usually cards are spent fully, and nobody purchased taxable items.

The program is almost completed in ***Kyiv, Vinnitsa, Dnipropetrovsk, Kharkiv, Poltava, Donetsk, Luhansk***. As there is no Metro in Luhansk, the buses were arranged to Kharkiv store. 5 buses x 50 people (1 person per family + couple exceptions for families with disabled members, etc.).

The program started around Christmas time, 1500 cards spent, 800 to go. Planned finishing March, 21.

Difficulties:

- *difficulties with Metro due to lack of experience, however they are learning through the process*
- *people sometimes couldn't stay to the categories defined for the voucher, many people asked for permission to buy other items (food, etc.)*
- *Limitation with Metro cards – named card, when people moved – need to reprint if people didn't show up*

- as there is disruption from last year, and no supply to Metro and other supermarkets in non governmental controlled area, it is impossible to implement voucher system in these areas. The answer is to get people to other regions.

Advantages:

- *easier targeted assistance due to receipts from Metro → don't have to pay taxes.*

Hungarian Interchurch Aid, IFRC, Caritas, SDC

are not planning voucher system for now, but are interested in the experience and good practices.

ACTED

is still undergoing registration. Interested in vouchers as a tool in emergencies. Coordinate and operate through **People in Need**.

PiN are going to use voucher system for construction materials, not NFI.

Results in figures

ADRA: about 1400, Kyiv and oblast

UNHCR: 700 + Kyiv oblast and Lviv = more than 1000

Caritas: operate in many oblasts

Other projects

There are some projects with Auchan: one with 2500 families.

There is going to be some project with WASH, and FOOD also declared they want to make cash assistance. Food sector coordinator is now revising and making surveys.

OCHA is still in the process of looking for the person who will coordinate cash assistance.

UNHCR Cash assistance (***Marc-Andre Gschwend***): 1000 per person 3 month, unconditional, unrestricted, multipurpose

UNHCR is now changing the view on clothing distribution (due to season change).

Action Points

ADRA is open to share the experience and provide necessary information for those who are willing to start voucher program.

ADRA and UNHCR will send the templates of the questionnaires (for the reporting, e.g.: name / region the person is from / money spent on what)

Marc: Voucher system shall remain a very important tool to help people, especially due to unpredictable situation in the country.

List of Participants

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