Cash-based Interventions Technical Working Group EQ Türkiye

CBI TWG Meeting Minutes

08 November 2023 Gaziantep

Chaired by: UNHCR & TRC

Venue: Anatolia Meeting Room (Hybrid)

Minutes: Busra Seray Duzyol (UNHCR), Ahmet Unver (UNHCR)

Participants: CARE, DG ECHO, FAO, Genius Tags, GOAL Global, HRDF, IBC, IFRC, IOM, Maram Foundation, Medair, Orange Organization, OXFAM KEDV, Reach Alternatives – REALs, SARD, Save the Children, Sened Organization, SEVKAR, Support to Life, Takaful Alsham, TRC, Trust Consultancy and Development, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Women, WFP, WHH

AGENDA:

1) Welcome & Introductions *(5 mins)*
2) Review: Action Points and Announcements *(UNHCR/TRC, 15 mins)*
   a. Update on ToR Revision
   b. Workplan vs. Achievements
3) Operational Planning *(55 mins)*
   a. Presentation: MEB October 2023
   b. Joint Market Assessment Round 2 Key Findings
   c. CVA for Winterisation 2023-24: Coordination of Winterisation Targeting
   d. Updates from Hubs
   e. Discussion: Sectoral Cash (Cash for WASH, Rent, Food)
4) AoB

New Action Points from the Meeting:

1. Members to provide feedback on CBI TWG ToR, which will be shared by the coordination team this week.
2. Members to provide feedback on their needs for possible topics of lessons-learned workshop.
3. Co-chairs to share 3RP appeal details with members.(done)
4. Co-chairs to share draft JMA Round 2 Report by Friday, November 10th COB (done)
5. Co-chairs to share JMA Round 2 ad-hoc meeting invitation (done)

Documents

1. Meeting Presentation
2. Winterisation SOP & ToR
3. Updated CBI TWG ToR
4. CBI TWG 2023 Workplan

I. Review Action Points & Announcements

- "Call for Interest for iNGO Technical Advisor" will be shared by co-chairs soon.
- 3RP 2024-25 planning details are shared and the appeal process commenced in the previous week. Appeal e-mail for Basic Needs sector encapsulating crucial documentation will be shared soon with the members.

- A couple of feedback for Cash for Work guidance was received and the final draft will be shared with members after incorporating comments into the draft guidance.

Update on ToR Revision

- CBI TWG ToR has been revised for the first time since the EQ revision in March 2023. Novel ToR encompasses pre-defined roles and responsibilities of members, technical advisors and co-leads as well as vision, mission and 6 strategic objectives of the group. Meeting frequency is also updated to bi-weekly in line with the current meeting calendar. Members are urged to provide feedback on the updated ToR.

Workplan vs. Achievements

- Achievements of the CBI TWG in 2023 in comparison with the workplan was presented.
- In terms of "**improved coordination of CVA at the local level**", CBI TWG co-chairs aim to make efforts to increase coordination with hubs in addition to current efforts like Hatay CWG and discussions in Adıyaman. CBI TWG may be presented in hubs within the coming two months and more participation from the hubs can be achieved.
- **Risk assessment and mitigation matrix** was targeted with some work, but enough time could not be dedicated and it might not be completed within the coming months and can be carried to the next years' workplan which will be published in early 2024.
- **Sector specific cash** (cash for shelter and WASH) is a hot topic with current ongoing works.
- The **new ToR for CBI TWG** will be published soon for members' comments and feedback.
- Organising **GBV-CVA Training** is completed yesterday, November 7th in collaboration with UNFPA and CARE and participants were provided with a platform to discuss GBV Risk Mitigation in CVA. Action Plan consisted of 5-6 points will be created soon with the participation of attending organizations.
- A **lessons-learned workshop** can be organized until the end of the year and members are asked to share their ideas and needs regarding such a workshop.
- In terms of **creating synergies between social safety net transfers and humanitarian aid**, some organizations' expertise and close relationships with the government and government agencies can be utilized.
- Detailed information regarding completed and remained items of the workplan can be found between *Slides 6-7.*

II. Operational Planning

Presentation: MEB October 2023

- TRC presented MEB calculation for 2023 October. The related report will be released within the coming days.
- Food basket is consisted of 2100 kcal with 12% protein and 24% fat content which creates a balanced diet and the MEB also includes NFI component.
- Target population profile for the MEB includes 10 provinces in the EQ zone and the household population is calculated as 5 people: 1 baby, 1 school age child and 3 adults.
- Recent MEB for October 2023 is calculated as TRY 10858 per household and TRY 2073 per person.

Joint Market Assessment Round 2 Key Findings

- The Joint Market Assessment has been completed with the participation of 16 agencies. Many thanks to the participating agencies, data collected within the JMA Round 2 is analyzed and the relevant report will be published within the coming days for partners' review and feedback. Moreover, an ad-hoc presentation shall be conducted on November 15th, Wednesday at 14.00. The invitation will be shared with CBI TWG shortly.
- Almost 50% of the interviewed vendors are located near a TSS and results indicate good coverage.
- Preliminary analysis indicates that vendors, especially in Adıyaman and Hatay, are still experiencing supply chain problems. Furthermore, while 36% of the vendors feel that price increases are in line with the officially announced inflation rate, 60% of the vendors believe that the price increase happened higher than the officially announced annual inflation, marking a 120% increase in prices.
- Cash is widely accepted while there is still a need to mainstream voucher (2.23%) and e-voucher (2.51%) acceptance. Cash assistance will address many needs of the beneficiaries; however, some items are not widely available in the market and in-kind assistance for such items might be considered by members.
- Many vendors mentioned negative effects of the in-kind assistance in the market and there is a strong need for market-based programming for better recovery of vendors from EQ's negative effects.

Winterisation 2023-24: Coordination of Winterisation Targeting

- Winterization SOP and ToR has been agreed on and disseminated with Winterisation Task Force members.
- 4 partners (CARE, IOM, Save the Children, Support to Life) will support 9150 Turkish and SUTIP beneficiaries in Adıyaman, Hatay, Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş.
- The transfer amount is planned to be between TRY 4200 – 11900 depending on the family size and the maximum amount is for families with 10 members. 4 partners will get together and distribute districts and neighborhoods between themselves to prevent duplication of efforts.

Updates from Hubs

- Hatay CWG gathered on November 2nd with online modality. There is no major coordination issue that can be reported, and partners were well aware of the recent trends and ongoing activities. Hatay CWG agreed to have meetings on a monthly basis and the next one will be an in-person meeting in Hatay.

- In Adıyaman, some problems are reported for going in the field and collecting data for cash response. Government is sensitive about collection of beneficiary data and partners experienced some challenges while entering some specific areas of need. Some agreements need to be done for minimizing problems such as informing local authorities thoroughly about what the projects are.
- The challenges of providing cash and collecting beneficiary data is resolved for now and cash partners are organized in the field and in their last meeting they have noted some collaboration with SAFS. Cash partners were informed that they don't need any other permission requirements, but they need to work in collaboration with SAFS and inform the local authorities. When these conditions are met, cash partners can work on the cash programmes. In essence, this is close to a green light and a good development for meeting needs in the field.
- Members can reach out to co-chairs to address challenges in the field and for strong collaboration.

Discussion: Sectoral Cash

Cash for WASH

- CBI TWG touched base with WASH sector and the previous collaborative effort involved the collective calculation of approximate costs for their WASH packages. During the recent touch base, it was communicated that work had been undertaken on refining cost estimates for several packages and it is noted that the core of these cost calculations is based on central procurement prices, which may not necessarily align with retail store prices.
- It is anticipated that the data collected from JMA will facilitate the attainment of greater clarity in this regard in the coming days. Additionally, it should be noted that support for the transition to a cash-based assistance is supported by CBI TWG.

Cash for Rent

- Under Basic Needs there is no specific cash for rent programmes and most needs are covered by MPCA.
- Only known program is the service provision by IOM for people who need temporary shelter. The intervention is not a CVA but service provision.
- Most of the Cash for Rent programme is conducted within the case management and PWG informed CBI TWG that they do not have a blanket solution for everyone as needs differ based on vulnerability.
- Therefore, it is crucial to note that these cash interventions are not "cash for rent" but a cash-based intervention as part of the protection case management.
- Based on the data provided by PWG, average Cash for Rent amount per person is USD 200. If the case has severe risks, two persons from the same household can receive the same amount which doubles the payment amount around USD 400. However, the overall average should rather be considered as USD 200 per person per month.
- Assistance is provided for approximately 2-3 months and if the risks are still there the case can be handed over to another organization for cash support.
- Members can consider their guidance needs on this matter, and contact co-chairs for creation of the guidance materials.

Cash for Food

- FSL sector provided the following guidance in March 2023, and it will be revisited soon. The initial guidance they provided is to provide the MPCA amount for the Cash for Food programmes which is TRY 6000.
- In collaboration with FSL, CBI TWG can work on a Cash for Food amount and JMA findings as well as MEB calculation will be benefitted for prices.

AOB. N/A