

Cash-Based Intervention Technical Working Group

CBI TWG Monthly Meeting Minute

17 April 2018

Gaziantep

Chaired by: Livio Mercurio (UNHCR), Bahodur Umarov (WFP), Salah Hamwi (CARE)

Hosted by: CARE

Participants: Dina Morad (WFP), Hanifi Kinaci (TRC), Ilgi Bozdog (WFP), Mohammad Haddad (Care), Selim Barkan (WFP), Yigithan Dagci (WFP), Selwa Amir Abdulkadir (UNHCR), Sura Ermistekin (WFP), Obada Kahil (WHH).

Agenda:

- Welcome
- Review of action points from the previous meeting
- Updates from CBR TWG (cross-border operations)
- Market dynamics in Turkey in 2017
- AOB

Summary of Action Points

- ✓ Chairs to communicate with the STF on delivery of presentation on CBI mapping results and emergency cash assistance guidance. **Deadline: 25 April**
- ✓ CBI TWG chairs to attend the next CBR TWG meeting to provide a brief regarding the activities and achievements of the group in Turkey. **Deadline: Mid of May**
- ✓ CBI TWG chairs to coordinate with STF to check the possibility of having chapter on cash-related interventions in the regional 3RP in the next year. **Deadline: September 2018**
- ✓ Chairs to share the presentation on 2017 Market Trends in Turkey. **Deadline: 25 April**
- ✓ WFP to compare the dynamics of the MEB, FCS and/or rCSI/LCSI in Turkey. **Deadline: 15 May**

1. Welcome and review of the action points of the previous meeting

The TWG Coordinators welcomed participants. Chairs revisited the action points from the previous meeting, as follows:

- TWG coordinators to follow-up bilaterally with actors who are running cash-programmes and did not provide their feedback to the mapping exercise yet. **Status: The requests were sent to relevant sector coordinators. Chairs to follow-up.**
 - TWG coordinators to reach out to sector coordinators to initiate more detailed consultations around CBI programmes in each sector. **Status: As above**
 - TWG coordinators to re-launch the CBI mapping within six months, including also the questions to verify the values of each programme. **Status: To be carried out in July/August.**
 - TWG co-chairs to participate in the next ISWG meeting to follow-up discussions around the definition and reporting on emergency cash with the leads of different sectors. **Status: Included to the agenda of the next IS WG meeting which will take place on 18 April.**
-

Initiation of a similar discussion at STF can be the next step to receive the endorsement with sectors at national level.

- TWG coordinators share with partners the link to page of CBI TWG in CaLP web-site as well as the announcement of the up-coming CaLP training in Gaziantep. **Status: Completed**
- UNHCR to explore with IM the possibility to expand the indicators in the 3RP to capture the emergency cash exceptionality. **Status: Pending**
- WFP to coordinate the report on the findings of the first day of the 13-14 July workshop with TRC and, in turn, government partners. **Status: The report was shared with MoFSP through TRC, who reverted back with some questions for clarification. WFP/TRC may initiate a meeting with the ministry for further discussion.**
- UNHCR to review the report on the findings of the second day of the 13-14 July workshop and, after consultation with government partners, circulate it to the ISWG. **Status: The initial revision is finalized. UNHCR will use appropriate channels to submit the report to the relevant governmental stakeholders for consultation, and afterwards it will be circulated to ISWG and disseminated amongst partners.**

Action points:

- Chairs to communicate with the STF on delivery of presentation on CBI mapping results and emergency cash assistance guidance. **Deadline: 25 April**

2. Updates from CBR TWG (cross-border operations)

- Presentation was delivered by Mohamad Haddad (Cash Programming Manager, CARE), who is currently fulfilling the role of the CBR TWG coordinator in North-West Syria on rotational basis. The TWG was established in 2014 aiming coordination of both technical and strategic aspects of cash transfer programming for the cross-border response. The current membership comprises of INGOs, Syrian NGOs, UN agencies, and evolved significantly towards wider representation by Syrian NGOs over the last months. Meetings are usually convened on a monthly basis at OCHA premises in Gaziantep.
- The Steering Committee which is represented by Syrian and international NGOs currently decides on rotational chairmanship schedule; secretariat functions; cluster/ICCG outreach; SC membership criteria. In consultations with members and field groups, it also prioritizes outstanding activities and tools.
- A number of operational tools are already developed and put on place by the CBR TWG, including Aid modality decision flowchart, Guidance on delivering appropriate cash assistance, Guidance on vendor management, SMEB + REACH Monthly Market Reports, 4Ws reporting template, Guidance on currency, etc. Efforts are underway to finalize the guidance on Cash for Work programming. The TWG uses public online platforms to share the information and fulfill the ongoing coordination.
- The main achievements of the TWG activities include engagement of key Syrian NGOs at strategic level, provision of technical support (including preparation of concept notes, project proposals, guidance on transfer value, how to interpret the SMEB), exchange of learning sessions (e.g. CFW, Market-based approaches for winter programming, electronic voucher, etc.), provision of sensitization to value of coordination & info sharing, conducting ToTs for field staff and creation of a (mirror) field coordination group.
- Absence of a dedicated TWG Coordinator & IM, limited budget for capacity building activities, lack of formal association within the cluster system, etc. were mentioned among the main existing coordination-related challenges. The TWG will work on formalization of chairmanship and secretariat arrangements and linkages to coordination bodies and platforms (e.g. Turkey ICCG via OCHA, nascent cash working groups in NES and South) to address some of these challenges. It will also continue to advocate for funding for dedicated CBR-TWG Coordinator, IMO, and budget for capacity building activities. Arrangement of technical trainings for field staff, maintaining overall coordination with other

hubs under Whole of Syria response, harmonization of transfer values and geographic coverage, are among the other priorities of the CBR TWG for 2018.

- Partners were interested whether the TWG is harmonizing the value of the assistance packages for IPDs across the different provinces in Syria. It was explained that normally the SMEB is considered along with other urgent needs in these cases, though the amount of the SMEB may differ significantly in various locations.
- Partners asked about the main operational challenges related to cash-assistances in Syria. It was highlighted that this may vary depending on the current situation and geography. Main common challenges include high inflation rate of local currency, lack of the proper infrastructure and financial service providers, etc. The Governorate of Hatay recently issued a letter stating that transferring funds to Syria using Hawala system is no more legal and this is now being applied by other governorates too. Thus, few branches of PTT opened in bordering districts in northern Syria remains the only available option for money transfers to this region from Turkey. Partners will measure possible implications and impact of this over the coming months.
- Participants also asked about the ways of the reconciliation of provided cash assistances and what measures are taken for beneficiary cross-check among different implementing partners. It was explained that measures will depend on whether the intervention is provided on an emergency bases or within an on-going programme. In general, beneficiaries are targeted by agencies and NGOs using community and geographical disaggregation.
- It was highlighted that there are initial discussions on inclusion of a separate chapter for cash in HRP. CBI TWG members also agreed to coordinate with STF to check the possibility of having similar chapter in the regional 3RP in the next year.
- Chairs agreed to explore opportunities and ways of strengthening the collaboration between TWGs in Turkey and Syria.

Action Points:

- CBI TWG chairs to attend the next CBR TWG meeting to provide a brief regarding the activities and achievements of the group in Turkey. **Deadline: Mid of May**
- CBI TWG chairs to coordinate with STF to check the possibility of having chapter on cash-related interventions in the regional 3RP in the next year. **Deadline: September 2018**

3. Market dynamics in Turkey in 2017

- WFP presented the main highlights of the market dynamics in Turkey in 2017, focusing on CPI, MEB and food basket costs, food and energy prices and potential implications for humanitarian programming.
- Main findings indicate that in 2017 Turkey had the highest inflation for the last 10 years (11.9%), driven mostly by transport and the food costs.
- The value of the MEB considers the minimum monthly cost per capita to allow refugees (outside camps) to live a dignified life. The provinces selected for purpose of MEB estimation represent 90% of where refugee population lives. The total of 8.4% increase of the MEB is estimated over the 2017 year, reaching 2261 TRY average at national level for a household of six members. For more information, kindly refer to attached presentations.
- Members showed interest on comparison of the dynamics of the MEB, Food consumption score and/or reduced/livelihoods coping strategies indices in Turkey over the past years to check for possible correlation between them.

Action Points:

- Chairs to share the presentation on 2017 Market Trends in Turkey. **Deadline: 25 April**
- WFP to compare the dynamics of the MEB, FCS and/or rCSI/LCSI in Turkey. **Deadline: 15 May**

4. AOB

Next meeting: 15th May 2018 (tentative) in Gaziantep.