Cash-based Intervention Technical Working Group Turkey

CBI TWG Monthly Meeting Minute

31 March 2020 — Ankara, İstanbul, Gaziantep

Chaired by Ahmet Unver (UNHCR), Hiba Hanano (WFP)

Venue: Ankara, Istanbul, Gaziantep (via Zoom)

Participants:

Ankara Ali Kaya (CARE), Ali Peymanfar (ASAM), Aysel Yüksel (UNFPA), Chris Bender (UNHCR), Cansu Şengür (ASAM), Cemile Altıntaş (ASAM), Derya Cengiz (Olive Branch), Esin Koç (UNHCR), Elmar Bagirov (UNHCR), Ender Öztürk (FAO), Faruk Acar (WFP), Gökalp Arslan (UNHCR), Gözde Gülgün (WFP), Yiğit Anıl Gürer (UNHCR), Hanifi Kınacı (Türk Kızılay), Jonathan Brass (IFRC), Lara Özügergin (UNHCR), Livio Mercurio (UNHCR), Mazen Aboulhosn (IOM), Mohanad Ameen (IOM), Mohammed Zahir Naşher (Woman Support), Muna Mohebaldin (MWL), Özgür Savaşçıoğlu (UNHCR), Sara Asadifar (UNHCR), Victoria Shepard (UNHCR)

AGENDA:

Welcome & Review of Agenda

1) Welcome & Introductions (All Participants, 5 Min)
2) Present the CBI Mapping Survey Outcomes (Coordinators, 25 min)
   - Present the CBI Mapping Dashboard (20 minutes)
   - Compare 2018 & 2019 Findings (5 minutes)
3) Q&A – Discussions (All Participants, 10 min)
4) Stocktaking & Discussions on COVID19 and CVA (All Participants, 20 min)
   - Market Bulletin Q4 (Coordinator, 5 min)
   - Current CVA programmes to respond COVID19 situation (All Participants, 5 min)
   - CVA for COVD19: What could be the intake criteria and the transfer amount? (All Participants, 10 min)
5) AOB (5 min)

Action Points - Follow up Issues and Updates:

- ✓ Coordinators will share revised TOR with partners. *Done* ✓
- ✓ Technical training meeting on IA referral form will be planned. *Postponed*
- ✓ Data for CBI Mapping Survey will be collected after 2 February 2020. *Done* ✓

New Action Points from the Meeting:

- ✓ Follow up meeting to be held with relevant actors (CBI, BN, PR) to discuss further the several aspects of a possible CVA for COVID-19

1. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting agenda was introduced, reviewed and accepted without changes.

2. Present the CBI Mapping Survey Outcomes

- CBI TWG coordinators and IM colleagues worked on the 2019 survey, revised it according to current needs and with respect to feedback received from partners.
- The survey was endorsed in the January cycle and data collection started 10 February. The deadline was 28 February .

a) Present the CBI Mapping Dashboard

- The CBI Mapping Survey online dashboard captures 43 different programmes from 17 organisations.
- Comparing 2019 and 2020 budget, dashboard shows the significant decrease in CBI budget in 2020. Main reason is ESSN 3 budget is not reported in this mapping activity for 2020, other reason could be programmes which do not have a typical calendar year.
- The dashboard is interactive and each programme can be filtered against age and gender breakdown; which was not possible for previous mapping.
- The majority of programmes are implemented by NGOs and INGOs and 17 programmes are implemented by UN Agencies.
- Mapping brought out that almost half of the programmes are also targeting local community households.
- Dashboard gives average transfer value, overall, per sector and per activity.

b) Compare 2018 & 2019 Findings

- CBI beneficiaries are increased from 2.2 million to 2.67 million in 2019.
- The number of organisations decreased; however, there is a significant increase in the number of programmes.
- The number of nationwide implementation programmes increased from 7 to 13.
- 2019 Programmes often use unrestricted and unconditional cash compared to 2018.
- PTT card used by the majority of programmes and there is a change from direct cash towards card mechanism. KızılayKart reaches the highest number of beneficiaries.
- There is a significant increase in the use of CBI in the Protection sector and a notable decrease in Basic Needs and FSA.
- CBI TWG expects to see a further increase in CBI for protection, and by increasing quality monitoring, and showing the community and donors an evidence-based impact of CBI assessments.
- Personal feedbacks of survey participants were provided to that varied between positive and negative feedback that suggests improvement for the performance of the TWG

3. Q&A – Discussions

- It is possible to check details of the dashboard and ask for change such as changing missing information, correcting misrepresented numbers
- A suggestion was provided to include a footnote about change in ESSN, otherwise change in CBI funding might be misrepresentative.

4. Stocktaking & Discussions on COVID19 and CVA

a) Market Bulletin Q4 (Coordinator, 5 min)

- There is growth in the Turkish economy by 1%, the inflation rate has been decreasing since Q2 2018 but has finally recovered but unfortunately this is still not reflected on the employability sector.
- Gross National Product chart was shared with participants which include 2018 and 2019 annual growth.
- The impact of COVID19 on the market is not known yet.
- Consumer price index between June 2017 and December 2019 shows changes amount of ESSN support, generated income and the gap of the minimum expenditure basket which costs now 367 TRY per person per month. ESSN covers 38% of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) in Q4 2019 WFP market bulletin report.

b) Current CVA programmes to respond COVID19 situation (All Participants, 5 min)

- DGMM reached out to UNHCR and IOM, with an aim to cover the most vulnerable refugee households who are under international protection. Agencies are working on prioritization of the most vulnerable groups, transfer mechanisms and transfer amounts.
- IFRC shared that they are considering vertical expansion in the programme and working on one top-up payment to support households in need under the current COVID -19 emergency.

c) CVA for COVD19: What could be the intake criteria and the transfer amount? (All Participants, 10 min)

- Needs are pressing for the refugee households and response should be provided as soon as possible, time-consuming decision-making processes might worsen the situation.
- Partners agree on unconditional and unrestricted cash support, this would be the best fit for the current emergency.
- Cash support on its own cannot be the solution. CVA should be coupled with in-kind distribution and IA should ensure coordination.
- There are several available transfer mechanisms in place. PTT operations might not be as smooth as expected in COVID-19 situation yet they are preferable. E-vouchers and mobile money transfers can be used in this process to minimise contact, yet money that can be transferred is limited by banks to a 500 TL per transfer per month. Partners also advocate for cash in envelope for people who cannot leave their house due to government restrictions or being in risk group.
- Discussions around transfer values is limited. Government announced 1000 TRY per household. Government amount seems to be the benchmark/ceiling for any CBI.
- Means of assessment is limited, DGMM data of SASF data plus current caseload of partners can be used in this process.
- Relevant observations from the field are requested from participants after the meeting.
- It is suggested that people with chronic diseases, people who lost their daily jobs, families with high number of elderly dependents were highlighted as priority groups.

5. AOB

- CALP worked on a crowdsourcing document to compile available guidance materials on COVID-19 situation and CVA in this context.
- Document is useful and provides guidance to ongoing and design phase programmes
- CaLP material can be accessed through this link.