



**Inter-Agency
Coordination
Türkiye**

MPCA Targeting Criteria Guidance

CBI TWG Türkiye

August 2024



Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group Türkiye

About this Document

This comprehensive guideline for targeting criteria in providing Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in Türkiye involves clearly defining eligibility, prioritizing based on need, ensuring inclusivity, and maintaining transparency. Step-by-step guide utilized while developing this guidance include following points.

This document will help you consider issues to determine appropriate targeting criteria that are in line with:

- **your intended programmatic and sectoral objective**
- **your chosen cash transfer modality (MPCA) and mechanism**
- **your outreach capacities and targeting approaches.**

In addition, the criteria need to be practical so that they can be applied. This include being:

- relevant to the local population and context
- clear, straightforward and easily understood
- measurable with the resources available

Methodology: In order to develop this document, following methodology was employed.

1. Desk review: Reference documents were revised.
 - i. [Türkiye: Guidance Note on Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance in Türkiye - July 2024](#)
 - ii. [Türkiye: Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group MPCA Criteria for EQ Response](#)
2. Secondary data collection: Various online resources were analysed including [Türkiye: CBI TWG Mapping of Cash and Voucher Assistances \(CVAs\) in Türkiye in 2023 Summary Note.](#)
3. Primary data collection: Targeting Criteria Tool was developed to compile the information shared voluntarily by CVA partners regarding the Targeting Criteria of their MPCA interventions. Three partners, namely, UNHCR, STL and ASAM, provided information on the tool.

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| No. of Organizations | 3 Organizations |
| Project(s)/Programme(s) | MPCA and Winterisation Top-up |
| Context | Earthquake-affected areas |
| Target Group | Turkish citizens and refugees |
| Targeting Method | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability Scoring Survey • Categorical Targeting |
| Targeting Approach | Selecting most vulnerable refugees and Turkish citizens affected by the EQ from the EQ-affected areas |
| Tools used for Targeting and Selection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerability Score Card • Emergency Assistance Form |
| Details on Tool | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data on households is collected in the field, with teams recording whether each household meets a set of defined eligibility criteria. These criteria encompass a range of factors indicative of vulnerability • Highest scored beneficiaries are supported |
| Why this tool was selected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While selected geographical locations includes families and individuals with vulnerabilities, the vulnerability score tool was |



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| | <p>used in some programs to determine the most vulnerable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some programs filled Emergency Assistance Form and referred cases to their ongoing cash assistance programs |
| Validation Source | <p>Different validation sources were used by participating agencies such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> E-Devlet TRC Cross-Checking Mechanism UNHCR Cross Checking Tool Partners assessment tools |
| Eligibility Criteria used in 2023 by reporting organizations | <p>Were based on following vulnerabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household composition Socio Economic vulnerability: Income generation status, Child labour, Dependency ration Context specific Specific Needs etc. |

Definition of Targeting Criteria:

In the context of limited funds to respond the assessed need in the field, targeting households and individuals involves setting “targeting criteria” that will allow cash actors to meet more specific needs of the smaller target groups, compared to a blanket approach. This type of targeting requires defining a set of criteria, ideally with the participation of community in decision making, to help identify households or individuals that are eligible for CVA.¹

Key elements of Targeting



The key factors to be considered on targeting criteria

| Key Points | Detail |
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| Objective-Based: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting criteria are determined by the program's objectives, such as supporting basic needs of a household, reducing poverty, or reducing negative coping mechanisms of affected population etc. Criteria should align with the intended outcomes of the CVA. |
| Needs Assessment: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective targeting is grounded in a thorough assessment of needs within the affected population. Criteria are developed based on data and analysis of the socio-economic conditions, vulnerabilities, and coping capacities of the target population. |
| Inclusivity: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria should ensure that all vulnerable and marginalized groups are considered. This includes people with disabilities, elderly, women-headed households, and other at-risk groups. |
| Fairness and Equity: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeting criteria should be fair and equitable, avoiding any form of discrimination. |

¹ [IFRC/ICRC CIE Toolkit: M3_3_2_1: Targeting criteria](#)



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All eligible individuals or households should have an equal opportunity to receive assistance. |
| Transparency: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The criteria and the process for targeting should be transparent to all stakeholders, including the affected communities. This transparency builds trust and accountability in the program and organization as well mitigates the reputational risks of organization. |
| Flexibility: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria should be adaptable to changing conditions and needs. Regular monitoring and reassessment may be required to adjust the targeting criteria as necessary. |
| Feasibility: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria should be practical and feasible to implement within the operational constraints of the program. This includes considering the availability of funds, ability to support vulnerable population meeting the criteria etc |
| Participatory: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging the community in defining and validating the targeting criteria can enhance the relevance and acceptance of the criteria. Participatory approaches ensure that the perspectives of the affected population are incorporated. |

MPCA Strategy for Türkiye

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) is unrestricted cash transfer that people affected by emergencies can use to cover the gap between the cost of their basic needs as defined by the MEB, and the financial resources available to them.² The MPCA strategy for Türkiye aims to support vulnerable populations in accessing their multiple basic needs. In the current context of transition to development, MPCA is considered in diverse approaches to respond to not only humanitarian needs but with the possibility to be integrated in sustainable solutions programming and in the development space as a complementary assistance.

The MPCA strategy also looks at integrating different cross-cutting issues to increase the quality of the assistance. CBI TWG has identified the main approaches where MPCA can be considered.

The MPCA strategy for Türkiye, particularly for transition from response to recovery to the 2023 earthquake, aims to provide flexible financial assistance to affected populations to meet their basic needs and support their recovery. This strategy incorporates a comprehensive approach that integrates various cross-cutting issues to enhance the quality and effectiveness of the assistance. CBI TWG has identified four main approaches for the implementation of MPCA:

| Standalone and Emergency Situations | Sustainable Solutions | Referrals for Protection | Linked with Social Protection |
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| To respond to humanitarian crisis to provide immediate and flexible financial support to meet the urgent and diverse needs of affected households | <p>Integrated in programming to achieve sustainable solutions</p> <p>Linked to sustainable recovery objectives of sectors to support long-term recovery</p> | To ensure that vulnerable individuals and households have access to necessary protection services through a well-coordinated referral system and are | Coordination Aligned to link with SSN and other Social Protection programmes by Government to establish social safety nets for vulnerable households |

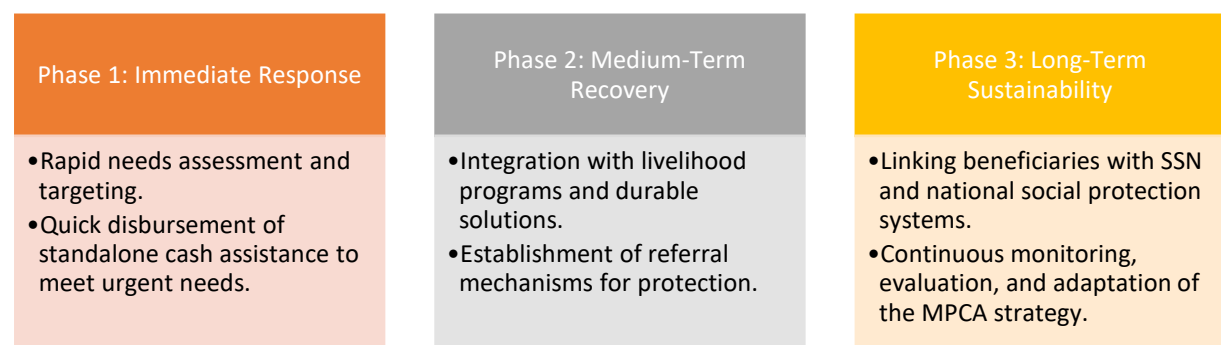
² [Türkiye: Guidance Note on Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance in Türkiye](#)



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| <p>For example;</p> <p>Cash response for the people who are impacted by natural disasters</p> | <p>and resilience by integrating MPCA with other interventions in sectors that address the vulnerability and promote sustainable development.</p> <p>For example;</p> <p>Economic Empowerment: To promote economic resilience and self-sufficiency among affected populations by linking MPCA with initiatives that enhance economic opportunities and financial inclusion.</p> <p>Integration with Livelihood Programs: Providing MPCA alongside vocational training, micro-enterprise development, and employment opportunities.</p> | <p>meeting the basic needs.</p> <p>Working closely with protection-focused organizations to ensure seamless referrals and follow-up support.</p> <p>Training field staff and community workers on protection issues and referral processes to enhance the effectiveness of the system.</p> | <p>To enable integrated support and avoid duplication, collaborating with social protection agencies, with sharing beneficiary data with consent when feasible,</p> <p>Ensuring that MPCA transitions beneficiaries to longer-term social protection mechanisms, reducing dependency on humanitarian aid over time.</p> |
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Implementation Phases



Target Groups

General

The general target groups in Türkiye context for MPCA is shared below, noting that in several contexts, these groups may overlap; meaning that targeted community may fall under several groups.



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- **EQ Affected: People living in settlements, temporary and permanent:** Prioritize based on living conditions and accessibility to basic services.
- **Refugees:** Ensure inclusion based on vulnerability and lack of alternative support mechanisms.
- **Households with decreased/lack of financial capacity to meet basic needs:** Broadly include those not covered explicitly but demonstrating significant financial distress.
- **Households with negative coping Mechanisms**
- **HH with no to limited access to Basic needs**

Sectors

Linking MPCA with other sectoral assistance and services is crucial to provide holistic support and to ensure that targeted beneficiaries have access to services for all their existing needs. These referrals to different activities can complement each other: MPCA can be either an entry point to ensure that basic needs are covered before receipt of further assistance, and it can be complemented with other types of support in parallel to increase the impact of this short-term support.³

- **Economic Empowerment for Livelihood:** HH who are getting skills trainings and not participating in income generating activities due to these trainings:
- **Education:** HH sending their children to work instead of school due to economic conditions
- **Protection:** GBV survivors, child protection, referrals, etc
- **WASH:** HH with no access to basic services
- **Shelter:** HH with no shelter or shelter upgrades etc

Cross-Cutting Issues

1. Inclusion:

- Ensuring equitable access to MPCA for women, girls, and marginalized groups.
- Addressing specific vulnerabilities related to gender and social exclusion in targeting and implementation.

2. Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP):

- Establishing robust feedback mechanisms for beneficiaries to voice concerns and provide input.
- Ensuring accountability to affected population and transparency in the distribution and use of funds.

3. Protection Mainstreaming:

- Incorporating protection principles in all aspects of MPCA, including ensuring safety, dignity, and meaningful access.
- Training staff on protection issues and integrating protection considerations into program design.

4. Environmental Sustainability:

- Promoting environmentally sustainable practices in the use of cash assistance.
- Ensuring do not harm the environment.

³ [MPCA Referral mechanisms to sector specific services](#) based on Iraq case study



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Things to Remember⁴

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| Targeting is never 100% accurate. | Being “vulnerable from a socio-economic perspective” is not a “yes or no” question; rather a situation households and individuals fall on a continuum. Furthermore, particularly in emergencies, a household’s or individual’s economic status is very dynamic. It can change rapidly and requires regular analysis and continuous monitoring. |
| A targeting strategy must aim to strike a balance between the imperative to act, accuracy and affordability. | Provision of life-saving assistance should not be delayed for the benefit of marginal gains in targeting accuracy. Potential accuracy risks can be mitigated at the design stage by employing multiple and complementary methods. |
| To be most effective, targeting should engage communities throughout the targeting cycle, | Ensuring the views of affected communities – and particularly those of potentially marginalised and most vulnerable groups – can influence the targeting process. Ensuring participation of affected communities in decision making process increases the effectiveness and success of responses |
| Targeting of MPCA is necessarily a collaborative exercise | That involves multiple stakeholders (governments, other agencies providing similar or complementary assistance, and the affected communities themselves). |
| Protection-related targeting | It is essential for partners to recognize that assessing protection needs requires specific skills and organizational capacity. Partners who do not have adequately trained staff and the necessary experience in this area should avoid committing to protection-related targeting within their MPCA activities. While all partners are encouraged to ensure that protection is mainstreamed throughout their response efforts, protection assessments require specialized knowledge and expertise. Attempting to assess protection needs or conduct protection-related targeting without the proper skillset can unintentionally create protection risks and compromise the safety and well-being of vulnerable populations. Organizations lacking this capacity should seek guidance or collaborate with experienced actors in the protection sector. |
| Benefiting from the good practices | Over the last decade, Türkiye has seen substantial amount of cash and voucher assistance programming in the humanitarian context in support of the Government of Türkiye. CBI TWG has guidance materials to support partners in providing quality, equitable and coordinated MPCA to the vulnerable population. |

⁴ This chapter benefits from the [MPCA Operational Guidance and toolkit](#)



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Eligibility Criteria

This table organizes the list of criteria into the different categories, making it easier to identify and address the specific needs and vulnerabilities of different groups.

Note: Organizations can take this list as guiding list to adapt one or more criteria items from the following criteria.

| Status | Eligibility Criteria |
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| Vulnerability | Households with disabilities and chronic illnesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head of household with disability • Head of household with disability prevented from work/self-care • Head of household with chronic illness • Head of household with chronic illness prevented from work/self-care • Households hosting individuals with disabilities • Individuals with mental health issues that impair their ability to work or care for themselves |
| | No accommodation |
| | Gender-based violence survivors or those at risk |
| | Protection vulnerabilities, including gender, age, and sexual orientation (e.g., LGBTI+) |
| | Persons discharged from state institutions (e.g. ŞÖNİM shelters, Childcare Institutions) |
| | Status and registration-related vulnerabilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons without registration • Persons with pending IP/SuTP applications |
| | Children whose mother, father, or both have died and who are thus in need within the scope of Law No. 3294 |
| | Individuals under 18 who are heads of household |
| | Separated minors, unaccompanied minors, etc. |
| | Households with martyrs' relatives, veterans, disaster-related fatalities, disabled individuals, and those with two members over 60 |
| | Elderly individuals: those over 60 years old within the household |
| Negative Coping Mechanisms | Selling household property and assets |
| | Buying food on credit |
| | Reducing essential food consumption |
| | Selling means of transport |
| | Child school dropout |
| | Reducing spending on non-food items (NFI) |
| | Changing place of residence |
| | Engaging in high-risk behaviour |
| | Child labour |
| Family migration | |
| Forced marriage | |
| Economic Status | Deteriorated financial situation due to economic shock |
| | No household members engaged in employment |
| | Labour-related vulnerabilities / Incentivizing formal labour & business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persons engaged in informal employment • Persons engaged in seasonal agricultural work • Persons who recently lost their access to livelihoods • Households that have lost their primary source of income due to the earthquake |



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| | Persons without marketable skills |
| | Household income per capita less than one-third of the monthly net minimum wage |
| | Families with limited access to savings or assets that can be liquidated for immediate needs |
| | No regular SGK-registered income |
| | Households experiencing severe food insecurity despite access to basic necessities |
| Access to Basic Services | Issues related to health, income, assets, debt, food security, protection status, and environmental conditions (e.g., shelter and hygiene): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households lacking access to clean water, sanitation, healthcare, and education |
| | Families residing in temporary shelters or informal settlements without adequate facilities |
| | Vulnerabilities related to decreased or lack of financial capacity to meet basic needs |
| | Education-related risks / Incentivizing education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk of school drop-out, irregular school attendance Not being able to cover education-related costs Persons with academic achievement/excellence |
| Geographical Location | Relocated households (including temporary accommodation centre and settlement closures and decongestions) |
| | People living in disaster or earthquake-affected areas |
| | Priority given to areas most severely affected by the earthquake or disaster |
| | Consideration of accessibility issues, such as areas that are hard to reach due to infrastructure damage |
| Household Size and Composition | Persons, single and with one or more dependents |
| | Families with infants |
| | Pregnant and Lactating Women |
| | Families with more than four children |
| | Vulnerabilities related with dependency <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dependency ratio >1.5 Households with a high number of dependents relative to the number of working-age adults Larger households or those with a high dependency ratio (e.g., many children or elderly members) may receive priority Families with multiple dependents where primary caregivers are absent or incapacitated |
| | Single parent/caregiver |
| | Female-headed household |
| | Women who lost their spouses under their last civil marriage and not being remarried |
| | Single female |
| | Consideration for households with members requiring special care <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support arrangements, older persons without support arrangements, caretakers of separated children or children who lost their parents |
| Existing Support | Households unable to access assistance from other actors or sources |
| | Households where existing support is inadequate to cover basic needs or has been interrupted |