



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Türkiye

Cash-based Interventions Technical Working Group

Türkiye

CBI TWG Meeting Minutes

28 January 2025

Ankara

Chaired by:	UNHCR & TRC
Venue:	UNHCR Ankara Yıldız Kule Office
Minutes:	Busra Seray Duzyol (UNHCR), Ahmet Unver (UNHCR)
Participants:	Buca Belediyesi, CALP, CARE, YECED, DG ECHO, DRC, El Bir Derneği, Elaf RD, FCDO, Genç Hayat, GIZ, Horizon, HRDF, IFRC, IOM, IR Türkiye, Kaos GL, MSYDD, MUDEM, Olive Branch, SARD, STC, Sened, SEVKAR, SGDD-ASAM, SHAFK, Support to Life, TRC, Trust Consultancy, UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, WVI, Yedi Başak, YSYD

AGENDA:

- 1) Welcome & Introductions (5 mins)
- 2) Review: Action Points and Announcements (UNHCR/TRC, 5 mins)
 - a. CBI TWG Mailing List
- 3) Operational Issues (85 mins)
 - a. Discussions & Updates
 - i. Updates regarding the current context
 - ii. Effects of Current Funding Situation
 - iii. Partner observations and feedback
 - iv. Program Updates
 - v. Winterisation Updates
 - b. 2025 CBI TWG Updates
 - i. Mapping: Progress and Next Steps
 - ii. Quick Cash Appeal Review
 - iii. Deduplication Mechanism Feedback
 - iv. Summary of CBI TWG Events and Trainings in Q4 2024
 - v. Skills Gap Analysis for 2025
 - c. Workplan Update
 - i. Review of achievements
 - ii. Meeting Updates (venue, modality, frequency)
 - iii. Expectancies, recommendations
- 4) AoB

New Action Points from the Meeting:

1. Members to fill in Skills Gap Analysis 2025 Survey
2. Members to indicate expectations for 2025 Workplan
3. Members to revise their 3RP appeals once supplementary appeal process commenced

Documents/References

1. [CBI TWG Mailing List Registration](#)
2. [UNHCR Help Türkiye Page](#)
3. [CVA Skills Gap Analysis 2025](#)
4. [UNHCR Position on Returns to the Syrian Arab Republic](#)

I. Review Action Points & Announcements

- The CBI TWG mailing list is currently being revised as a significant number of organizations and experts initially joined during the earthquake response have since departed Türkiye following the completion of their projects and programmes. The updated list **will come into effect in early February**.
- Members who wish to continue receiving meeting invitations, relevant updates, and other related information are encouraged to register for the new mailing list via [this link](#).
- CBI TWG will organize **CVA Risk Assessment and Mitigation Webinar** on January 29. This webinar is tailored for organizations involved in delivering cash assistance, offering an opportunity to deepen their understanding of assessing and mitigating protection risks, along with other potential challenges faced by both organizations and beneficiaries. The webinar will be facilitated by Giuseppe Simeon working for UNHCR based in Geneva. Members are encouraged to relay the invitation to the colleagues who might be interested.
- The co-chairing arrangements for the CBI TWG have been revised. Ahmet Ünver (UNHCR) and Burcu Ayvazoğlu (TRC) will continue to assume co-chair roles meanwhile Ali Mansoor, deployed by NORCAP and hosted by TRC, will provide technical support to the CBI TWG in his capacity as a specialist.

II. Operational Issues

Discussions & Updates

- Updates regarding the Current Context: Partners are informed about the [UNHCR Help Türkiye Page](#) where information on Voluntary Repatriation can be found in Arabic and in English. Partners can contact CBI TWG Coordination Team should they require further assistance regarding using the website.
- Currently, the situation in Syria is highly dynamic and UNHCR asserts that conditions are not conducive to large-scale returns. Furthermore, members can refer to [UNHCR Position on Returns to the Syrian Arab Republic](#) document for detailed information. There is no guidance created for programming at this point and many partners are continuing their observations for a reliable situation analysis resulting in creation of guidance.
- Effects of Current Funding Situation: As widely known, the United States has imposed a 90-day freeze on humanitarian funding, impacting 11 organizations and 14 of their programs that appealed under 3RP and many other humanitarian partners. There is growing concern that this suspension may force organizations to halt critical support for the most vulnerable populations. In response, the CBI TWG will engage in advocacy efforts to look for and mobilize alternative funding sources.
 - **STL** reported that their project, implemented in collaboration with UNDP and funded by the PRM has paused field activities for two weeks.
 - **GIZ** stated that since the situation in Syria is not stabilized and returns are not encouraged, ECHO will not accept or evaluate the appeals for assistances in Syria under HIP.
- Partner Observations and Feedback: Members shared their observations on the borders regarding voluntary repatriations.
 - **SGDD-ASAM** reported that they had the opportunity to conduct observations at the Cilvegözü border, with initial findings highlighting a significant need for transportation support due to the considerable distance between the city centre and the border. Additionally, ASAM observes demand for cash assistance to cover document translation services and notarial approvals.
 - **STL** conducts evaluations and discuss on how cash assistance can be effectively utilized for the voluntary repatriation, especially for cash for transportation. They recommended utilizing CBI TWG for further discussions.
 - **IBC** highlighted that Syrian refugees are reporting their homes in Syria have been damaged, making return unfeasible unless adequate shelter repairs are undertaken. Additionally, job opportunities and financial stability remain key concerns. Furthermore, Syrian women and children who are violence survivors, divorced and whose spouses have been deported to Syria fear stigmatization, violence, and even threats to their lives should they be forced to return. IBC also observes around 1000 families a day crossing borders for voluntary repatriations.
- Program Updates: Partners provided their program updates that are completed in 2024 as well as continuing in 2025 and plans for 2025.
 - **Olive Branch** has successfully concluded its programme, which entails the provision of cash grants totaling EUR 5,000 to 26 farmers in the form of agricultural equipment and raw materials. Beneficiaries will be monitored for six months, and they have been explicitly informed that the sale or subleasing of the provided equipment (in the context of using the value for return related matters) is prohibited as per written agreement with beneficiaries.
 - **SGDD-ASAM** is nearing completion of its GIZ-funded project, which comprises two cash assistance components: cash for education and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA). As part of this initiative, 1,357 households have received MPCA transfers of TRY 25,080, while 2,574 children have benefited

from cash for education assistance valued at EUR 140 (disbursed in TRY) in Malatya and Hatay. Additionally, under the education component, 600 children at risk of dropping out are receiving support through case management and focus group discussions have been conducted to inform the development of a results report.

- **STL** has successfully completed its three-month MPCA project in Hatay and Kahramanmaraş and has finalized the PDM process, with the PDM report set for completion soon.
 - In Adiyaman, MPCA and winterization top-up support have been provided. Due to exchange rate fluctuations, a surplus budget remains, which will be allocated to an additional 40 beneficiaries for winterization support in February, before the winter season concludes.
- **Sened** is implementing a GIZ-funded project, providing MPCA to 10,000 households with a transfer amount of TRY 25,080, while also delivering cash for education assistance to 1,930 children. The project is scheduled for completion in March. Additionally, 600 children are receiving case management services under this initiative.
 - In Hatay, 300 families have been provided with MPCA in two installments, totaling TRY 9,040. A capacity-building project for local NGOs is ongoing in Hatay, supporting 10 local organizations with 10 training modules and EUR 20,000 in financial assistance.
- **DRC** has assisted 200 beneficiaries with Basic Needs support in Hatay over the past two months and has also provided shelter support in Kahramanmaraş. Additionally, DRC is transitioning from in-kind support to an e-voucher modality, aimed at supporting SMEs. Another WFP-supported project is set for completion in February.
- **TRC** has concluded Basic Needs assistance programme for 2024, with the December payment marking its completion. A total of 10,253 beneficiaries have received TRY 510 million in cumulative assistance. The Livelihoods project has also concluded with the December top-up payment, supporting 19,345 farmers and shopkeepers with TRY 492 million in total. In 2024, 4,509 beneficiaries received cash for protection assistance, amounting to TRY 43 million.
 - In 2025, a minimum livelihood support programme will be launched for 1,000 households across six earthquake-affected provinces, providing TRY 7,000 per household for six months, totaling TRY 47 million, with funding from local donors. Cash for protection assistance will continue, with an estimated allocation of TRY 30 million.
- **UNHCR** provided cash assistance to 7,000 beneficiaries in 2024 for resettlement, protection, and education. In 2025, protection and education cash assistance will continue, with 2,500 beneficiaries receiving TRY 7,094 in monthly transfers.
- **GIZ** aims to secure EUR 1 million in funding for CVA activities in 2025. If successful, MPCA support will continue; however, the cash for education component will be discontinued.
- **IBC** continues to support beneficiaries with cash for education and MPCA through GIZ funding in Adiyaman, Hatay, and Kilis. Additionally, mobile teams are operating in Nurdağı and Islahiye, particularly in border regions.
- **Winterisation Updates:** Last Winterisation Task Force meeting was conducted in January and no further meetings will be conducted as partners are at the last stage of their programmes. In total 5402 households were supported with winterisation assistance by STL, IOM, Islamic Relief and SARD. The main focus was on the provinces most affected by the earthquake which are Hatay, Adiyaman and Gaziantep. If members have ongoing winterisation projects, they can reach out Ferah Seyh Elsebab (felsebab@iom.int) should they require any support.
 - IOM supported 1937 households in Hatay, targeting Kırıkhan, Kumlu, Yayladağı, Anktakya, İskenderun, Belen and Defne.
- **2025 CBI TWG Updates**
- **Mapping: Progress and Next Steps:** CVA Mapping 2024 activity has been commenced during the last month and the data entries are expected to be completed during early February. CVA Mapping is a comprehensive data collection exercise that has been conducted annually and it aims to compile members' activities and achievements of the completed year. The mapping exercise solely focuses on cash and voucher activities achieved in 2024. Additionally, this mapping also captures cash for winterisation for the winter period of 2023-2024.
- So far, **17 organizations** completed data entries while **10 organizations** are committed to provide data for CVA Mapping exercise by the deadline. After the completion of data collection, preliminary findings are planned to be presented in February.
- Members who are interested in providing data and contributing to CVA Mapping 2024 can contact Özgür Savaşcioğlu (savascio@unhcr.org).
- **Cash Appeal Review:** The 2024 CVA achievements and the 3RP appeals for 2025 across all sectors have been presented. Several sectoral indicators have been refined to enhance comprehensiveness and specificity. Notably, two new indicators have been introduced in the Basic Needs sector to better capture cash

assistance for shelter solutions and the CVA provision for gender-appropriate hygiene, dignity, and sanitary items.

- Additionally, a supplementary appeal process to the 3RP, similar to the one undertaken during COVID-19, will soon be launched, focusing on voluntary returns to Syria. This initiative aims to identify the anticipated CVA needs observed by partners in the return process and to inform donors and other stakeholders accordingly.
- *Deduplication Mechanism Feedback*: Deduplication mechanism was utilized for cross-checking beneficiaries of Support to Life and IOM programmes in Adiyaman. The results were highly satisfying and duplicative beneficiaries were detected within the scope of MPCA programmes, therefore efficiency of both programmes was enhanced.
- *CBI TWG Events and Trainings in Q4 2024 & Skills Gap Analysis 2025*: With the guidance of Skills Gap Analysis 2024, webinars and trainings were conducted especially in the last quarter of 2024, including CALP CVA Core Skills Training of Trainers that took place between 16-20 December, Core CVA Skills Training between 23-27 September and Price Monitoring Webinar on 12 September with the participation of various members. These trainings and webinars aimed at complementing the indicated skill gaps in partners' capacities.
- The UNHCR team has translated the CVA Core Skills Training materials into Turkish. The Turkish version will be available online on the Kaya platform soon, pending final reviews by the CALP Network.
- CBI TWG remains committed to delivering impactful webinars and training sessions throughout 2025. To this end, a Skills Gap Analysis for 2025 will soon be initiated. Partners are strongly encouraged to circulate the survey across various departments within their organizations—such as Program, Finance, and IT—to ensure a comprehensive assessment of capacity-building needs.

Workplan & Meeting Arrangements Updates

- The CBI TWG has successfully accomplished many of the objectives outlined in the previous year's workplan. The 2025 workplan will be introduced soon, and partners are invited to provide input on key priorities. One suggestion emphasized the need for greater space for information-sharing and learning, such as the exchange of Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) findings.
- Additionally, initiatives with partial progress, such as collaboration with Financial Service Providers (FSPs), will be carried forward into the 2025 workplan whereas some points such as having a lessons-learned workshop has been cancelled. Members who wish to propose action points are encouraged to reach out to the CBI TWG Coordination Team.
- The frequency and modality of meetings for 2025 have been discussed, with chairs expressing logistical advantages of increasing number of meetings on-line considering the costs of travel; members agreed the advantages of on-line meetings and noted preference for occasional in-person meetings when needed. Meetings will continue monthly unless more frequent meetings are needed.

AOB. N/A