



GUIDANCE NOTE on MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE in TÜRKİYE

January 2025

The objective of this guidance note is: (1) Inform about the CBI TWG MPCA Transfer Value recommendation (2) Provide information about harmonisation and coordination of MPCA and (3) Inform about reporting tools for MPCA and sectoral cash activities.

1.1. CBI TWG's role in MPCA Coordination and Reporting

Cash Based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI TWG) leads coordination of cash assistance provided by humanitarian actors in Türkiye and is accountable directly to the National Inter-Agency Task Force, which is the inter-agency and inter-sector coordination platform of the 3RP. The purpose, role and scope of the CBI TWG in coordination of cash and voucher assistance is defined by its ToR (please access through [this link](#)). CBI TWG is an inter-sectoral technical platform; therefore, it aims to harmonize and coordinate CVA under all sectors, including MPCA. Achievements of CVA are not reported under CBI TWG (as it is not a sector), but CBI TWG provides support and guidance for reporting of achievements as well as mapping of CVAs.

1.2. Defining the value of MPCA

What is MPCA (Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance)?

MPCA is an unrestricted, multi-sectoral cash transfer designed to help individuals and households meet their basic needs with dignity. It provides financial flexibility so recipients can decide how to allocate funds based on their priorities, such as food, rent, healthcare, transportation, or education. MPCA is typically targeted based on vulnerability criteria and often complements other forms of assistance. Vouchers, in-kind assistance and service provision are not considered MPCA. MPCA in Türkiye context is appealed and reported under Basic Needs sector.

What is MEB? How is it calculated in Türkiye?

Minimum expenditure basket (MEB) is an operational tool to identify and quantify, in a particular context and for a specific moment in time, the average cost of the regular or seasonal basic/essential needs of a household that can be covered through the local market.¹

The SSN program (ESSN) is the flagship cash assistance in Türkiye, providing monthly cash to over a million individuals since December 2016. SSN is currently implemented by Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS) and Turkish Red Crescent (TRC - TürkKızılay). MEB calculations in Türkiye are being conducted by TRC linked with the SSN Programme and updated monthly. The food basket considers the 2100 Kcal need per person and it is included in MEB per capita, while the utilities, NFI, rent, education, health, transportation, and communication elements are calculated as fixed costs for households. (see Annex A for detailed list of items).

Items	ESSN	C-ESSN
	(4.3 household size)	(6.3 household size)
Food	₺7.525	₺11.025
Rent	₺11.855	₺11.855
Utilities (with water)	₺2.465	₺2.465
Non-food items	₺1.951	₺1.951
Health	₺802	₺802
Education	₺310	₺310
Transportation	₺935	₺935
Communication	₺335	₺335
Total MEB	₺26.178	₺29.678

¹ CALP Network, *Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) Decision Making Tools*, March 2023, https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/MEB_CALP.pdf



TURKSTAT has not been releasing price data since April 2022. However, in line with Eurostat, Turkstat has started releasing monthly inflation indices for item groups, and indices for certain items in the MEB composition.² TRC updates these costs benefiting from the indices provided by TurkStat, and this calculation is validated through market-based research on food items conducted by TRC. SSN MEB is calculated for the households, considering the family composition and various differing needs of its members. Food cost is calculated per capita, on the contrary. CBI TWG benefits from the MEB cost values, and factors in other aspects such as market-based values of average rents as it calculates MPCA.

How does the current context impact MPCA transfer value guidance?

MPCA guidance to the current context considers the changing needs as per steep inflation. The steep inflation does not equally impact all households; the most vulnerable ones with limited or no additional resource to absorb changes in the prices are affected the most. The pressing needs of the most vulnerable households persist, whereas the situation is no longer considered as an “earthquake emergency response”. The current context calls for an MPCA approach which would provide more stable and continuous monthly assistance to households who are still struggling to close the gap between needs and financial resources. One-off cash assistance to meet acute needs of vulnerable households should be reserved for specific cases, rather than being used as a standard approach.

Transfer Value Guidance for Monthly MPCA

MPCA transfer value considers the evolving needs and changing contexts of affected populations. In 2025, in the context of continuing monthly support through SSN, CBI TWG continues to recommend complementary MPCA programs to provide multiple transfers to the most vulnerable households to ensure sustained support. The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) provided by SSN Programme **remains as the reliable baseline** in calculating the components of the MPCA transfer amount. **Market-based rent prices** are factored in the MPCA transfer values, continuing the approach in previous years (Please see Annex B for more details). CBI TWG recommends **scalability** of transfer values based on household size, ensuring that assistance is proportionate to the needs of each household, thereby enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of our humanitarian response.

An important addition to compensate the impact of inflation on the transfer value, an estimated rate of increase was applied. Analysing the impact of monthly inflation rates and minimum wage increases on changes in previous Minimum Expenditure Baskets (MEBs), historical trends indicate a significant rise between December and the following January. In previous years, this increase has ranged between 19 and 25 index points. Incorporating the latest adjustments to the minimum wage and January 2025 inflation figures, hypothetical predictions estimated an increase of 13 index points in expenditures relevant to the MPCA calculation from December 2024 to January 2025. Reflecting this increase will preserve the relevance of the MPCA guidance until its next revision within 2025. Lastly, to enhance resource efficiency, promote equity, and support long-term sustainability while minimizing economic disruptions and adverse social impacts, **cap and ceiling values** are identified (Please see Annex C for more details).

The MPCA Guidance column in the table below indicates the recommendation of CBI TWG for monthly MPCA in Türkiye as of January 2025 by humanitarian actors (Please see Annex C for more details).

² IFRC, TRC & WFP, *Minimum Expenditure Basket Methodology and Analysis for Türkiye Earthquake Emergency*, 11 March 2023



Table 2. CBI TWG Türkiye, MPCA Monthly Transfer Value Guidance

Household Size ↓	MPCA Transfer Amount
Between 1 - 3	<u>TRY 9,663</u>
4	TRY 12,876
5	<u>TRY 14,475</u>
6	TRY 16,073
Between 7-10	<u>TRY 20,211</u>

Partners who are planning to provide MPCA must consider the **guidance points below**:

- The ideal monthly MPCA should be provided for **3 months** to the vulnerable households.
- Partners are recommended to maximize the number of households they reach with MPCA. In this context, partners are recommended not to provide longer than 3 months MPCA to the same household.
- If providing MPCA in compliance to the household size categories shared above is operationally infeasible due to identified risks and challenges associated with validation, CVA partners are recommended to use the median value which is the transfer amount for household of 5 people.
 - The CBI TWG strongly recommends complying with the categories of transfer amounts listed above before resorting to a **fixed** single value per household.
- Partners should inform CBI TWG regarding their MPCA implementations to ensure harmonisation and complementarity between programs.
- Partners must use the **UNHCR Deduplication Platform** to prevent duplicative assistance given they implement CVA in the same geographical area with other organisations or target the same community.
- The MPCA Guidance January 2025 will be applicable for new MPCA programs starting from January 2025 onwards. Organisations with agreed and approved budgets prior to publication date of this MPCA Guidance are recommended to consider revising transfer values; however, they cannot be obliged to comply.
- Next date of MPCA Guidance update is set for July 2025, unless sooner is deemed necessary. If the annual inflation is above 15 percent in any time before July 2025, CBI TWG will revise the guidance.

Targeting Guidance for MPCA

[The MPCA Targeting Criteria Guidance](#) developed by CBI TWG provides a structured framework for identifying and prioritizing beneficiaries for MPCA. The document emphasizes the importance of aligning targeting criteria with programmatic objectives, cash transfer modalities, outreach capacities, and sectoral goals. It also highlights key considerations such as inclusivity, transparency, fairness, feasibility, and community participation to ensure effective and equitable distribution of assistance as well as listing eligibility criteria based on vulnerabilities. The strategy is designed to support vulnerable groups by integrating MPCA with broader humanitarian and development interventions.

Transfer Value Guidance for One-off MPCA

CBI TWG recommends that partners provide monthly MPCA to the most vulnerable households – as stated above. If any partner deems it necessary to provide one-off MPCA to meet immediate and acute needs (i.e. support to recover from a natural disaster or support a decongestion of a settlement etc) of their targeted population in need (i.e. refugee households in a temporary settlement, combination of Turkish citizens and refugees in a rural or urban settlements); CBI TWG recommends partners to consider the approach to transfer



value calculation in this guidance document. The template below is an example to how the MPCA guidance approach to monthly cash can be used for one off assistance.

Table 3. CBI TWG Türkiye, MPCA One-off Transfer Value Calculation Template

Household Size ↓	MEB (without rent) + Market-based Rent	Multiplier (i.e. n)	One-off MPCA Amount
Between 1 - 3	₺ <u>19.325</u>	n	₺ <u>19.325 * n</u>
4	₺ 25.752	n	₺ 25.752 * n
5	₺ <u>28.949</u>	n	₺ <u>28.949 * n</u>
6	₺ 32.146	n	₺ 32.146 * n
Between 7-10	₺ <u>40.423</u>	n	₺ <u>40.423 * n</u>

The n in the Multiplier column should be determined as per the needs of the targeted population. The n represents the gap between a household's capacity to cover its minimum expenditures and the actual minimum expenditures required at the time of intervention (i.e if n is set at 80%, the MPCA Transfer Value will be 15460, calculated as $19.325 * 0.8 = 15460$). One-off MPCA interventions should be coordinated with CBI TWG to ensure that amount is harmonised with similar programs.

2. Coordination of MPCA

Why CBI TWG defines transfer values for MPCA?

Providing transfer value guidance in humanitarian responses is crucial for ensuring that the financial assistance aligns with the actual needs and living costs of affected populations. It guarantees that assistance is not only sufficient to cover basic needs but is also adaptable to fluctuating market conditions and inflation rates, thereby maintaining its effectiveness over time. Additionally, defining transfer values helps in standardizing assistance across different areas and situations, ensuring fairness in assistance as well as minimizing protection risks. As of 2024, CBI TWG has issued the MPCA guidance has reviewed it every six months. However, if the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) increases by more than 15% within a shorter period than six months, an earlier update to the MPCA guidance may be warranted. Such updates will require approval from the CVA TAG through an anonymous decision-making process.

Does CBI TWG also define transfer values for sectoral CVA?

Providing transfer value guidance for sector-specific cash requires dedicated collaboration with the respective sectors, taking into account unique circumstances and targeted beneficiaries for each. The MPCA guidance, explicitly designed for multi-purpose cash assistance, offers a methodology for determining transfer amounts and frequencies that can be adapted to various forms of cash and voucher assistance. However, it cannot be directly applied as guidance for sector-specific cash.

CBI TWG has compiled sector-specific packages in August 2024 under [Sector-Specific Packages Document](#). These packages are designed to assist CBI TWG partners in using different types of packages to support individuals and communities affected by crises. At its core, these packages employ CVA to address specific needs across various sectors, including WASH, Shelter and NFI, Economic Empowerment, Education, Protection (including GBV and Child Protection), and others. Some of the packages included were recommended by sectors during the Earthquake Response, making them useful as references. Relevant sector coordinators should be contacted for more information.



What coordination tools are available to prevent duplication?

The CBI TWG convenes coordination meetings with partners implementing cash programmes. The frequency of these meetings is adjusted based on coordination needs, though they are generally held on a monthly basis, with partners sharing programme updates. Through collective information sharing, duplication is largely prevented. Additionally, partners planning programmes in the same geographical areas or targeting similar beneficiary profiles are connected bilaterally to further mitigate duplication risks.

Furthermore, dedicated platforms are in place for cross-checking. Partners have access to a cross-checking mechanism for Winterisation support under the 2024-2025 winter period programmes. Additionally, the UNHCR Deduplication Mechanism, which has been utilized by multiple partners, has proven effective in preventing duplication. Partners must contact sector coordinators or the CBI TWG Coordination Team to use the UNHCR Deduplication Platform to prevent duplicative assistance, given they implement CVA in the same geographical area with other organisations or target the same community.

3. Reporting tools related with MPCA (and CVA in general)

All agencies having CVA in their portfolio are requested to share information about their activities via two distinct tools: Services Advisor and the 3RP Monitoring. Services Advisor replaces the 3W/4W in other country contexts and is an online platform that can be used both by potential beneficiaries of services and humanitarian workers. On the other hand, Activity Info is the platform where humanitarian actors report their monthly progress. The following table gives an overview of the two tools and how they can be distinguished further by information contained, frequency of sharing information and their purpose.

	Services Advisor	3RP Monitoring
Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Services Advisor platform (back-end) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activity Info
Information to share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform about organisational presence, targets for indicators, standards applied for implementation, Start and end date of projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inform about monthly achievements based on indicators
Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once, if project details change the entry can be edited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly
Number of entries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One per service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In each indicator that applies (with cash mostly one indicator)
Usage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows potential beneficiaries to find services and self-refer. Supports inter-agency coordination by ensuring harmonisation of approaches and allowing to avoid clustering of organisations in specific locations. Allows agencies to identify other organisations working in the same districts to facilitate bilateral coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dashboard for visibility and accountability purposes Follow up on implementation by Sectors and if progress is made towards reaching the targets defined in 3RP. Identify obstacles or challenges for implementation
Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link

To get access to Services Advisor and Activity Info for the purpose of inputting data, please contact Ozgur Savascioglu savascio@unhcr.org by providing *Name, Organisation and Position* of the people from your organisation that need access. Also inform about which of the two databases these persons need to have access to. In case of changes in staffing please inform also which colleagues have left and which new ones need to get access.



Annex A: MEB Detailed Assumptions

Sector	Assumptions	Items	Quantity	Unit
Food Security	Halk Ekmek	Bread	37.5	KG
	Pilavlik pirinc	Rice	15	KG
	Coarse Bulgur	Bulgur	7.5	KG
	White Dry Beans	Dry Beans	7.5	KG
	Medium Size Eggs	Eggs	150	Pieces
	Natural yogurt	Yogurt	7.5	KG
	Natural White Cheese	White Cheese	7.5	KG
	Fresh Tomatoes	Tomatoes	4.5	KG
	Fresh Cucumber Medium size	Cucumber	4.5	KG
	Refined Sunflower oil	Sunflower Oil	3.75	KG
	White Refined Sugar	Sugar	7.5	KG
	Refined Salt	Salt	750	Grams
	Local Black Tea leaves	Tea	750	Grams
	Wash	Powder Laundry Detergent	Laundry detergent	1.5
bottled Dishwashing liquid 750ml		Dishwashing liquid	750	ML
Chlorine Bleach		Disinfectants and insecticides	500	ML
1 roll per person per week – 2 Ply toilet paper.		Toilet paper	20	Pieces
Local made soap bars 125 gram each 2 per person per month		Bath soap	10	Pieces
Depilatory/ Razor double blade		Shaving articles	2	Pieces
Toothbrush 2 adults – 2 kids with teeth and and 1 Toothpaste 90 ml Tube (Cheaper brands)		Articles for dental hygiene	4+1	Pieces
650 ML bottle		Shampoo	650	ML
1 baby + 1 toddler (6 changes per day for the baby and 4 changes per day for the toddler => 300 changes per month) - (cheaper brands)		Baby diapers	300	Pieces
3 packets of 10 pads per packet		Hygiene pads for women	3	Packs
Shelter	2+1; 3+1 apartments with natural gas or woodstove	Rent	1	Month
	1. Utilities = 12L per household	Tube gas canister	1	Month
	2. Utilities = 2500 kWh per year	Electricity	1	Month
	3. Utilities = Water Supply systems 3600 L (per capita); 18000 L (HH)	Water Supply	1	Month
Health	3 visits per month and buy medicine during each visit	Specialist doctor visit Visits and medicine	3	Visits
Education	2 school aged kids per household	Notebook	2	Pieces
		Pencil	2	Pieces
		Other stationery	2	Set
Protection	32 Public transport rides for three adults	Transport	32	Rides
	1 mobile phone monthly credit package per household	Communication	1	Package

Adapted from WFP/TRC by CBI TWG³

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/turkey/revising-food-basket-minimum-expenditure-basket-analysis-calculate-realistic-cost>



Annex B. Categorisation for Rent and Average Rent Data

Summary about rent brackets: In Turkish cities, the housing market offers a variety of options catering to different household sizes, with available housing most commonly ranging from 1 to 4 rooms. The most accessible and common options tend to be 2-room and 3-room houses, which cater to most the population's needs. Houses with 1 room or studio houses are generally more recently built, which in turn becomes less accessible in terms of prices. Depending on the region and province, housing stock may abundantly provide larger houses with 4 and above rooms.

Considering the average family size in Türkiye is 3.17, and refugee households being at an approximate average of 5, the brackets below can be suggested for categorising household sizes and the house options they might find the most affordable. To this end, three rent support brackets are proposed, based on household size:

Categories: Below are the categories assumed by CBI TWG based on household sizes and market availability.

- ***Small Household Bracket:*** For households with 1 to 3 members, suitable for individuals, couples, or small families. These households would benefit most from 1-room or 2-room apartments, which are both accessible and economical for smaller family units.
- ***Medium Household Bracket:*** For households with 4 to 6 members, designed for medium-sized families. These families would require 2-room or 3-room apartments, providing a balance between affordability and the necessary living space for a comfortable life.
- ***Large Household Bracket:*** For households with 7 to 10 members, targeting large families in need of significant space. These households would likely need 3-room or 4-room apartments to accommodate all members comfortably, acknowledging that larger apartments can be more challenging to secure in the market.

Source: To conduct a market-based analysis of rent cost, several resources are evaluated and **Endeksa** is deemed as the most appropriate considering that breakdown for rental apartments could be filtered down to their number of rooms. To better reflect the pressing needs in the provinces with high refugee populations, sample districts are selected from five southeast provinces which included the earthquake-hit Hatay, Gaziantep, Adana and Kilis as well as five provinces densely hosting refugee populations in different regions such as İzmir and İstanbul. To ensure feasibility of cash transfers, minimum values of average rent prices per category (2+1, 3+1, and 4+1 with regards to small, medium and large household brackets) are multiplied with average gross meters square. Numbers are rounded to facilitate ease of calculation.

Table A. Minimum Rent Calculation for Refugee Hosting Provinces and Districts

Province	District	Min (m ² /tl)	M ² (ortalama bürüt alan)	Min (gross)
Gaziantep	Şahinbey 2+1	₺92	113	₺10,396
	Şahinbey 3+1	₺81	176	₺14,256
	Şahinbey 4+1	₺62	239	₺14,818
	Şehitkamil 2+1	₺90	120	₺10,800
	Şehitkamil 3+1	₺84	169	₺14,196
	Şehitkamil 4+1	₺96	269	₺25,824
Adana	Seyhan 2+1	₺71	110	₺7,810
	Seyhan 3+1	₺71	149	₺10,579
	Seyhan 4+1	₺88	196	₺17,248



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Türkiye

Hatay	Antakya 2+1	₺89	98	₺8,722
	Antakya 3+1	₺78	140	₺10,920
	Antakya 4+1	₺70	200	₺14,000
Konya	Selçuklu 2+1	₺108	110	₺11,880
	Selçuklu 3+1	₺100	152	₺15,200
	Selçuklu 4+1	₺107	199	₺21,293
Kilis	Merkez 2+1	₺70	85	₺5,950
	Merkez 3+1	₺57	151	₺8,607
	Merkez 4+1	₺71	222	₺15,762
Şanlıurfa	Haliliye 2+1	₺59	111	₺6,549
	Haliliye 3+1	₺54	165	₺8,910
	Haliliye 4+1	₺64	219	₺14,016
Mersin	Tarsus 2+1	₺85	110	₺9,350
	Tarsus 3+1	₺81	140	₺11,340
	Tarsus 4+1	₺82	182	₺14,924
İstanbul	Esenyurt 2+1	₺100	100	₺10,000
	Esenyurt 3+1	₺100	140	₺14,000
	Esenyurt 4+1	₺94	207	₺19,458
	Bağcılar 2+1	₺125	95	₺11,875
	Bağcılar 3+1	₺125	128	₺16,000
	Bağcılar 4+1	₺100	160	₺16,000
İzmir	Konak 2+1	₺143	95	₺13,585
	Konak 3+1	₺146	130	₺18,980
	Konak 4+1	₺155	195	₺30,225
Bursa	Yıldırım 2+1	₺99	100	₺9,900
	Yıldırım 3+1	₺97	130	₺12,610
	Yıldırım 4+1	₺71	183	₺12,993

Min (calculated)	
Average 2+1	₺ 9,735
Average 3+1	₺ 12,967
Average 4+1	₺ 18,047

Min (rounded)	
Average 2+1	₺ 9,735
Average 3+1	₺ 12,965
Average 4+1	₺ 18,045

Source: <https://www.endeksa.com>

Accessed: 03.02.2025



Annex C. 2025 MPCA Transfer Value Guidance

Facts:

- The average family size in Türkiye is 3.17⁴ for Turkish citizens, and refugee households are at an average of 5. The SSN program household size for refugees differs from the average shared above, with ESSN being 4.3 and CSSN being 6.3. This is resulting from the eligibility criteria of the SSN programs (dependency ratio larger than 1.5 are eligible to SSN). CBI TWG considers the average household size 5 for refugee families to provide a guidance inclusive of all communities (SSN eligible and non-eligible)
- The current state is no longer an earthquake emergency, yet pressing needs remain with the vulnerable households.
- SSN MEB remains as the reliable source of minimum needs of households, and CBI TWG should continue to factor in market-based rent prices to provide an impactful MPCA transfer amount.

Assumptions:

- Although concrete evidence is lacking, CBI TWG members agreed that the most vulnerable households have the capacity to meet only 50 percent of their minimum expenditures.
- The MPCA transfer value calculation of MPCA should aim to cover the 50 percent of the total needs.

Approach:

- To ensure sustained and foreseeable support, prevent protection risks and market price fluctuations, multiple months of assistance is the most suitable approach in the current context.
- Market based averages of rent should factor in the MPCA transfer value to create the desired impact through MPCA. (see Annex B for details).
- The cost of rent should be calculated based on family size rather than per capita. Considering the availability of houses in the market and families' spatial needs based on their sizes, three rent brackets are included in the calculation: families of 1-3 individuals, 4-6 individuals, and 7-10 individuals.
- A Cap and Floor should be introduced, with the Floor setting the minimum assistance any household will receive and the Cap limiting the maximum assistance to ensure budget adherence and equitable resource distribution. The cap and floor are also taken as a measure to rectify possible errors resulting from converting the SSN MEB components to per capita calculation.

MPCA Transfer Value Guidance Detailed Table:

Table 1. CBI TWG Türkiye, MPCA Monthly Transfer Value Guidance

Item → # Individual ↓	SSN MEB excluding rent	Average Rent ⁵	Total	50 percent of Total	MPCA Guidance
1	₺ 3.197	₺ 9.735	₺ 12.932	₺ 6.466	₺ 9.663
2	₺ 6.394	₺ 9.735	₺ 16.129	₺ 8.064	₺ 9.663
3	₺ 9.590	₺ 9.735	₺ 19.325	₺ 9.663	₺ 9.663
4	₺ 12.787	₺ 12.965	₺ 25.752	₺ 12.876	₺ 12.876
5	₺ 15.984	₺ 12.965	₺ 28.949	₺ 14.475	₺ 14.475
6	₺ 19.181	₺ 12.965	₺ 32.146	₺ 16.073	₺ 16.073
7	₺ 22.378	₺ 18.045	₺ 40.423	₺ 20.211	₺ 20.211
8	₺ 25.575	₺ 18.045	₺ 43.620	₺ 21.810	₺ 20.211
9	₺ 28.771	₺ 18.045	₺ 46.816	₺ 23.408	₺ 20.211
10	₺ 31.968	₺ 18.045	₺ 50.013	₺ 25.007	₺ 20.211

⁴ [Statistics on Family, 2022 - Turkstat](#)

⁵ Source: Endeksa (Accessed: 03.02.2025) Please see Annex B for details.