# Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI TWG) in Türkiye

## Terms of Reference – February 2026

*This Terms of Reference (TOR) defines the context, purpose, structure and the roles and responsibilities of the cash coordination platform in Türkiye.*

### Context

Türkiye hosts the largest refugee population in the world including around 2.33 million Syrians under temporary protection[1] and approximately 178,399 international protection applicants and status holders from other countries.[2] To address the needs of to the protection of Syrians under temporary protection and international protection applicants and status holders, as well as vulnerable Turkish citizens, cash and voucher assistance (CVA) has been employed as an effective means of assistance in Türkiye by humanitarian partners.

Following the large-scale emergency response triggered by the February 2023 earthquakes, which affected eleven provinces in southeast Türkiye, humanitarian actors have gradually phased out blanket emergency programming. Despite progress in reconstruction and recovery, some affected families, particularly those who are facing compounded vulnerabilities, continue to face challenges in accessing adequate housing, essential services, and stable income opportunities in the affected provinces.

Since the developments in Syria in late 2024, self-organised voluntary returns have gained immediate relevance as a potential pathway towards durable solutions. However, a significant proportion of refugees are expected to remain in Türkiye for the foreseeable future, including individuals who are unable or unwilling to return.

In parallel, the evolving funding landscape has resulted in a scale-down of activities by several humanitarian actors. This contraction in operational capacity, particularly among NGO partners, has required strict prioritisation of assistance in 2026.

Within this context, cash actors continue to monitor movement dynamics, protection considerations, and basic needs trends to ensure that assistance remains principled, targeted, and responsive to the changing environment.

### Purpose

Initiated in November 2015, the Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI TWG) in Türkiye serves a critical role in coordinating the delivery of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) among various actors engaged in humanitarian responses. The group's purpose is to **enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of cash and voucher programming, minimize duplicative efforts**, support partners in addressing unmet needs effectively, and foster programmatic harmonisation. The CBI TWG operates as an intersectoral platform, and it is accountable to the 3RP coordination in Türkiye. The platform focuses on managing both sector-specific and multi-purpose cash assistance, in collaboration with relevant sectors. This coordinated approach aims ensuring that the assistance provided through CVA is both targeted and impactful. This approach has become increasingly relevant and critical, especially considering the challenging circumstances following the 2023 earthquake, which necessitated a broader and more targeted coordination of resources and assistance.

[1] Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management, Statistics (29/01/2026)

[2] Republic of Türkiye, Ministry of Interior, Presidency of Migration Management, Press Release (21/04/2025)

**Objectives and Key Actions:** There are 5 Strategic objectives of the CBI TWG:

1. **Enhance the Coordination and Programming of CVA in Türkiye:** Strengthen the delivery and impact of CVA by providing effective coordination and support for harmonized, quality, and accountable programming among various humanitarian actors; including both the provision of strategic direction and the promotion of common mechanisms and standards.

   Key Action 1 — Provide strategic and technical support by offering comprehensive guidance and technical assistance to CBI TWG partners, sectors, and donors. This includes setting standards and tools for quality programming when feasible, conducting preparedness activities and fostering collaboration for the delivery of quality CVA.

   Key Action 2 — Harmonize transfer values and programming standards, lead discussions and coordinate efforts to set evidence-based transfer values. Ensure these transfer values are based on reliable and market-based or rectified costs updated regularly, and adjusted to local realities when necessary.

   Key Action 3 — Ensure that gender, disability, inclusion, and protection considerations are fully integrated into cash response strategies. This involves adapting CVA programming to be inclusive and sensitive to the diverse needs of the affected populations.

   Key Action 4 — Coordinate the development and use of standardized tools for market assessments, price monitoring, and analysis -when need is identified. Promote use of these tools by partners to ensure coherent and effective program implementation and modification.

2. **Information Sharing and Learning:** Enhanced Information Management and analysis fostering a culture of knowledge exchange and continuous improvement to enhance the effectiveness of CVA in Türkiye.

   Key Action 1 — Developing CVA information and knowledge management tools, templates, and guidance, promote the effective use of existing tools such as ActivityInfo and Services Advisor among the CBI TWG partners.

   Key Action 2 — Map existing CVAs in Türkiye to identify trends, gaps and potential areas of collaboration and harmonization, and advise accordingly to the partners, sectors, and the National Inter-Agency Task Force (NIATF) under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) coordination, and other mechanisms as appropriate.

   Key Action 3 — Act as Country Repository and resource on CVA and markets for humanitarian donors and different groups at national as well as global level.

   Key Action 4 — Facilitate and enable inter-agency lessons learnt sessions and workshops. Advocate with partners for increased sharing of the results of their research and evaluations such as post-distribution monitoring exercises.

3. **Empowering local leadership:** Support local actors for an effective and context specific coordination of CVA at national and subnational level.

   Key Action 1 — Recognize and enable spaces for local actors to lead the cash coordination and engage with local cash coordination platforms, when available such as times of disaster responses, to enhance more localized coordination.

Key Action 2 Facilitate the engagement with public authorities and local organizations in cash programming, further promote context-specific approaches, and increase the acceptance of CVA as a default modality, where appropriate and feasible.

4. **Capacity Building:** Strengthening the skills of humanitarian and development organizations prioritizing the local partners to ensure the sustainability and resilience of CVA initiatives in Türkiye.

   Key Action 1 Assessing the CVA related capacity gaps and creating learning opportunities for CBI TWG partners including local and national public authorities when relevant.

   Key Action 2 Collaborating with partners, CALP, CashCap and sectors to mobilize resources for capacity building and seek joint initiatives to respond to existing needs.

   Key Action 3 Promote learning and sharing through learning events, identifying critical gaps, and documenting best practices and evidence.

5. **Advocacy:** Evidence-based advocacy for policies and practices that promote scalability of CVA.

   Key Action 1 Continue leading and support evidence-based advocacy and promoting the use of quality CVA to meet humanitarian needs and other key messages by creating advocacy notes.

   Key Action 2 Promote linking humanitarian assistance with social protection, market-based programming, and livelihoods responses in the country.

   Key Action 3 Advocate with public institutions for strengthened linkages between CVA and national social protection systems, fostering coordinated and sustainable approaches that support coherent, long-term assistance.

## Scope

In alignment with the overarching humanitarian policy and coordination at the national level, the CBI TWG functions as a national technical group based in Ankara. The group's operations cover four primary humanitarian areas of responsibility in Türkiye. These include three sub-national areas—Gaziantep in southeast Türkiye, Istanbul in the Marmara region, and Izmir in the Aegean area—alongside Ankara, which represents both the national level and the rest of Türkiye. The CBI TWG adopts a hybrid approach for its meetings, accommodating both in-person and online/virtual participation when feasible. These meetings are primarily convened in one of the four main cities, depending on operational needs, but can also be organized in other locations as required.

## Accountability

CBI TWG is an integral component of the 3RP coordination mechanism in Türkiye. It holds accountability to the NIATF, ensuring that its operations align with the broader humanitarian and response strategies set at the national level. In scenarios demanding specific responses, such as during an earthquake or other emergencies, the CBI TWG collaborates with and be accountable to other relevant coordination mechanisms as determined by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office (UN RCO) and United Nations Country Team (UNCT).

## Membership and Composition

In Türkiye, the CBI TWG upholds the principle of inclusive participation and representation, integral to the cash coordination model. The group's composition reflects this commitment, encompassing a diverse range of actors involved in the response.

- The CBI TWG in Türkiye consists of representatives from organisations both national and international non-governmental organizations, the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, UN agencies, national and sub-national authorities, donors, and, where appropriate, financial service providers. The varied context of CVA programming in Türkiye guides the participation of these actors, either on a regular or ad hoc basis.
- CBI TWG ensures the active participation and influence of local and national agencies. This is facilitated by providing Turkish/English translation at all meetings and events, ensuring language barriers do not impede involvement.
- Membership to the CBI TWG is open to any interested organization or actor in Türkiye, with the prerequisite that **they should be operational partners in the country.** To endorse membership, the CBI TWG may require a copy of the organization's registration in Türkiye.
- Membership of organisations **not operational in the country**, as well as individuals **not actively engaged with a relevant humanitarian agency**, may be considered by the co-chairs on an exceptional basis.
- To maintain agility and focus, the CBI TWG may establish task teams. These teams address specific issues pertinent to the Türkiye context.
- CBI TWG Will engage with relevant public institutions, local and national coordination platforms as per operational and contextual needs in consultation with NIATF.

## Leadership

According to the Cash Coordination Model, and in line with its global mandate in refugee settings, UNHCR is the permanent co-chair of this platform in Türkiye, sharing this role with a local civil society organization as part of the localization agenda. As of March 2023, the Turkish Red Crescent has been holding the role of local civil society co-chair. This role is a roving position; and it is evaluated annually and endorsed by the members. The position of the co-chair held by a local civil society organization may change even before the annual term, if the current organization wishes to step down or if a majority of the members request that the co-chair role be undertaken by a different local civil society organization. Cash Advisory Group (CAG) will be consulted for the method and conditions of local civil society co-chair election.

## Roles and Responsibilities

**Co-chairs**: Responsibilities of co-chairs include organizing meetings, workshops, and other events to meet the coordination and information needs specific to CBIs in the region. They are tasked with ensuring that the CVA Technical Advisory Group, members, and other relevant actors are actively engaged and supported through sharing program updates, best practices, post-distribution monitoring findings, assessments, and analyses related to CVAs. A key part of their role involves fostering appropriate linkages for sharing technical expertise among partners and maintaining ongoing dialogue with technical actors at national, regional, and global levels to bolster cash coordination. Additionally, they are responsible for developing and following a dynamic work plan that reflects the evolving priorities and discussions within the platform and across relevant sectors. This includes ensuring that the focus and deliverables of the platform remain relevant and contextually appropriate to the NIATF and the 3RP sectors.

**Members:** The CBI TWG members are responsible to commit to fostering a transparent and cooperative environment by meaningful participation and sharing relevant operational delivery data (such as cash assistance delivered, beneficiaries assisted etc.). The members need to provide at least one focal point for CBI TWG meetings and participate in CBI TWG meetings **on a regular basis.** They are responsible for **sharing programmatic information and updates**, technical inputs, lessons-learnt, and actively participating in setting the strategic direction of the CBI TWG.

**Secretariat:** UNHCR acts as secretariat and is responsible for information and knowledge management which includes gathering of information from partners, and publishing on the dedicated page of the inter-agency data portal managed by UNHCR for CBI TWG.

**Information Management Officer (IMO):** This role is held by UNHCR, and it carries responsibility of managing and facilitating efficient data-related processes including overseeing the collection and analysis of data in the CVA Mapping process, as well as the production and dissemination of CBI TWG dashboards and relevant analyses to platform partners. The IMO is tasked with identifying the information needs of the platform and its partners, encouraging a culture of structured and secure information sharing among all stakeholders through well-defined sectoral mechanisms. Additionally, the IMO supports partners in continuously updating their CBIs on the Services Advisor. A key aspect of this role involves the development, collection, processing, analysis, storage, and sharing of data within the CBI TWG.

**Technical Advisory Group:** Comprising a group of CVA technical experts from national and international organizations that are members of CBI TWG to support key technical themes and task teams created by CBI TWG, propose inputs, guidance, and key recommendations for technical and strategic decision making. Details of roles and responsibilities of the group are shared in Annex A.

**CashCap:** CashCap has historically supported the cash coordination platform in Türkiye through various situation specific ToRs and technical deployments. While no technical deployment is foreseen or planned in 2026, the CBI TWG will continue to collaborate with CashCap to facilitate technical support and capacity sharing with partners.

**Sectors/Working Groups Leads and Co-Leads:** Expected to participate regularly in the CBI TWG, staying informed about cash programming in Türkiye and contributing operational delivery data, technical inputs, and programmatic information.

**Validation and Decision Making:** The CBI TWG coordination Team (Co-Chairs, IMO, and coordination assistants) will provide drafts and final products for validation within the group, ensuring that all members can review and confirm the accuracy and quality of the documents and initiatives before they are finalized and implemented.

### Frequency of Meetings

CBI TWG meets **once a month**, ensuring coordination and response, unless more or less frequent meetings are required by members or deemed appropriate by co-chairs.

These Terms can be reviewed or amended on a need basis with the request from the humanitarian leadership, as per contextual needs during the crises or if the members deem necessary.

## Annex A: Terms of Reference (ToR) for CVA Technical Advisory Group (CVA TAG) – March 2026

**Introduction:** This document is the annex of Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI TWG) and it aims to outline the establishment and operation of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) comprising Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) Experts from member organizations of the Türkiye. CVA TAG members are selected through self-nomination or invitation amongst the members of the platform. Membership in the CVA TAG is based on an evaluation of individual skills and motivation, and it is expected that the expert's organization endorses their membership role, when applicable.

**Objectives of CVA TAG:** The CVA Technical Advisory Group serves as a small, focused body that strengthens the strategic coherence, technical quality, and collective positioning of the CBI TWG. Its objectives are to:

- Provide strategic and technical advisory support to the CBI TWG co-chairs, contributing to the overall direction and prioritisation of CVA coordination in Türkiye.
- Enhance the technical quality and consistency of CVA approaches through expert input and peer review.
- Identify emerging issues, risks, and opportunities requiring collective attention, and support evidence-based positioning and advocacy.
- Strengthen linkages across partners and promote alignment with broader humanitarian and social protection frameworks.

**Composition:** The TAG should ideally consist of five representatives to ensure effectiveness and manageability. The group should not exceed this number, though depending on availability and context, it may be composed of fewer members.

**Responsibilities of TAG Representatives:** TAG representatives will be responsible for the following.

- Actively contribute to the development and periodic review of the CBI TWG strategy, workplan, and key coordination documents.
- Participate in regular TAG meetings and attend CBI TWG meetings.
- Review and provide timely, substantive feedback on key technical and strategic documents upon request.
- Provide advisory input to co-chairs on specific technical questions, processes, or decisions when consulted.
- Lead or support time bound technical tasks, drafting processes, or thematic workstreams.
- Uphold collective coordination principles, contributing to a neutral and solutions-oriented manner.

**Selection & Criteria:** CBI TWG Coordination team will collect, review and conduct selection of CVA TAG members. Individuals will be selected based on the following criteria,

- Being employed by, or formally affiliated as a consultant with, a humanitarian organization that is registered and operational in Türkiye, and a member of the CBI TWG for at least one year. Endorsement of the organisation is required. Eligibility of individuals recently separated or between assignments from a relevant role will be considered by the co-chairs on a case-by-case basis.
- Demonstrated technical expertise in Cash and Voucher Assistance, including a minimum of three years of relevant, hands-on experience in CVA programming or technical advisory roles.
- Familiarity with inter agency coordination mechanism and working groups, Türkiye's social protection landscape and relevant national systems.
- Ability to clearly articulate specific thematic or technical areas to contribute to the CVA TAG's work.
- Demonstrated commitment, availability, and willingness to actively engage and dedicate time to the group.

**Term and Termination:**

- The term of a TAG membership is one year, with the possibility of renewal. Renewal requires reapplication and participation in the selection process.
- Members may withdraw prior to the completion of their term by formally notifying the CBI TWG co-chairs.
- Failure to fulfil agreed responsibilities may result in a request for withdrawal from the TAG.
- If a member leaves their role in the CBI TWG member organization, TAG membership automatically ends. An exceptional off-cycle application may be considered by co-chairs if the individual joins another eligible CBI TWG member organization.
- TAG membership is not automatically transferable to successors within the same organization.

This ToR will be subject to regular review with input from members and the Cash Coordination Team of CBI TWG.