



Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Turkey

# Cash-based Intervention Technical Working Group Turkey

## CBI TWG Meeting Minutes

12 May 2020

Ankara, İstanbul, Gaziantep

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

**Venue:** Ankara, İstanbul, Gaziantep (via Zoom)

**Participants:** Adelaida Sözmen (WHH), Ali Kaya (CARE), Ali Peymanfar (ASAM), Alperen Açıkol (TRC), Anwar Kattan (Takaful Al Sham Charity Organization), Arij Shaaban (Al Resala Foundation), Aysel Yüksel (UNFPA), Berivan Erbil (UNICEF), Betül Rifaioğlu (UNHCR), Burak Çınar (ECHO), Burçin Tümay (UNHCR), Cansu Şengür (ASAM), Cemile Altıntaş (ASAM), Derya Cengiz (Olive Branch), Elif Eser Mooty (UNHCR), Ender Öztürk (FAO), Fadel Daoud (WFP), Faruk Acar (WFP), Gökalp Arslan (UNHCR), Görkem Göker (TRC), Gözde Gülgün (WFP), Hatem Efe (STL), Hazal Aydın (GOAL), İmran Altıntop (Bir Dünya Çocuk), Livio Mercurio (UNHCR), Mazen Aboulhosn (IOM), Meircan Han (TRC), Meryem Ay Kesgin (WFP), Mohanad Ameen (IOM), Sara Buzzoni (ECHO), Özgür Savaşçioğlu (UNHCR), Seda Baran (UNICEF), Volkan Piriñçi (STL), Zeynel Doğan (IFRC)

### AGENDA:

#### Welcome & Review of Agenda

- 1) Welcome & Introductions (*All Participants, 5 Min*)
- 2) Partners Share CBI Program Updates (*All partners, 15 min*)
- 3) Present the analysis of CBI appeals in ad-hoc COVID-19 Appeal (*Sector Coordinators, 10 min*)
- 4) Present the recent MEB and Economic Updates (*40 min*)  
Presentation of MEB and Economic Updates (*WFP, 30 min*)  
Q&A (*10 min*)
- 5) Present the Program Specific Transfer Value Calculations (*UNHCR, 10 min*)
- 6) AOB (*5 min*)

### Action Points - Follow up Issues and Updates:

- ✓ Coordinators will [share revised TOR](#) with partners. *Done ✓*
- ✓ Follow up meeting to be held with relevant actors (CBI, BN, PR) to discuss further several aspects of a possible CVA for COVID-19. *Done ✓*

### New Action Points from the Meeting:

- ✓ Coordinators re-share the ESSN Cross-checking information and contact points.

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

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

#### 2. Partners Share CBI Program Updates

##### UNHCR

- UNHCR provided an update on DGMM's request for cash assistance to vulnerable households and individuals affected by COVID-19, because of loss of livelihoods or the lockdown. While majority of beneficiaries are Syrians under temporary protection, the assistance is also targeting International Protection beneficiaries.

- Referrals will be received from PDMMs and channeled through DGMM to UNHCR for verification and rendering of the payments. The first payment will be made within the week, to refugees around Turkey, with a concentration in provinces in the Southeast and Istanbul.
- PTT will carry out the payment, who demonstrated efforts to mitigate the risk of infection. The process will include mobile trucks, to avoid formation of crowds. The assistance will be one-off cash support and amount to 1000 Turkish liras, in alignment with the assistance provided by the Government of Turkey to Turkish citizens.
- UNHCR coordinated with WFP and IOM to cross check and avoid duplication of assistance, and the agencies are working on a structured system for this cross-checking purpose. Cross-checking with ESN beneficiaries is also carried out; however, CTE beneficiaries will not be excluded from UNHCR CBI support. Beneficiaries of other on-going UNHCR cash programs are excluded.
- TurkKizilay Kizilaykart Programs made a cross-checking matrix available to all relevant actors in humanitarian field, and it has functional since August 2018. Partners can reach out to [suyveritakip@kizilay.org.tr](mailto:suyveritakip@kizilay.org.tr) for Turkish and [ESSNdatacheck@kizilay.org.tr](mailto:ESSNdatacheck@kizilay.org.tr) for English to touch base with TurkKizilay, and request to cross-check their beneficiary list with ESN beneficiary list. You may access a one pager informative presentation, a sample official letter for requesting cross-checking and standard format of the data fields made available by TurkKizilay [through this link](#).
- The cross-check of data will be done under the data-sharing agreement established at the inter-agency level, and DGMM has agreed to the modality. Agencies willing to cross-check their data with ESN beneficiaries should contact mentioned TurkKizilay contacts.

#### Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

- WHH is planning an emergency cash distribution Once the parameters are set, the details of the assistance will be shared with all partners, including selection criteria, referral pathway and transfer values.

#### IOM

- IOM has two cash assistance programs in response to COVID-19. The first is a pilot project in Gaziantep for 100 beneficiaries selected from IOM database. The cash assistance will be delivered through bank transfers. 500 Turkish liras will be transferred to beneficiaries through Ziraat Bank. This will be an attempt to test the modality and processes pertaining to the cash transfer.
- The selected beneficiaries have been cross-checked with ESN and UNHCR-DGMM CBI program to avoid duplications. The first payments were rendered to 38 households in the past week, and the remaining household will receive assistance by the end of the week.
- The second assistance program is a one-time cash assistance of 1000 TL, in line with the support provided by the Government support to Turkish citizens. This assistance will exclude ESN beneficiaries, and local-level coordination is undertaken with PDMMs. The delivery mechanism will be through a bank transfer, and more information will be provided once funds are available.

#### Bir Dunya Cocuk

- Bir Dunya Cocuk started to distribute market cards in Gaziantep to their beneficiaries under International Protection.

#### WFP

- In addition to the distribution of COVID-19 hygiene kits to all Temporary Accommodation Centres (TAC) residents, WFP is also targeting those beneficiaries with a 1000 Turkish liras top-up. WFP is currently planning to distribute in-kind food parcel to persons under quarantine in TACs and consequently do not have access to the markets
- The same 1000 top-up payments are also planned for non-ESN beneficiaries in the urban contexts.

### 3. Presentation of the analysis of CBI appeals in the ad-hoc COVID-19 appeal

- Majority of the partners appealing under the ad-hoc appeal have prioritized basic needs support. CBI appears to be a cross-cutting need under the sectors, and is included in the Basic Needs, Food Security and Agriculture, Education, and Protection sectors. However, within the CBI budget, 90 percent is composed of Basic Needs appeal.

- CBI appeals (including material and cash assistance activity under Protection) aim to reach a total number of 2.4 million beneficiaries with a total budget of USD 73 million.
- A total of 19 organizations appealed for a total of 33 CBI programs (by 6 UN agencies and 13 NGOs). The majority of these partners are under Basic Needs and Protection.
- Various transfer amounts are observed across programs. The 1000 lira cash assistance is the most used, however other amounts exist as well with calculations taking family size into consideration. The different transfer values can be seen under the CBI Mapping as well.
- The primary consideration for cash assistance is the MEB (and if available RMEB) findings. This is followed by specific needs of beneficiary groups, household size, and practices by government and humanitarian agencies.

#### 4. Presentation of the recent MEB and Economic Updates

##### a) Economic Updates

- The COVID-19 pandemic has had a considerable economic impact globally, and the effects have also been observed in Turkey. A growth rate of 4 percent was expected in Turkey for 2020 by IMF, however due to the crisis the growth rate has remained at less than 1 percent.
- In Q4 2019, the manufacturing and service sectors were booming; though, the growth was due to cutting expenses, included limiting the number of employees. With the Covid-19 crisis, these two sectors were hit the most, as they closed business and many employees were let go to unpaid leave.
- Covid-19 arrived in Turkey in March, two months after the other countries. Therefore, the data from Q2 2020 would tell the impact on the economy. The latest unemployment figures from February and reflects the slight improvement before the outbreak by going down from 13.8 to 13.6%.
- The currency exchange rates have also been impacted from the crisis, with the Turkish lira losing value against the USD, accompanied by difficulties in the cash flow. This is particularly important due to the important reliance of the Turkish economy on imported goods. Although this is not expected to create household-level impact, a broader effect is expected.
- Food and hygiene item stocks are secure for the time being. Inflation rates for processed foods and breads/cereals have increased, and this creates particular challenges for vulnerable individuals.

##### b) The Minimum Expenditure Basket Findings

- The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) includes different food items, average rent payment, utilities, non-food items in line with WASH requirements, health indicators, education, transportation, communication, which are considered the minimum needs of households.
- The MEB calculates how much the cost would be per family, and the latest calculations for a six-person household stand at a total of 2990.5 TL with **498.4 TL** per capita.
- Since the end of 2019, MEB amounts have remained stable, with highest rates observed in Istanbul and the lowest rates in Sanliurfa, in April 2020.
- The cost of hygiene items increased by 1 percent, corresponding to the same overall cost increase for the MEB. Food costs have increased by 2 percent, while communication costs have decreased.
- The refugee MEB is 22 percent lower than MEB.

#### 5. Present the Program Specific Transfer Value Calculations

- Three schemes were presented: cash for specific needs, cash assistance for adolescents released from state institutions and for SGBV survivors (with a focus on persons who left shelters), and assistance for trans-gender and inter-sex individuals.
- Cash for persons with specific needs is provided for International Protection applicants, and the transfer value is aligned with that of ESSN, standing at **120 TL**. The alignment aims to prevent possible tensions.
- UNHCR looked to aligning cash assistance for transgender and intersex individuals with social protection programs of the Government of Turkey. However, due to the absence of a program to align the transfer value, an analysis of specific needs of these individuals has been conducted to determine the transfer values. The transfer value was determined as 750 TL, considering **i)** the rent prices in the provinces of focus (Denizli, Eskisehir, Yalova and Istanbul which have high number of transgender and intersex beneficiaries); **ii)** the transportation costs required for these individuals to benefit from health services; and **iii)** the costs of hormone therapy processes.
- The cash program for adolescents released from state institutions and SGBV survivors has been aligned with the Socio-Economic Support program of the Government of Turkey. The transfer value has been

determined as 760 TL, which is the average of amounts provided by the government to different persons.

- UNHCR's cash assistance programs is aligned with other programs in order to avoid duplications when possible and prevent tensions.
- A wider range of transfer values are available in the CBI mapping.