



Fact Sheet: Situation of Cross-checking and Deduplication of CVAs in Türkiye

July 2023

This fact sheet provides an overview of the current mechanisms and challenges related to cross-checking and deduplication of humanitarian cash-based interventions (CBIs) in Türkiye. The absence of a centralized cross-checking database and legal restrictions on data sharing pose challenges in identifying individuals receiving humanitarian assistance. This document highlights existing solutions, with a particular focus on the cross-checking mechanism of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) program implemented by the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC).

Overview: In Türkiye, the lack of a centralized cross-checking database hinders the identification of individuals benefiting from humanitarian assistance across different sectors such as cash, protection, and livelihoods sectors due to national legislation. As a result, the only option remaining is for different agencies to cross-check their beneficiary lists to establish a system for removing duplicate assistance. However, Law No. 6698 on Protection of Personal Data restricts the sharing of personal information and imposes limitations on data protection principles. Additionally, Article 20(3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Türkiye emphasizes individuals' right to request the protection of their personal data, including access, correction, deletion, and information about how their data is used by proclaiming *“Everyone has the right to request the protection of one`s personal data. This right includes being informed of, having access to and requesting the correction and deletion of one`s personal data, and to be informed whether these are used in consistency with envisaged objectives”*. Consequently, in light of this legal context, organizations are unable to unilaterally foster cross-checking endeavors among the disparate beneficiary lists of programs, with the exception of the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN). As emphasized in the new cash coordination model, the Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI TWG) platform should not and cannot be the custodian of beneficiary data. Due to personal data restrictions, the CBI TWG is unable to provide a mechanism for facilitating this operational support, even when it does not hold custodianship of the data.

Effective Measures Implemented by the CBI TWG: The CBI TWG Mapping of Cash-Based Interventions in Türkiye (2021-2022), a collaborative effort among multiple agencies to enhance coordination, reveals various methodologies employed by partners to mitigate overlaps. The mapping indicates that 62 projects utilize these strategies, which include:

- Cross-checking beneficiary lists with other CBI programs,
- Sharing information through bilateral meetings with partner organizations,
- Conducting household/individual surveys and assessments,
- Sharing information via coordination working groups and technical working groups,
- Employing geographical targeting.

As per most recent CBI Mapping in Türkiye, a significant majority of partners attending inter-agency meetings (86 percent) affirm the effectiveness of current cross-checking mechanisms in preventing overlaps, with a particular focus on cross-checking with the ESSN program. Discussions regarding existing cross-checking needs and mechanisms are widespread within inter-agency platforms.

Moreover, the Inter-Agency platform Services Advisor facilitates practitioners and partners in accessing targeted population data within specific geographic scopes. This feature contributes significantly to preventing overlaps while delivering humanitarian assistance.



Inter-Agency
Coordination
Türkiye

ESSN Cross-checking Mechanism: An exceptional cross-checking mechanism exists within the ESSN program to prevent duplications among its partners. The Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) plays a crucial role by providing a beneficiary cross-check service through their extensive data pool of 2.7 million individuals under the KIZILAYKART Platform Information Exchange Mechanism. This service proves highly beneficial for humanitarian actors in preventing duplicate assistance. TRC cross-checks the data of individuals under temporary and international protection, who are currently benefiting from programs under the KIZILAYKART Platform and provides information on their eligibility status based on organizations' requests.

To initiate the cross-checking process, organizations requesting the service share their beneficiary lists and official letter via email. TRC then uploads the lists to GÖÇMEN and conducts necessary controls in line with procedures. The outcomes are subsequently shared via email. Through this cross-checking procedure, TRC significantly contributes to preventing duplications in assistance, enhancing coordination among organizations, and ensuring effective and efficient use of funds.

Looking ahead, TRC has expressed plans to transition the current mechanism to an online platform, where humanitarian actors can systematically log in and share their lists for cross-checking. This transition aims to maintain the same objectives while improving accessibility and usability. TRC has appealed to 3RP for support in implementing this online platform, which will be user-friendly with multi-language options. Additionally, TRC is working on enhancing the cross-checking mechanism with a more dynamic interface. The platform will also facilitate sharing more information with partners at a national scale through dashboards, contributing to the design and implementation of humanitarian projects. However, it's important to note that these plans are still in the working stage and not a firm commitment. The plan is subject to further evaluation and adjustments.