Inter-Agency Coordination Türkiye

Cash-based Interventions Technical Working Group Türkiye

CBI TWG Meeting Minutes

14 February 2023 Ankara, İstanbul, Gaziantep

Chaired by: Ahmet Unver (UNHCR)

Venue: Virtual (via Zoom)

Minutes: Busra Seray Duzyol (UNHCR), Ahmet Unver (UNHCR)

Participants: **CALP Network, CARE, Concern Worldwide, CORE, CRS, DRC, DG ECHO, GiveDirectly, HRDF, IFRC, ILO, INGEV, IOM, JCCP/REALs, PARCIC, Positive Living Association, PRM, Save the Children, SDC, SGDD-ASAM, Shelterbox, Syrian American Medical Society, TRC, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, Violet Organization**

AGENDA:

1) Welcome *(5 mins)*
2) Note for the New Participants *(IA, 5 mins)*
3) Brief Update: Coordination – Flash Appeal *(IA, 10 mins)*
4) 2022-2023 Cash Mapping Findings Dashboard *(IA, 15 mins)*
5) Partners Share Assessments/Observations *(all partners, 50 mins)*
6) CBI TWG Tasks/Solutions *(all partners, 10 mins)*
7) Any Other Business *(5 mins)*

New Action Points from the Meeting:

1. Mapping/update on operational financial service providers in impacted cities (banks, PTT etc)
2. Local NGO partners to consider co-chairing the CBI TWG (reach unver@unhcr.org)
3. Share updates regarding CBIs by governmental authorities in response to EQ (once available)
4. Non-member participants of the ad-hoc meeting share their **registration in Türkiye** to become member of CBI TWG

Documents

1. New Cash Coordination Model presentation (TR/EN)
2. New Cash Coordination Model Frequently Asked Questions (TR/EN)
3. Market Review in Türkiye January 2023 (pre-Earthquake)
4. 2022-23 Cash Mapping in Türkiye

I. Note for the New Participants

- Many iNGOs have contacted the CBI TWG chair to be a part of the group for coordination regarding the earthquake response.
- Newcomers are advised to be fully aware of the legal situation and regulations for iNGOs in Türkiye, and work in close collaboration with government institutions including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Family and Social Services (MoFSS).
- iNGO's are kindly advised to work with their lawyers, financial service providers, financial consultant/advisors and legal accountants on legal compliance and frameworks in Türkiye. Building networks and collaborations with local NGOs and other iNGOs in Türkiye is expected to ease the adaptation to the Türkiye context.
- Turkish Personal Data Protection Law (KVKK) is at utmost significance for all humanitarian assistance, including cash distribution and collection of beneficiary data.

- **Membership to CBI TWG is open to every organization that are interested and registered to represent and/or operate in Türkiye. Proof of registration in Türkiye should be provided to the chair (digital copy of the registration document via email) to be a member of the mailing list, and receive regular updates/minutes.**

II. Brief Update: Coordination – Flash Appeal

- We've been following up with the DG of Social Assistance at different levels for clarification around the social assistance amounts for the EQ affected populations. At this point, we have the following information.
    - The Minister of FSS is currently clarifying the details with AFAD in relation to the cash support programmes.
    - Inclusion or exclusion of refugees from the cash programmes are not yet clear
    - Some news announced that 15K TL per HH relocation cash support for EQ affected populations would be covered from the AFAD budget (like here).
    - There were also announcements in relation to the rental support for those who would be living out of tented/container areas, as 5K TL per month for home-owners and 2,5K TL per month for tenants (available here)
    - DG Social Assistance informed that the amounts of cash assistance from SASFs for EQ affected populations would be determined as supports to the amounts provided by AFAD.
    - Details to this assistance such as transfer amount, modality, inclusion/exclusion criteria, etc. are to be clarified by AFAD and MoFSS. We'll follow up the details with the DG SA.
- NGOs, iNGOs and other organizations have been taking government CBIs as a reference point and setting transfer amounts and inclusion/exclusion criteria accordingly in previous crisis affected both refugees and Turkish citizens (i.e. Covid-19). It is expected that Türkiye response for refugees affected by earthquake should employed a similar approach, which in turn would prevent possible social tension between refugee and host communities. In this context, group notes that extending large scale cash schemes to refugees at the time when support to Turkish citizens is unclear might increase the social tension.
- Inter-Agency Coordination Unit is dedicated to refugee response in Türkiye which is 3RP mechanism. 3RP partners implement programs to support the government's response, until further notice CBI TWG will continue to discuss CBI for refugees.
- A flash appeal to respond EQ was done. The flash appeal may come with evolved coordination mechanism to respond heightened needs. Consequences for the group, and the way forward will be clarified soon. For emergency earthquake response, the 3RP experience and networks at the national and local level are planned to be utilized to reach the targets.

III. 2022-2023 Cash Mapping Findings Dashboard

- 2022-23 pre-earthquake CBI Mapping dashboard were introduced. By analyzing this dashboard, partners can learn about the possible cash partners in Türkiye, transfer amounts, etc.
- The launch for CBI Mapping 2022-23 Dashboard was planned to be on February 28th. The date may be revised, coordination team continues to work on practical analysis.
- In accordance with newly emerging needs, 3Ws or 4Ws might be utilized in addition to already existing data collection processes. Partners will be updated on this as well.
- Partners can reach to the dashboard via this link.

IV. Partners Share Assessments/Observations

- Partners shared that in-kind assistance modality seems to be the best option for Hatay as the market conditions are not feasible for cash assistance. Especially, Antakya city center is heavily affected, and markets are shut down. Shop owners that partners were able to communicate have no plans to reopen in the near time.
- A few shop owners stated that they are currently selling their existing stocks as no new products are coming in. The situation is similar for other regions of Hatay such as Dover and Harbiye.
- Other infrastructures and systems in Hatay such as banking are yet to be functional. Therefore, cash assistance seems to be not feasible.
- For Gaziantep, cash assistance can be feasible. In Gaziantep, ATMs are working *(though not fully operational),* supermarket chains are open and life is going back to normal slowly. Providing gas for heating to houses that are not much affected has started and some affected population may be able to return their houses.
- Partners on the field shared that cash assistance can be feasible in also Adana and Mersin.
- Adıyaman is reported to be as heavily impacted as Hatay and its districts, markets and banks being out of operations. Cash assistance to help persons of concern to access goods and services is not feasible *(according to bilateral after meeting).*

- TRC stated that there are over 1 million ESSN/C-ESSN beneficiaries affected by the quake. TRC staff in the region also affected and some activities such as M&E has stopped.
- Regular payments of the ESSN/C-ESSN have been continuing. There is no information to share regarding EQ top-up payments or additional cash assistance, as needs and feasibility of cash for beneficiaries needs to be analysed thoroughly.
- IFRC and TRC are willing to cross-check the beneficiaries to prevent duplication with ESSN/C-ESSN beneficiary database for refugees, continuing to provide ESSN cross-checking.

V. CBI TWG Tasks/Solutions

- Cash for transportation, most specifically in cities heavily affected, might be relevant as affected population seeking ways evacuate to other regions in Türkiye.
- An online tool is used to collect the partners' needs assessments. Interested partners can provide information on their assessment via this link. The inputs will be shared soon on the IM data portal.
- All new documents related the earthquake response shared by the partners are compiled and can be reached via this link.
- Some banks such as Ziraat Bankasi, Garanti Bankasi, Halkbank and Is Bankasi are sending mobile branches to the affected region. CBI TWG can make a mapping of functional mobile branches. Financial provider situation needs to be observed and shared with partners.
- Partners can reach out to CALP Network (rana.nassar@calpnetwork.org) if they identify any training needs.

AOB. N/A