Cash-based Intervention Technical Working Group Turkey

CBI TWG Ad-Hoc Meeting Minutes

26 April 2022 Ankara, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir

Chaired by: Ahmet Unver (UNHCR)

Venue: Ankara, Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir (via Zoom)

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

Participants: AlResala Foundation, AID, ASAM, CARE International, Danish Refugee Council, DG ECHO, GIZ, HRDF, IFRC, ILO, IOM, Islamic Relief Turkey, Islamic Relief Worldwide, İGAM, İNGEV, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Refugee Desk, MAAN, Positive Living Association, Qatar Charity, SevKar, Solidarity Respect and Protect, TAS, TRC, Tzu Chi Foundation, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UOSSM, WALD, WHH, World Bank, WSA

AGENDA:

1) Welcome & Introductions
2) Announcements
3) Recap: Post-Distribution Monitoring of Cash-based Interventions
4) Present: ECHO Thematic Policy on Humanitarian Cash
5) Any Other Business

New Action Points from the Meeting:

1. Interested members with CBI expertise to contact unver@unhcr.org apply for **complementing technical advisor** position
2.

I. Announcements

- CARE continues to provide technical support to CBI TWG.
- CBI in GBV subgroup has finalised its regular meetings and the group is working on the guidance document.
- Once the guidance document is completed it will be shared in relevant platforms within coming months.
- CBI Program updates can be followed via this *link*.

II. Recap: Post-Distribution Monitoring of Cash-based Interventions

- A recap of the previous meeting which WHH, Concern Worldwide and SevKar provided overviews of their PDM practices presented by CBI TWG Coordinator.
- PDM is conducted to assess the impact and effectiveness of the cash assistance through key indicators. PDM results are communicated with donors, key stake holders, internally and with the refugee community.
- PDM allows cash provider to evaluate the situation in the field after the cash assistance e.g., the possible decrease in the protection risks and negative coping strategies.
- Points to consider while conducting PDM in Turkey varies from data collection modality to tuning of survey with respect to target population.
- Partners have provided many recommendations regarding PDM. Learning from past experiences and sharing lessons learnt in an inter-agency platform appeared as the most highlighted.
- A Turkey-specific PDM guidance regarding key areas of a PDM shall be prepared by the CBI TWG within this

year to provide partners with assistance.

III. Focus: ECHO Thematic Policy Document No. 3 on Humanitarian Cash

- DG ECHO presented the latest Thematic Policy on Cash Transfers released in last March.
- The presentation includes the evolution and overview of the policy, what is new, how could partners benefit from it and an overview of the annexes.
- Over the years, use of humanitarian cash has increased massively from 1.5 billion EUR to 6.3 billion EUR between 2015-2022. Cash also has been recognized as the most efficient and effective modality of providing humanitarian assistance to people in need.
- The policy has built upon previous ECHO policies and commitments from 2015 Council Conclusions on Multi-purpose Cash to 2021 Humanitarian Aid Communication. Thematic Policy Document is a new document that explicitly focuses on cash.
- This document proposes ECHO expectations from partners to achieve efficiency and effectiveness of the humanitarian cash assistance. For the first time, cash is considered to respond to Basic Needs in this document and it also applies to sector-specific response.
- Novelties of the document varies from underlining the linkages between cash and social protection to introducing new avenues for innovation such as digitalisation.
- The document is consisted of six main chapters. The expected outcomes from each chapter listed as following:
    - Operationalises the H-P-D nexus
    - Targets the most vulnerable
    - Adequate, equitable and timely
    - Provides value for money
    - Accountable
    - Measurable

- Resilience can be boosted in terms of social protection and ECHO can fund such efforts by either new pilot designs, linking the existing social protection systems and adapting shock-responsive SP systems.
- Risk-informed approach when building the cash response means targeting the most vulnerable while prioritizing human dignity and safety.
- Assessment, response analysis and modality selection pointed out now that partners are expected to analyze and propose the most effective modality even though ECHO privileges cash assistance. Coordination and harmonization should be promoted with multi-sectoral and inter-agency assessments.
- For ECHO, responses should be designed with a **Basic-Needs Approach** (BNA).
- Within the BNA, ECHO favors Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) so that the assistance addresses multiple basic needs. Transfer value must be calculated accordingly. Chapter 3 that focuses on the BNA references **Table 1** and **Annex 3**.
- A clear justification is expected from partners regarding transfer value and transfer frequency of MPC and duration of the CVAs for sectoral outcomes. Examples in **Annex 3** can be examined about enhancing sectoral outcomes through CVA.
- There is no evidence of conditionality in the literature that states vouchers have a specific effectiveness for protection outcomes. However, vouchers based on the case can be more appropriate over cash if cash repulses protection risks.
- Preparedness is crucial for quality and appropriateness of all humanitarian assistance. Partners are expected to invest in preparedness for the use of cash by ECHO.
- ECHO promotes a common programming approach to avoid duplication in cash assistance and boost harmonized cash operations.
- TCTR refers to **Total Cost to Transfer Ratio**. It should be used as a standard way of measuring cost-efficiency by partners and this ratio is expected to be 85:15 for large-scale programmes.
- For financial risk and compliance, AML/CTF legal frameworks and EU regulation are highlighted.
- In accordance with the Grand Bargain Recommendations on tracking cash and vouchers, partners are expected to disaggregate data in a way that all direct transfer modalities can be tracked separately.
- DG ECHO prioritizes cash programmes that put people at the center and seek share and act upon their feedbacks.
- The participatory approach that is to be implemented during the programme should not be limited to PDM but also participants can also be involved in designing, shaping and evaluating of the programme.
- DG ECHO expectations regarding MEAL framework are to systematically monitoring the cash assistance processes and outputs and measuring the outcomes. Sixth section of the policy should be read with the **Section 3.1.**
- Independent MEAL is strongly encouraged as a foundation for accountability.

- Market monitoring is quite relevant in the context of Turkey and other countries with high inflation rates. CaLP document "Good Practice Review on Cash Assistance in Contexts of High Inflation and Depreciation" can be read for better comprehension.
- The checklist at the end of the document can be benefitted from while preparing a project proposal for DG ECHO.

Q&A

- Cash assistances over 25 billion EUR are considered as "large scale" by DG ECHO.
- Vetting for beneficiaries means in-depth screening of beneficiaries for the sake of avoiding financial risks and it is not required to provide humanitarian aid.
- ECHO considers cash as a modality that can be used in every sector. When it comes to sector specific objectives, conditionality should be considered. Protection outcome needs to be very well identified.
- Some Financial Service Provider assessment has been done in Turkey and ECHO asks for FSP assessment for proposals. FSP should have a wide coverage in the area of intervention.

Next Meeting: 28 June 2022