

## MENA CVA Community of Practice

### Meeting #16 Minutes

\*The meeting #16 did take place on 14/12/2022 on teams COP series meeting.

Meeting Details & agenda:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 - 11:00 to 12.00</b> (Beirut time)
<b>Attendees:</b>	<b>Facilitator:</b> Nabeh Allaham/IFRC  <b>Yemen Red crescent:</b> Hend wasabi <b>Palestine Red Crescent:</b> Eman Daraldik, Majd Batrawi <b>Cash centre of excellence:</b> Nagham al Sayegh, Reem algwahri <b>Syrian Arab red crescent:</b> Sally al Idlib <b>Egypt red crescent:</b> pillar Badran
<b>Agenda:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mapping NSs preparedness.</b></li> <li>2. <b>Key challenges for 2022 and the main recommendation for 2023.</b></li> <li>3. <b>Updates from members</b></li> <li>4. <b>Updates from facilitator</b></li> <li>5. <b>AOB</b></li> </ol>

#### Meeting minutes:

##### 1. Mapping CVA preparedness MENA NSs Nov 2022:

IFRC working on the process of mapping CVA preparedness activities in the national societies to get a global overview on Cash preparedness.

The main objective of this exercise to obtain the main info that required to evaluate the NS readiness level, based on filling the CVA preparedness template that shared with all MENA NSs already.

During the COP monthly meeting the template has reviewed together with all attendance, key hints were provided with examples, with answering on CVA focal points questions.

The excel file template contains two sheets:

**First sheet** named MENA contains sixteen columns in propose to cover:

- What type of preparedness the NS is following
- What is the situation each phase of preparedness (NS interests - self assessment – fundraising – implementation))
- Start date and end date of each step.
- Who is a leader partner, and what are the other support partner.
- What is the preparedness level based on NS evidence.
- Is the CVA preparedness plan linked with PER.

**Second sheet:** called Detailed mapping contains fifteen columns in purpose of getting the following answer.

- Is FS of the NS in place, the TWG functioning, has the CVA self-assessment for the NS done, Is the FSP contract in place, are CVA tools customized based on the NS context, is the SOP finalised and approved, exc.



Cash Preparedness  
Mapping Nov2022 N

## 2. Key challenges of 2022 and 2023 recommendation.

In this area, the NS focal point summarised the Key challenges and barriers during 2022:

### **Palestine red crescent:**

While the PRCS still in the preparedness pathway, Imad Daraldik the cash focal point of PRCS has mentioned to the key challenges that the NS extracted since 2021 which was to structure the CVA inside the system of NS. But related to 2022 key challenges were:

- CVA definitions and approach were quite new to all the NS's departments, programmes, staff, so they were not familiar with it, and had no previous experience with this modality as the PRCS has not implemented any of CASH project previously,
- Formulation the internal CVA working group, it took a while to identify which departments should be included in the group; in the other side the to nominate a focal point from each relevant department to attend the working group meeting and to set up the TOR of each FP to play his/her role as required.
- The main challenges were, where do we stand right now? after finalising the documents related to the CVA preparedness documents.

The main Recommendation has mentioned: conducted an awareness session to diverse levels of staff and management to in order to publish what is CVA and what are the main definitions and abbreviation with all of them.

### **Syrian Arab red crescent:**

After 3 years of implementing CVA projects, Sally Alidlby the cash FP has mentioned to the key challenges have face the CVA team in 2022, as following:

- **Sanctions** : still play a critical role in delay implementation of the humanitarian projects in general and specifically in the cash projects as transferring the money takes long to be in Syria to send it to the vulnerable people , two examples have shared from the FP , the first is about delay in distribution of winterization assistance from OCT to Dec , the second is education projects that takes from 3 to 4 months after putting everything in place according to the delay in transferring the money .
- **Exchange rate**: the increasing in the exchange rate and (inflation) has a bad impact on the cash projects as the value of the assistance lose around 30% between the designing step to implementation date, which mean facing a lot of problem in calculating the budget and measure the impacts of the project.
- **Shortage of commodities (fuel)**: based on all the difficulties that cash team facing during the implementation of the project, also lack of primary commodities or services make it more complicated, like (fuel), electricity, bad internet, bad communication signal.
- **Huge increasing in people needs and increasing in the number of projects**: request the CVA team to unify the used tools and materials to follow up all projects and be able to monitor the progress of the projects and achievements.in the other side the CVA team keeps working and developing a new tool to help in delivering a quick and dignified assistance.

***Egypt red crescent:***

As Egyptian red crescent working closely with IFRC on cash Preparedness level and as it is one of priorities for the ERCS management, Pilar Badran the ERCS cash focal point pointed to the bright side of the new modality within different delivery mechanism, and relevant adapting on the national society procedures ,also digitalise the assistance strengthen the capacity of the NS , with mentioning to the good impact of the new modality based on the PDM and evaluation reports.

In the other hand the challenges have summarised as following:

- Capacity building of the volunteers, as they need to improve their understanding on cash assistance, also supporting of one technical focal point is not enough to support all project.
- Funding culture, the point raised here the difficulties on getting a fund from the donor for cash project, as most of the donors go to fund cash for work because they believe in the sustainability of this type of projects.
- IM training has not organised as it was proposed because of tight time on the agenda, but still this training is very helpful to the NS as ERC is aiming to make a CVA department.

**Cash centre of excellence:**

*During the 2022 the main challenges have faced the CCOE in implementing of its activities, Nagham Sayegh the CCOE coordinator as following:*

- *Keeping the NS FP busy with multiple activities and duties cause challenging in his engagement, so one of the recommendations has provided from Nagham is, any one from the team can stay connected with CCOE to continue and work on what has been agreed , as CCOE will provide all needed support to reduce all the pressure on the NS staff.*
- *Also, Nagham has provide some updates on the Peer-to-peer exchange experience visit to Syria, and the main challenges of postpone the visit to end of Jan or first of Feb. because of the delay in the visas issue.*

**3. Updates from members**

***Palestine red crescent:***

*At this moment PRCS CVA team with all supported unit (TWG) are in the last step to finalise the following documents:*

*CVA POA, CVA strategy, CVA SOP, CVA unit structure, CVA HR TOR (job description of CVA team) to be shared with the senior management to worked on and used.*

***Syrian Arab red crescent:***

*Based on the new delivery mechanism (transfer cash assistance through banks) that has piloted lately in 2022, and successful implementation, next year the number of the beneficiaries will be scaled up, and WFP and ICRC will shift part of in-kind assistance to cash.*

*Based on the interest from the donor in CVA, SARC is planning to expand CVA activities to more governorates  
Recruit more CVA officer to cover and support in CVA activities*

**Egypt red crescent:**

- ERC have done with the procurement process and contracted with 3 FSPs already, which this action would expand the implementation geographical area and make the cash assistance more efficient and quicker.

**4. Updates from facilitator**

**Financial service provider FSPs E-learning training.**

Supporting Geneva capacity building team in reviewing the translation of the online course module to Arabic, the process of reviewing under process and with collaboration with CCOE in reviewing and recording the voiced, also with regional procurement department to provide their support in reviewing the relevant terminology.

At the end of 2022, the training should launch in Arabic language on the IFRC plat form.

**Mapping CVA for health outcomes:**

Sub technical working group STWG working on survey to mapping the NS experience in CVA activities for health outcomes, the survey under reviewing and finalising after translating to Arabic, to share later with the NSs.

**Cash counting:**

Cash counting exercise will conduct in both the last month of 2022 and first month of 2023 to calculate all assistance and support that delivered to the people through Cash intervention.

**Catch up meeting:**

There will be a biweekly catch up meeting with the NSs with the focal points to keep us on updates and provide the support if needed.

**AOB**

NTR

**Meetings schedule**

The CoP meets every second Wednesday of the month at 11:30 Beirut time until March 2023 – the frequency of schedules will review during March 2023 meeting.

<b>MENA CVA Community of Practice meetings schedule</b>	
<b>Meeting #</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	1 <sup>st</sup> September, 2021
2	6 <sup>th</sup> October, 2021
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> November, 2021
4	1 <sup>st</sup> December, 2021
5	5 <sup>th</sup> January, 2022
6	2 <sup>nd</sup> February, 2022
7	2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022
8	13 <sup>th</sup> April, 2022

9	11 <sup>th</sup> May, 2022
10	8 <sup>th</sup> June, 2022
11	14 <sup>th</sup> July, 2022
12	10 <sup>th</sup> August, 2022
13	14 <sup>th</sup> September, 2022
14	12 <sup>th</sup> October, 2022
15	9 <sup>th</sup> November, 2022
16	14 <sup>th</sup> December, 2022
17	11 <sup>th</sup> January, 2023
18	8 <sup>th</sup> February, 2023
19	8 <sup>th</sup> March, 2023