

MENA CVA Community of Practice

Meeting #19 Minutes

*The meeting #19 did take place in 12/04/2023 on teams COP series meeting.

Meeting Details & agenda:

Date:	Wednesday 12th April 2023 - 11:00 to 12.00 (Beirut time)
Attendees:	<p>Facilitator: Nabeh Allaham/IFRC</p> <p>Palestine Red Crescent: Iman Daraldik</p> <p>Cash centre of excellence: Reem Jawhari, Nagham Sayegh</p> <p>Lebanese red cross: Hikmat Al amin, Elias Hazoury</p> <p>Danish red cross: Lea Nielsen</p> <p>Egypt red crescent: Pilar Badran</p>
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the Community of practice cash initiatives 2023: (25 min). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash counting 2022 updates. • Risk register matrix. • NS overview activities. • P2P results technical working group. • Updates from member. (15 min). • Updates from facilitator. (15 min). • AOB

Meeting minutes:

As this COP meeting is considered the third meeting and took a place at the end of the first quarter of the 2023, it was a good opportunity take a one step back to provide an updates to all COP members on ongoing cash activities and initiatives from the facilitator to keep the whole on the same loop .

Also to introduce the new Danish red cross representative in COP lea Nielsen instead of Veerle Schouten.

The updates cover 4 Main regional initiatives that have started at the beginning of 2023 as following:

- 1. Update on the Community of practice cash initiatives 2023.**
 - **Counting cash initiative 2022:**

As the 20th of march was the deadline to provide all cash inputs on the cash counting 2022 KOBO survey, the deadline has extended based on the request from some national society and until the 27th of March the number of NSs reported on their cash activities in 2022 reached to 3 national society as following:

- Yemen red crescent
- Egypt red crescent
- Lebanese red cross

With taking in account that Palestine red crescent have no implementation on cash. In addition to that updated, the Facilitator mentioned to some technical issues encountered the cash counting process, some records are not showing on the MENA spreadsheet and Visualisation dash board , and all these problems will raised up to Geneva in next meeting to be solved , and based on that he will shared the records with the NSs focal point to emphasis on the correct data . And still waiting the inputs from other national society to reported on 2022 cash activities.

- **Cash and voucher assistance Risk registers matrix:**

The facilitator gave both an induction on the Cash risk register matrix that has created based on the discussion in COP meetings and Peer 2 peer Syria to make up a task force focus on creating a risk register gathered all potential cash and voucher risks in the MENA region , to be used in their designing the CVA projects as a reference document , with ability to adjust some risks referring to their contexts , the task force consisted of 5 interested CVA focal points from 5 national societies , and the taskforce member selection done by nominate their self through open invitation ::

Elias Hazoury : Lebanese red cross
Pilar Badran: Egyptian red Crescent
Mohannad salah: Iraqi red Crescent
Hend Wasabi : Yemen red crescent
Majd Batrawi: Palestine red Crescent

And on the work process , by clarifying that the taskforce has established on 21th of MARCH , and first meeting has held on 28th of March , with starting on cash identification , and the updates will be shared in each COP meeting from one of the taskforce member to the COP members .

- **NS overview activities.**

the excel shared file has shared with the COP to add their cash activities and cash readiness to provide a comprehensive update on cash with the National society and to provide the chance to build up the coordination and sharing together their experience and lessons learned in the areas that they build their cash system or cash preparedness.

- **P2p technical working group:**

in terms of the Peer to Peer exchange results that tackled a really interesting technical topics in Cash , and based on what has mentioned in the last COP meeting 8/3/2023 on initiated a working groups in purpose of providing a appropriate environment for advanced discussion on each topic ,the last results of discussion ended with three main areas of interest in CVA where the participants are interested to expand their experience within participatory approach on :

- Information and Data Management.
- Standard Operating Procedures.
- Cash for Health.

the email has shared in 23rd of march with the COP member to select which working group are interested to join, the dead line was in 2nd of April , but it we extended to give more time based on extra holidays and reduction on working hours during Ramadan.

At the end, the facilitator has shared on the new **IFRC Global Innovation Summit** in Kenya on 26-28th June , in purpose of bringing together changemakers, thought leaders, and experts from around the world to share inspiring ideas, experiences, and insights. also this experience will allow us to investigate the changes we need to make to be more fit for present and future challenges, and the

role that innovation plays. with a minor details on who could attend this summit and what type of challenges , and the link [IFRC Global Innovation Summit 2023 — IFRC | Solferino Academy](#) has been shared for more in details to whom is interest .

Updates from members

Palestine red Crescent:

the updates has shared by Iman Daraldik on a new project in Gaza strip funded by Turkish red crescent to be implemented by supporting PRCS staff and volunteers in implementation , the project will target 125 HH Under chronic diseases and disabilities for 3 months .

the second was on the documents that were developed concerning the strategy, the plan of action and the standard operating procedures, until the moment still under endorsement from the management side, hopefully by the end of April, then they will be able to start with the second phase of the CVA preparedness.

Related to Echo PPP year 2 , PRCS will continue with capacity building component with focusing on delivering the CVA appropriate training to the concerned staff to provide them with the basic knowledge on CVA , with supported services and tools like KOBO , CVA tools ,as the PRCS management is looking to see all preparatory work has done before moving to any intervention beside the fund allocation , in addition to a simulation exercise to all departments and technical working group due to test the system and structure.

Egypt Red crescent:

the updates were shared from Pilar Badran focused on the Data management workshop with collaboration with IFRC regional office for 30 volunteers, as it come one of the lessons learned from Peer to peer visit in Syria , with delivering a few session on Cash and voucher assistance , beside sharing the lessons from other MENA county (Lebanese red cross , Syrian arab red crescent) experience in data management that presented in the P2P .

In the other side, a pilot project cash for work to will start in two months hopefully ,in north Sinai , with using the new contract with FSP (remittance company) with a 50 families as a pilot for testing the new delivering mechanism .

An update on the case study of DREF operation that has done in 2022, the draft has finalised with Cash centre of excellence and will be ready to be published very soon.

Lebanese red cross:

the main updated that shared from Hikmat Alamin started with kick off the second step on the national assessment project that targeted 100% of Lebanese household to be registered , while this phase of it took longer than what expected in relation to data security specially , in addition to building the proper infrastructure in terms of hardware, software, trainings before initiating with data ,collection .

in terms of cash projects, two cash projects signed by LRC management , and planed to start beginning of May the targeted group are both Lebanese and Syrian households , one is funded by BRC and the other by GRC .

And one more project with support Australian red cross in food security , still in the pipeline steps ,

Internal

Also one more an ongoing project with the Netherlands Red Cross. It's mainly food parcels with a cash for food component. Under this component, LRC piloting to contract with a new FSB ((million bridges)), it is a mobile money transfer ,where people are able withdraw the money from remittance company, or buying food from specific shops.

But in general, the whole purpose of this pilot is to build up the system of this delivery mechanism , furthermore, the benefits of this mechanism while the FSP is located in Barcelona ,Spain will sure the stability of the project in case banking system in Lebanon collapses or any other unset risks , the money can keep on going , and will not impact on the project , the interesting part of this mechanism that the beneficiaries will benefit while the calculation will be based on the black market rate not the official rate, which preserves the value of the assistance.

on the other hand, providing support to health department in IFRC cash for health initiative with LRC ,meantime , the project in the final stages of setting up all the technicalities with Red rose .

- **AOB**

Nothing has mentioned on under this point.

Meetings schedule

The CoP meets every second Wednesday of the month at 11:00 Beirut time until March 2023 – the frequency of schedules will review during March 2023 meeting.

MENA CVA Community of Practice meetings schedule	
Meeting #	Date
1	1 st September, 2021
2	6 th October, 2021
3	3 rd November, 2021
4	1 st December, 2021
5	5 th January, 2022
6	2 nd February, 2022
7	2 nd March 2022
8	13 th April, 2022
9	11 th May, 2022
10	8 th June, 2022
11	14 th July, 2022
12	10 th August, 2022
13	14 th September, 2022
14	12 th October, 2022
15	9 th November, 2022
16	14 th December, 2022
17	11 th January, 2023
18	8 th February, 2023
19	8 th March, 2023
20	12 th April ,2023

