

MENA CVA Community of Practice

Meeting #20Minutes

*The meeting #20 did take place in 10/05/2023 on teams COP series meeting.

Meeting Details & agenda:

Date:	Wednesday 10th May 2023 - 11:00 to 12.00 (Beirut time)
Attendees:	<p>Facilitator: Nabeh Allaham/IFRC</p> <p>Cash center of excellence: Reem Jawhari</p> <p>Lebanese red cross: Elias Hazoury</p> <p>Jordan red crescent society: Atallah Al-Hwayan</p> <p>Iran red crescent society: Abbas Mohammadi</p> <p>Syrian Arab red crescent: Sally Al-Edlbi</p> <p>Host:</p> <p>Cash learning partnership: Rana Nassar</p>
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to the new CVA members in community of practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Abbas Mohammadi (Iranian red crescent society). • Mr. Attaullah Al-Hayan (Jordan rec crescent society). • Cash learning partnership (CALP) network induction presentation: Rana Nassar the MENA regional Representative will join our meeting to present a briefing on Calp network initiatives and activities in MENA and beyond. • Updates from member. • Updates from facilitator. • AOB

Meeting minutes:

As this COP meeting is considered the fourth meeting the 2023, it was a good opportunity take a chance to welcome two new members from Jordan red crescent society and Iran red crescent society.

In addition to host Rana Nassar the MENA regional Representative will join our meeting to present a briefing on Calp network initiatives and activities in MENA and beyond.

in the other side, the floor is given to Syrian Arab red crescent to provide updates on the earthquake response.

1. Welcome to the new CVA members in community of practice.

New two CVA focal points from Jordan red crescent society **Atalla AL-Hwayan**. and Iran red crescent society **Abbas mohamadi** had introduced to themselves to the Community of practice Group members.

2. Cash learning partnership (CALP) network induction presentation:

As Cash learning platform Network is a dynamic global network of over 90 organizations engaged in the critical areas of policy, practice and research in humanitarian cash and voucher assistance (CVA). The COP send an invitation to host Calp in this meeting to provide a presentation ¹covered the following points:

- CALP network, who we are?
- CALP in MENA
- Regional thematic CVA trends
- Regional technical forum and community of practice

Basically, the presentation has provide a briefing on what is CALP Network, and its history, membership, strategy for 2025 what can the CVA practitioner and staff, volunteer find in, what are the CVA materials and training are available on the website, in addition to the current activities and initiatives are currently taking a place.

3. Updates from members

Syrian Arab Red crescent:

The updates on earthquake response, shared by Sally EL-Idlibi, highlighted the main challenges that delayed and postponed the first distribution. As the Syrian central bank has processed new legislation on the distribution of assistance to the affected people through the FSP in the country, all the lists should have an operation room ²stamp to be able to deliver the assistance.

Currently, the first list has been completed by SARC and contains all the affected people from the earthquake in all governorates except Aleppo and Latakia.

Related to the regular project, providing cash for livelihood (EMI) economic micro initiatives, food voucher distribution, and WFP planning to transfer cash for 70000 (still under discussion), the ICRC is interested in transferring and shifting some assistance to cash.

Lebanese red cross:

Elias Hazoury provided an updates on the challenges facing LVC projects in relation to developing the necessary infrastructure in terms of hardware, software, trainings, and data collection before moving on to the next step , in addition to the FSP (million Bridges in setting up and preparing the required documents to contract), as this was the FSP's first time

¹ CALP presentation: please find it in annex

² Operation rooms : The operations room are small committees that has been launched in all in the affected governorate by earthquake and it includes the government, Syria Trust, SARC and other actors

working with NGOs, which necessitated the bank asking for more information and documents for contracting that delay the implementation .

Jordan red crescent society:

Atallah Al-Hwayan started with a briefing on the JRCS experience with cash and voucher assistance and the type of delivery mechanism that was used in the previous interventions (paper voucher, e-voucher), explaining the operation process of selection criteria and targeted population, then moved on to provide an update on the ongoing projects recently.

The orphan sponsorship project is targeting 9000 orphans and is supported by Emirates Red Crescent through unconditional cash assistance, and exceptional agreements have been established with the bank to prepare a special ATM card to allow the targeted orphans to withdraw their assistance.

And he ended by highlighting the key challenges of a lack of funds to meet the basic needs of the poor community.

Iran red crescent society:

No major updates from Abbas mohamadi, but he highlighted on important and key advantages of using cash assistance in previous cash intervention be means of his communication directly with the communities during a different visit to the field and meet the local households, also he mentioned to the difficulties and challenges are facing the NS now in implementations the projects in relation to the bank system and sanctions.

- **Updates from Facilitator**

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 held the second meeting on 8th of May to start the discussion on identifying the roots and impacts of the potential risk which have been identified in the previous meeting , as they agreed on the date of the next meeting to start with the analysis the risks . the updates will be shared in each COP meeting from one of the taskforce members to the COP members.

- **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 2024 – the frequency of schedules will review during March 2024 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
21	10 th May 2023

Annex:



CALP MENA

CALP presentation : Overview - May 2023.