


**Cash Centre of Excellence**

**Middle East and North Africa**

Hosted by LRC 



# Cash and Voucher Assistance Echoes in MENA

## Navigating through Cash Activities in the MENA Region

Newsletter Issue 1- February 2024

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### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- 2023 MENA CVA THROWBACK
- UPCOMING EVENTS

# SO MUCH HAPPENED IN 2023

Lets take a Look at the Cash and Voucher Assistance  
Updates in the MENA

## Cash Community of Practice Acheivments

01

Developing the CVA recommended training list that gathered the relevant CVA training from different platforms, like Calp, the IFRC platform, and Kaya. The trainings were categorized to different levels (entry, intermediate, and advanced, in addition to practical training and resource materials), to guide the staff and volunteers through their developing capcaity journey in CVA. [CVA recommended trainings](#)

02

Developing the MENA CVA regional road map for 2024 -2025 by MENA cash Community of practice members, and PNSs . the roadmap serves as a strategic guide, identifying key activities and areas of coordination and collaboration at both national and regional levels. These can also serve as points of reference in developing an aligned regional plan of action for CVA initiatives for the period 2024-25, thereby fostering a harmonious approach to CVA readiness and implementation throughout the MENA region.

03

Designing the cash register matrix by a harmonized specific task force consisting of 5 national societies' CVA focal points (Egypt Red Crescent, Lebanon Red Cross, Yemen Red Crescent, Iraqi Red Crescent, and Palestine Red Crescent). The Risk Register is provided as a technical tool to support the NSs in designing their cash project proposal and clarify the main roots of the risk and its impacts on the programme and organization, in addition to summaries of the key mitigation activities to reduce the negative impacts. [MENA CVA risk register](#).

04

Conducting consistent meetings; COP managed to hold 10 meetings successfully with productive initiatives created based on joint discussions and suggestions from the group, where the meeting has been restructured to three main slots, that will open the floor for all members to participate and have an effective role in the group, all the meetings have recorded and the MOM shared on [Cash Hub Platform](#).



# CVA Regional Initiatives

A regional technical team is set to support the NSs in FSP contracting process , consisting of (cash, finance, and procurement) departments .

Finalized cash counting exercise for year 2022 where the total amount of cash and voucher assistance reached 8.5 million USD for 48,315 HH in 6 countries.

Hosting the third annual Cash Peer Working Group (CPWG) meeting by the Lebanese Red Cross for 3 days from October 3 to October 5 2023.

Mapping NSs' contracted FSP in the MENA region for 6 national societies (SARC, LRC, IRCS, JRCS, ERCS , YRCS).

## Total cash assistance

In 2022 Cash & Voucher Assistance was implemented by 6 MENA national societies (Egypt Red Crescent, Lebanese Red Cross, Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Iraqi Red Crescent Society, Yemen Red Crescent, and Jordanian Red crescent). (The total Cash Assistance reached to 8.5 million CHF, to 48,315 HH).

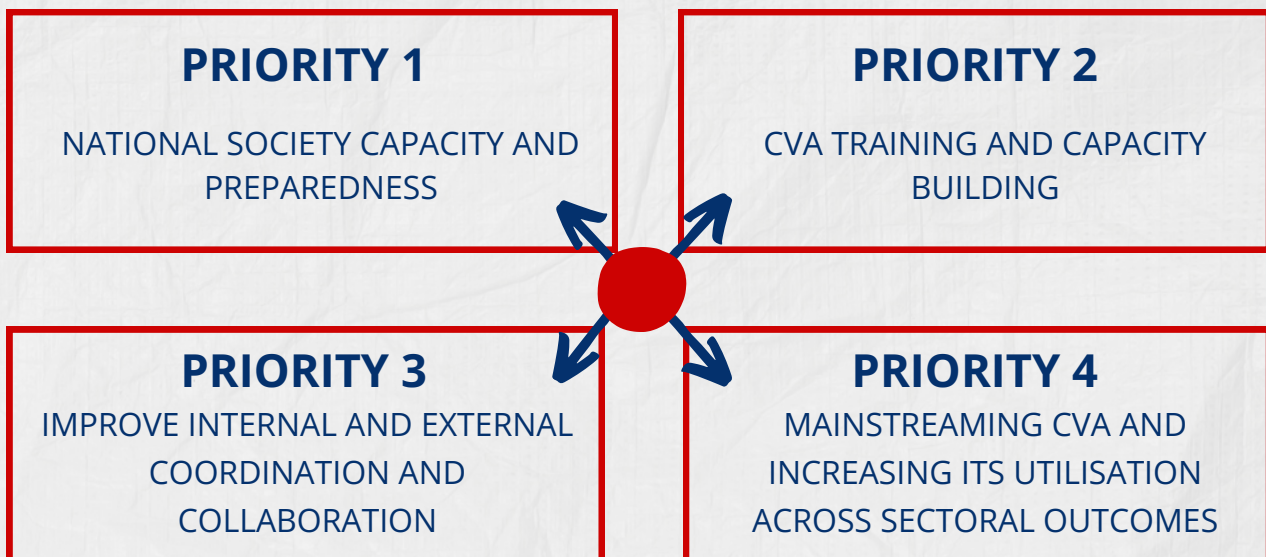
## CVA Preparedness

Under the Cash and voucher assistance preparedness, the Iraqi Red Crescent and Syrian Arab Red Crescent conducted a CVA self-assessment exercise ,this exercise aims to scale the state of CVA preparedness of the NS and identify the key activities that integrate CVA into the organization system, structure, procedures, and staff capacity.

In February 2023 Iraqi RCS held a self-assessment workshop on the collaborative and coordinated approach between BRC, DRC, and IFRC, the workshop was the first Arabic workshop where all the tools used were translated into Arabic as well, then the Syrian Arab Red Crescent in Dec 2023, both NSs designed their Plan of action and required budget for two years 2024-2025.

The Dashboard addresses each NS level of CVA readiness, Clarifies the cash implementation in different sectors, and participation of NSs in CVA initiatives in the MENA region, furthermore, lists the CVA focal point contacts, the important role of the dashboard that gives the CVA FPs easy access and clear understanding on ongoing CVA updates in different countries, that will robust the coordination and exchange of experience, tools, materials with each other. Microsoft Power BI.

## CVA Regional Priorities





# **Upcoming Events**

## **Peer-to-Peer Exchange Program 2024**

**Host:** Iranian Red Crescent Society

Form March 2 until March 6

[MENA CVA Webinars](#)

[Mentoring Programme](#)

## **MENA CVA Peer-to-Peer Exchange Programme**

The MENA Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Exchange Programme seeks to provide the opportunity to bring together MENA region National Society professionals who play lead CVA roles, in order to enable in-person sharing of experiences, best practices, challenges and lessons learned from RCRC CVA programming

In 2023, MENA CCoE launched its second peer-to-peer exchange programme with 5 national societies' participation (Syrian Arab Red Crescent, Lebanese Red Cross, Egypt Red Crescent, Palestine Red Crescent, and Yemen Red Crescent ) , in Damascus in January, the programme extended for 5 full days.





## A CVA Spotlight

In 2023, several diverse crises struck MENA nations. Being an effective and efficient modality for meeting the immediate needs of affected people, Cash and Voucher Assistance became one of the default response choices in the national societies' operational plans.

That was reflected in increasing the investment in NSs' capacity and readiness to put the cash system in place as follows:

- Two NSs conducted the self-assessment exercise to assess their capacity to design the plan of action; two NSs proceeded with FSP's contracting agreements.
- Two new NSs appointed a CVA focal point (Jordan RCS, Libya RCS)
- Three NSs started designing the standard operational procedures (Iraq RCS, Yemen RCS, and Palestine RCS); hence, three NSs started with pilots to mainstream cash into other sectors (education, health, and protection).
- 2023 witnessed a CVA surge of delegates deployed to support the NSs in setting up the cash program based on standard criteria through their emergency appeals, like Morocco RC, Libya RCS, and Syrian Arab RC.

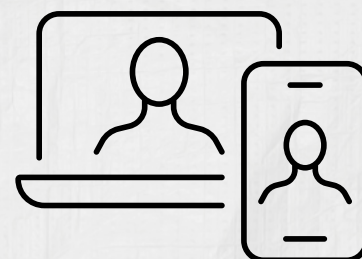


## MENA CVA Mentoring Program 2023

Kicking off a learning journey of CVA in the MENA region with the Mentoring Program. It includes five participants mentored by CVA experts to strengthen their CVA knowledge and skills.

The Cash Centre of Excellence has developed a mentoring programme which aims to strengthening the regional cash capacity and investing in learning opportunities for practitioners.

Within the programme, practitioners will be paired with a cash mentor for 6 months to expand their knowledge and expertise in in a specific technical area of CVA. The mentor will guide the practitioner through tailored learning steps, with additional remote technical support available at all times from the [Cash Helpdesk](#).

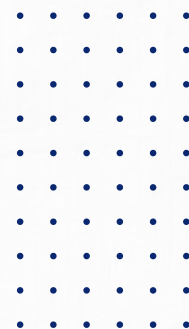


# MENA CVA LEARNING MATERIAL

YOU CAN FILL THE LINK NOW



- Is your National Society working in Cash and Voucher Assistance?
- Do you want to bring value to the region and share your experience in CVA?



***HERE IS THE OPPORTUNITY!***

MENA Cash Center of Excellence is offering the opportunity of working closely with the MENA Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies to showcase your work!



If you are interested in this opportunity, press here and fill the link.

We will contact you soon!



# UNTIL OUR NEXT EDITION

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CASH HUB:

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