

MENA CVA Community of Practice

Meeting #28 minutes

*The meeting #28 did take place in 13/02/2024 on teams COP series meeting.

Meeting Details & agenda:

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| Date: | Wednesday 13th March 2024- 11:00 to 12.00 (Beirut time) |
| Attendees: | <p>Facilitator: Nabeh Allaham/IFRC CVA thematic lead Co-chair: Elias Hazory, Lebanese Red Cross</p> <p>Cash centre of excellence: Reem Jawahari, Nagham Sayegh Lebanese Red Cross: Nour Hamadeh Syrian Arab Red Crescent: Khaled Al-Madani Iraqi Red Crescent: Rash Younes. Egypt Red Crescent: Kholoud Tarek, Rahma Hanafy. Iranian Red Crescent : Abbas Mohammadi Yemen Red crescent: Hend Wosabi</p> <p>Cash Hub: Azim Noorani</p> |
| Agenda: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening the meeting. (5 min). • Cash Peer-to-peer programme. (15 min). to update on the P2P programme for 2024 that take place in Iran_in March. • MENA Cash and voucher assistance newsletter 2023. (10 min) • Updates from the COP members (15Min). • Updates from Facilitator (10 min). Update on the upcoming training. Update on the new Cash in emergency tools. • AOB (5 min) |

Meeting minutes:

This COP meeting is considered the third meeting in the series of COP monthly meetings in 2024. It was a good opportunity to cover different points and focus on ongoing activities nationally, regionally, and globally with MENA NSs focal points, and provide an update from the facilitator.

1. Opening the meeting:

The facilitator started by welcoming all COP members and provided a special thanks to the new COP Co-chair, (Elias Hazory from the Lebanese Red Cross) for his interest in playing this role for the next three months and highlighted that the COP will be led by new Co-chair, in addition, to welcoming the newly joined member (Nour Hamadeh) from the Lebanese Red cross.

2. Cash Peer-to-peer exchange programme.

In this part ,Nagham from the CCOE provided a briefing on the Cash peer-to-peer programme conducted in Tehran from the 3rd to the 6th of March 2024, and thanked the Host Ns (Iran RC) and the participants from three NSs (Iraqi RC, Syrian ARC, Lebanese RC), while CCOE prepared a presentation with the key activities that took a place in the workshop (collecting the best practices and shared the participants experience with each other, managed to collect the currently used tools, materials in performing CVA projects), and finished with mentioning the P2P programme report will be finalized and share in April.

Nabeh ALLAHAM (thematic lead) added one point on what has been mentioned above that the participants from all NSs managed to put 2 key objectives to be achieved in 6 months m where the plan of action will be finalized and will be monitored with close collaboration with the CVA focal points.

3. MENA Cash and Voucher Assistance Newsletter 2023

Reem Jawahari from CCOE presented the CVA MENA Newsletter, the first edition in both Arabic and English m that was shared on the COP Mena page on the Cash Hub website, the Newsletter contains the key CVA activities in 2023 from both national and regional levels, in addition to upcoming regional and learning event for 2024, then finished by encouraging all the NSs to share all what they would like to be published on the newsletter for the upcoming editions.

4. Updates from COP members:

• Lebanese Red Cross:

Nour Hamadeh provided the updates on LRC activities, started by projects , where 4 main projects are ongoing in LRC,(providing MPCA for 188 HH in Tripoli, providing an MPCA for 220 HH in Saida, and 260 HH in Akar as well, both projects the LRC is working on collecting the data of vulnerable people to set up the selected people based on targeting criteria, in relation to the first project will be implementing through Million bridges, the pilot will take a place in mount Lebanon for 100 HH receiving their assistance form LRC through FSP (Wish money).

On the other hand, LRC has applied to most of the training shared by the Community of practices (PECT, LPC, CVA), In the end Nour mentioned that all the CVA tools are shared already with CCOE and available to be shared with any interested NS.

• Iraqi Red Crescent:

Rash Younes provided updates on IRCS activities, starting with the ongoing MPCA projects with German RC for 2700 beneficiaries in three governors, where the PDM will be conducted in upcoming weeks by using different tools like (PDM survey, focus group discussion with the local community with conceding the Gender balance), in addition to work on the case study, to reflect how that cash assistance impact on the targeted people.

• Iranian red crescent:

Abbas provided the updates on the current DREF that launched with a cash component to provide ash assistance to the affected people by the Sistan flood, in addition, The Iranian Red Crescent looking for additional CVA employee to support the CVA team and engage more in CVA activities.

The CVA team started reviewing a few SOPS guidance and examples to set up the pipeline for CVA in the National Society, where meetings with heads of units will take place in the upcoming weeks to draw the proper way of work and collaboration.

- Egypt red crescent:**
 Rahma Hanafy provided the updates from the ERC side, starting with the Gaza response, ERC with collaboration with UNHCR finished cash distribution for 64 Palestinian HH in Egypt (in the hospital who are receiving medical treatment), by providing cash in hands directly to cover their basic needs, while the hospital expenses cover directly by Ministry of health.

- Yemen Red Crescent:**
 Hend provided YRCS updates, including information on the MPCA project in collaboration with Norwegian RC in three governorates (Lahej, Shaboua, and Sanaa), where the second distribution will begin next week, while the distribution in Sanaa will be postponed slightly. 465 HH are targeted in this project based on critical targeting criteria for IDPs and host communities for three distributions, with 200 USD provided monthly for each HH.

YRCS will hold a CVA training for volunteers next week on the implementation tools that will be used in these projects.

- Syria Arab red crescent:**
 Khaled al Madani provided an update on SARC cash interventions, Khaled mentioned that CVA team still closing some cash projects from 2023, and recently planning new projects for 2024, (Cash for relief for 10000 HH in 13 governorates with ICRC, MPCA assistance for 3000 HH (cash for protection) with Swedish RC , 2 projects with TDH in 2 governorates providing cash assistance through E-voucher, at the end cash for work project for 300 beneficiaries.

5. Updates from COP facilitator:

Nabeh provided the COP members with global and regional updates, starting with PECT training, which will take place in Uganda., where 4 people from 2 NSs applied, while the organizer will come back to you after finalizing the selection process in two weeks. related to Cash with AA (anticipatory action) the opportunity share has already been with the COP but no response on that till now, at the end of the Livelihood resource centre livelihood programme course as well.

In addition, highlighted the new cash-in emergency tools that were updated in two areas (leadership commitment, and test, learn, and improve) where all these tools are available on the cash hub page.

Meetings schedule

The CoP meets every second Wednesday of the month at 11:00 Beirut time until February 2025 – the frequency of schedules will be reviewed during the February 2025 meeting.

| MENA CVA Community of Practice meetings schedule | |
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| 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 |

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|----|----------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 22 | 14 th June 2023 |
| 23 | 12 th July 2023 |
| 24 | 9 th August 2023 |
| 25 | 11 th October 2023 |
| 26 | 8 TH November 2023 |
| 27 | 13 th December 2023 |
| 28 | 10 TH January 2024 |
| 29 | 14 th February 2024 |
| 30 | 13 th March 2024 |