

## MENA CVA Community of Practice

### Meeting #30 - 35 minutes

\*The meeting #30 did take place in 12/06/2024 on teams COP series meeting.

Meeting Details & agenda:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2024- 11:00 to 12.00</b> (Beirut time)
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b>Facilitator:</b> Nabeh Allaham, IFRC CVA thematic lead</p> <p><b>Cash Center of Excellence:</b> Nagham Sayegh, Reem Jawhari</p> <p><b>Lebanese Red Cross:</b> Nour Hamadeh</p> <p><b>Syrian Arab Red Crescent:</b> Khaled Al-Maadani</p>
<b>Agenda:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cash and voucher assistance mentoring program updates: 10 min).</b> CCOE will provide COP members with updates on the ongoing process of the CVA mentoring project.</li> <li>• <b>Cash counting exercise 2024: (5 min)</b> The CVA regional thematic lead will provide an update on the cash counting process.</li> <li>• <b>Updates from the COP members (20Min).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NS society focal points will provide an update on both current and future projects, pieces of training, and initiatives in 2024.</li> <li>• Briefing on Reem’s deployment to Tonga (cash school)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Updates from the Facilitator (15min).</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CVA section on the HSP toolkit is now live.</li> <li>• Update on CVA dashboard.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>AOB (5 min)</b></li> </ul>

**Meeting minutes:**

This COP meeting is considered the fifth 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:**

Nabeh started by welcoming all COP members.

**2. Cash and voucher assistance mentoring program**

Nagham began by providing a briefing on the mentoring program and mentioned that the participants are currently working on finishing the research paper. The following day, the mentees will have individual meetings with each professor to get final feedback in order to submit the final versions. A ceremony event will follow to launch the research papers completed by the participants and reflect on the process. The peer-to-peer report will be published by June 2024.

Nagham added that the CCoE members and Nabeeh are planning a series of online activities that will address the needs of the MENA region. Additionally, they are coordinating with SARC for a webinar on Earthquake Response, which will highlight the efforts, challenges, and lessons learned.

### **3. Cash counting exercise 2024**

Nabeeh provided an update on the Cash Counting Exercise for 2024, mentioning that he received the submitted information from all National Societies. However, he is still waiting for final confirmation on some inputs shared via email to double-check the information from some NSs. This is particularly important because all these inputs will be shared globally from all the NSs on CashHub.

### **4. Updates from COP members:**

#### **• Cash Center of Excellence:**

Reem began by providing a brief overview of her deployment in Tonga. She started with an account of her experience with cash operations, initially with the EcoSec team at ICRC and later as an EcoSec Officer with LRC, where she worked on the cash response for the Beirut Blast and various other cash projects. Two years ago, Reem joined the Cash Center of Excellence.

Last year, Reem enrolled in the Cash Practitioner Development Program with Cash School. This program helps cash practitioners develop their skills to become experts in specific topics or objectives they set for themselves. This is why she had the opportunity to be deployed in Tonga, as the deployment is part of the Cash Practitioner Development Program.

The deployment took place in Tonga, located in the Pacific Region, and lasted for four weeks in person and two weeks remotely, working with the team. The objective of the deployment was to develop knowledge and skills for mainstreaming cash within sectors and departments as preparedness activities to enhance CVA capacity and response readiness.

The main activities that Reem worked on were:

- Appointing a CVA focal Person
- Cash induction and visioning workshop
- Cash and Voucher Assistance Vision development document
- CVA Self-Assessment
- CVA Learning Plan
- CVA Roles and Responsibilities
- CVA Plan of Action

Nagham mentioned that it was a hard and challenging trip and emphasized the good work done by Reem. Nabeeh asked about the cash component, specifically whether it was already in place in the National Society (NS) or if Reem started from scratch, and what challenges were faced.

Reem answered that they didn't have a cash component. However, two years ago, a flood occurred, and they decided to use cash during this emergency, working as implementers without having the necessary processes and tools in place. After that, they didn't work with cash again. They knew that cash was important and wanted to use it, but it was not embedded in their strategy. Therefore, the decision was made to review the old documents and then embed cash into the strategy to start working with it.

#### **• Lebanese Red Cross:**

Nour provided update on the training on the Market Based Programming held in the past months for staff and volunteers and mentioned that the EcoSec team is working on the training path. Nour added that the LRC decided not to proceed with the Data Sharing Agreement, opting instead to add some questions to the assessment to decrease the margin of error and duplication while identifying the Syrian beneficiaries. Now the EcoSec team is finalizing the caseload to start disbursing the cash assistance next month.

Moreover, Nour mentioned that they are facing some challenges with the project with MillionBridges in Aley and Keserwan and aim to resolve these challenges soon.

- **Syrian Arab Red Crescent:**

Khaled started by highlighting that so far the Cash team hasn't conducted any training; however, a Data Management Literacy training will take place next month in three governorates: Hama, Idlib, and Latakia. Khaled added that they are facing some challenges in conducting the RAM and CVA trainings, but the plan is to conduct those trainings in August.

Regarding the projects using vouchers, the Cash team is working on 6 projects using E-Vouchers, Commodity Vouchers with Save, or Value Vouchers with AVSI. The voucher values are between 735,000 Syrian Lira (approximately \$60) and 960,000 Syrian Lira (approximately \$90) per household. The commodity voucher is for 1,500 households, for one distribution, and includes 20 items.

As for the Livelihoods projects with ICRC, AVSI, SRC, and DRC, these are in 8 governorates with a transfer value of up to 16 million Syrian Lira.

They also has a Cash for Relief project with ICRC for 10,800 beneficiaries. This project includes up to 5 disbursements based on the number of individuals in each household, with a transfer value of 1.5 million Syrian Lira for each payment.

Khaled added that they have a project with UNHCR where the team provides technical support. This project includes 12,000 households with a transfer value of 3 million Syrian Lira.

Additionally, there is a cash for education project with SRC for 1,032 beneficiaries, providing multipurpose cash assistance covering 65% of the MEB (5,277,000 Syrian Lira) for 3 months.

Moreover, the Cash Unit has 2 projects with the Health Department:

1. Funded by Mission East for nutrition, this project provides multipurpose cash assistance for 500 households, covering 65% of the MEB.
2. Funded by SwRC, this project aims to link people with disabilities with mental health clinics. It includes 2 transfers: the first provides 65% of the MEB for 3 months to meet basic needs, and the second is based on an assessment by the case manager in the community centers or on medication costs provided by the mental health clinics for each beneficiary.

Lastly, for the Earthquake response, the caseload is 8,055 beneficiaries with a transfer value of 3,150,000 Syrian Lira. Further discussion with the Cash Working Group will be necessary to review this transfer value, especially after the inflation in 2024.

Nabeeh asked why the transfer value for the multipurpose cash assistance is 65% of the MEB. Khaled answered that this is based on the recommendation from the Cash Working Group. The current MEB value in Syria is approximately 2,700,000 Syrian pound, and Syrian households are able to cover 35% of the MEB, so they cover the remaining 65%.

Khaled added that the Cash Working Group will create a task force to review the MEB items to determine if there is a need to modify the percentages allocated to different sectors (food, education, etc.).

## **5. Updates from COP facilitator:**

Nabeeh provided two updates:

1. HSP Tool: The HSP (Human Service Point) is an updated tool designed to assist in providing cash assistance. The HSPs are points created for migrants or refugees after a crisis or disaster to provide assistance, whether in-kind or other types of support. Following several recommendations, the migrants or affected population can now benefit from cash assistance due to the modifications of the tools and modules.

2. Semi Annual update of the Dashboard: Nabeeh will share emails to follow up on the projects and implementations to track the NSs' progress and capacities in different sectors and delivery mechanisms.

### 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	
Meeting #	Date
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
20	12 <sup>th</sup> April ,2023
21	10 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
22	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2023
23	12 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
24	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
25	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
26	8 <sup>TH</sup> November 2023
27	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
28	10 <sup>TH</sup> January 2024
29	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
30	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
31	10 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
32	May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
33	June 12 <sup>th</sup> 2024

