

MENA CVA Community of Practice

8th of January 2025

*The First CVA MENA COP meeting take place in 8/01/2025 on teams COP series meeting.

Meeting Details & agenda:

Date:	Wednesday January 8th , 2025- 11:00 to 12.00 (Beirut time)
Attendees: 11 attendances	<p>Facilitator: Nabeh Allaham, IFRC CVA thematic lead</p> <p>Cash Center of Excellence: Reem Jawhari , Nagham Sayegh</p> <p>Egyptian Red Crescent: Raham Ahmad Hanafy, Kholod Tarek</p> <p>Lebanese red cross: Elisia Abdo, Nour Hamadeh</p> <p>Yemen red crescent: Hend Wosabi</p> <p>Iraqi red crescent: Rash Younes</p> <p>Iranian Red crescent society : Abaas Mohammadi</p> <p>Norwegian red cross: Michael Consuelo</p>
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and opening the meeting. (5 min). • Updates from the COP members (15 Min). COP members will provide an update on 2025 CVA plan . • Updates from the COP facilitator: (20 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflection on the MENA COP annual meeting in NOV 2024. • Updates on the Nov trainings (CFSS TOT , PECT). • MENA CVA Newsletter 2024. • COP _co-chair. • Cash counting exercise 2024-2025. • AOB (10 min)

Meeting minutes:

This COP meeting is the first meeting in the series of COP monthly meetings in 2025. It was a good opportunity to gather again in the new year , review the new CVA plan for the NSs , and 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:

Starting by welcoming the COP members, explaining the COP agenda points , and mentioning to the main updates on the Cop group , as our colleagues Rendal Gedion will not join any more the meeting in 2025 , as he finished his mission with DRC :

2. Updates from COP members:

- **Egyptian red crescent:**

Kholod from ERC started the updates with continuing the distribution of cash assistance to the Palestinian families in Egypt, in the other side the ERC is planning to support the Sudanese families as well , then Nabeh mentioned to the IFRC support to the Sudanese family in Egypt through cash assistance , where the coordination will start take place soon with ERC CVA team .

- **Yemen Red Crescent:**

Hend started with the updates on 2025 CVA plan, where the YRSC's plan will focus on CVA operation, in addition to the organizational readiness by contracting a new vendor for voucher project, and renew the contract with the exist FSPs.

In addition to focus on the capacity building actives, like conducting a CVA training in the 13 branches, with strengthening the community engagement and accountability, with an affective feedback mechanism.

At the end YRCS is planning to conduct ta mid review Self-assessment exercise.

- **Lebanese Red Cross:**

Elisia Abdo from the LRC divided the update into two categories, as follows:

On the regular programing level:

- LRC-EcoSec has signed on a cash for wash project, where cash is integrated with the wash, by providing conditional unrestricted assistance for the targeted people, the project is targeting the Syrian and Lebanese population in equal.
- GRC funds for MPCA project is pipelined, awaiting the feedback needed to initiate the process. The selection will be based on vulnerability scoring as previous MPCA projects.
- Livelihood projects will be implemented with ICRC through bilateral OCA and through a trilateral agreement with BRC and ICRC (ongoing project from 2024).
- LRC is planning to start the CVAP process in 2025, the activity is approved, and the funding is secured to be conducted in the first quarter of 2025.
- EcoSec training path is shared with the IFRC MENA CVA thematic lead CCOE for validation, in parallel LRC is developing the training materials and guidance , once has been done it will be shared with the technical parties for their recommendation .
- EcoSec is working to extend their delivery mechanism with Purple application with BLF Bank (money wallet) to be used for humanitarian CVA assistance, the new DM will be tested in a pilot project with Netherlands RC, that is going from the last year (cash for food , for 100Lebanese HH , through e-wallet). The evaluation will be conducted to check on the efficiency.

On Emergency EcoSec response:

- LRC is planning to distribute MPCA (200USD/ one-off Emergency cash) for approx. 7450 families, through cash on counter modality to target areas Lebanon specifically to South ,Mount Lebanon (Dahyeh) and Baalback-El Hermel in the first quarter of 2025 and to be completed by march 2025 , the funds are secured and ready to be delivered. Partners that are supporting the LRC emergency are Canadian, Swiss, Netherlands, Swedish, IFRC, NOR Cross and DRC .
- In the next step is LRC are going to fundraise to continue their support to the affected people (next stage) by distributing 200 USD for each family for 6 months, according to the

recommendation and close coordination with the cash working group , and relevant cluster in Lebanon , where the assistance calculated based on it (100 USD for food security , 45USD for basic needs , 55USD for wash).

- **Iraqi Red Crescent:**

Racha from the IRCS provided the updated on the ongoing projects from 2024, regarding the Danish red cross projects, the IRCS has finished the second distribution of 108 grants in dehook camp , by providing 400\$ through , cash in hand by a committee from the HQ.

Regarding to the GRC project, IRCS managed to distribute the second installment for 80 grant ,200 USD in salah Alden governorate.

The second project with GRC is cash for work 30 employee has received a cash assistance, the project was conducted in a close coordination with the relevant authorities (the main purpose on the project is to help in cultivate a empty places to fight Drought and desertification.

The third project with GRC is targeted 326 workers to lean the street and schools, and to deliver cash through hand.

The question come from the ERC colleagues asking on the assistance value and the duration of the project, the answer was the transfer value was 200 USD for two months,

- **Iranian Red Crescent:**

Abbas mentioned that IRCS is planning to conduct a CVA awareness session for the different departments in the HQ , to provide and brief on cash and voucher assistance .

- **Cash center of excellence CCOE:**

Reem started the updates with the upcoming webinar that will take a place on 28 th of Jan to explain on the learning documents from the mentoring programmes,

3. Updates from COP members

- Nabeh started with the quick updates on the MENA annual meeting in NOV , with mentioned to the main outcomes (challenges , recommendation , and priorities) , and highlighted the main recommendation to the COP monthly basis meeting , where we will continue with our approach , in addition to focus on the MENA CVA COP co-chair , where the email will be send to check on the interest of the CVA focal point to co-chair the cop.
- In the other side, the MENA CVA newsletter, to highlight the main achievement in 2024 from both the national society and regional level, where the email will be shared with the COP FP to provide their inputs from their NSs prospective.
- Preparedness mapping exercise: Nabeh mentioned he will reach out to the CVA FP to get their input on this exercise to updates all the info on the CVA preparedness for the NS.

- **Cash counting exercise:** Nabeh remind the COP member to access to the CVA counting exercise and fill their inputs, or to prepare all the required information , then in case they have any support they can reach out at any time to help .

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 2026 meeting.