



# Cash for Protection Programme

Lessons Learnt from  
the Earthquake Response





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone involved in making this document especially to the Protection Specialists working in the field.

Their dedication and efforts in reaching individuals affected by the earthquakes have been invaluable. Their contributions have played a crucial role in shaping and improving the Cash for Protection Programme, ensuring that those in need receive the necessary assistance.

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# CONTENS

<b>FOREWORD</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>INTRODUCTION &amp; BACKGROUND</b> .....	<b>3</b>
Background on the Cash for Protection Program .....	<b>3</b>
Cash for Protection Program Design .....	<b>5</b>
A Protection Cash Program is Where .....	6
Key Features of the Program Design .....	7
The Process of Case Management and The Decision for Intervention .....	8
Integration with Case Management .....	10
Intervention Implementation .....	11
<b>CASH FOR PROTECTION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Role of MEB in CfP Design .....	12
New Payment Categories .....	13
People Reached/Assisted Through Cash for Protection Program .....	13
<b>KEY FINDINGS</b> .....	<b>17</b>
Key Findings from the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with Field Workers on the Cash for Protection Program .....	17
Results of the Post-Distribution Monitoring .....	<b>18</b>
Methodology .....	18
Key Findings from PDM Report .....	19
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED FOR CASH FOR PROTECTION PROGRAMS</b> .....	<b>21</b>
Recommendations .....	21
Lessons Learned .....	23
<b>Conclusion</b> .....	<b>24</b>



# FOREWORD

The catastrophic earthquakes that struck Türkiye in early 2023 left an indelible mark on thousands of lives. Entire communities were uprooted, lives were disrupted, and the need for immediate and sustained humanitarian assistance became a matter of urgency. In the face of profound crisis, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), mobilized its resources and expertise to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable.

Among the innovative tools deployed during this response was Cash for Protection Assistance, designed as a critical component of our case management strategy. This approach sought not only to meet the immediate financial needs of affected individuals but also to provide targeted, protection-focused support to those at heightened risk, including women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. By empowering individuals with the agency to prioritize their unique needs, the Cash for Protection model reinforced the dignity and resilience of those we aimed to serve.

This document, *Cash for Protection Programme: Lessons Learnt from the Earthquake Response*, reflects our collective experiences in implementing the Cash for Protection Assistance. It offers an analysis of our achievements, the challenges we encountered, and the invaluable lessons that will inform and strengthen future humanitarian interventions. As we address the challenges of disaster response and recovery, this initiative highlights the transformative impact of innovation and collaboration in humanitarian efforts.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who contributed to this effort—our dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and most importantly, the communities who placed their trust in us during their time of greatest need. We hope that the insights captured here will inspire and guide future endeavors, ensuring that our collective responses continue to uphold the principles of humanity, impartiality, and dignity.

# INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

## TÜRKİYE, 2023 KAHRAMANMARAŞ EARTHQUAKE PROGRAMME



## BACKGROUND ON THE CASH FOR PROTECTION PROGRAMME

On February 6, 2023, at 04:17 and 13:24 local time, Türkiye experienced two devastating earthquakes with magnitudes of 7.7 and 7.6, centered in Pazarcık and Elbistan districts of Kahramanmaraş. Additionally, on February 20, 2023, at 20:04 local time, another earthquake with a magnitude of 6.4 struck the Yayladağı district in Hatay. These earthquakes caused severe destruction across 11 provinces: Adana, Adiyaman, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Kilis, Malatya, Osmaniye, and Şanlıurfa.

These disasters, among the most devastating of the century, impacted an area of 120,000 km<sup>2</sup> and affected 14 million people. A total of 53,537 lives were lost, and 107,204 individuals were injured. The February 2023 earthquakes affected an area larger than 133 countries by land size and impacted a population greater than that of 157 countries.<sup>1</sup>

Disasters and emergencies often create profound and multifaceted challenges for individuals, families, and communities. These challenges threaten physical and psychological safety, hinder access to essential services, and exacerbate pre-existing inequalities and intersecting forms of discrimination. The February 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye severely impacted populations, specifically those with pre-existing vulnerabilities including children, women, older persons, people with disabilities, and the refugee population.

<sup>1</sup> Kahramanmaraş ve Hatay Depremleri Yeniden İmar ve Gelişme Raporu // ANKARA 2024. P. 6. <https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Kahramanmaraş-ve-Hatay-Depremleri-Yeniden-İmar-ve-Gelişme-Raporu-1.pdf>

Among the affected population, an estimated 4 million school-age children, including 350,000 refugee children<sup>2</sup>, faced significant disruptions to their education. Damage to schools, repurposing of educational facilities as shelters or warehouses, relocation of families to different provinces, and the psychological toll on children and their families have resulted in irregular or no school attendance. Addressing these educational challenges is critical, as prolonged disruptions risk long-term adverse effects on the affected children's development and well-being.

Beyond education, access to other essential services has also been deeply affected. According to OCHA's report, "Humanitarian Transition Overview - Türkiye Earthquake Response<sup>3</sup> (August 2023)," vulnerabilities among the affected population have intensified their difficulties in accessing services, information, and support. Many households have suffered the loss of family members, community structures, safety nets, and sources of income. Single female-headed households and single parents have been particularly impacted, facing disproportionate challenges in securing basic needs and accessing support services.

Additionally, the loss or lack of personal documentation—such as civil registration, Temporary Protection (TP) or International Protection (IP) registration, and housing, land, and property documentation—has posed significant barriers. These barriers have hindered access to critical services and the realization of fundamental rights, particularly for individuals needing to update or register changes in family composition, such as registering newborns.

The earthquake also placed immense pressure on protection services. Damage to institutional facilities and the limited capacity of the Ministry of Family and Social Services created significant gaps in responding to high-risk protection cases. Concerns related to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection have surged in the aftermath of the disaster, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions to address these vulnerabilities.

Women and girls have faced compounded challenges in the aftermath of the earthquakes, with pre-existing gender inequalities exacerbated by the disaster's impacts. According to the UN Women Brief on Earthquake in Türkiye<sup>4</sup>, women have taken on increased caregiving responsibilities for children, the elderly, and disabled family members amid reduced institutional support and limited access to care services. These burdens, combined with disrupted access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, have severely constrained women's ability to engage in paid work or focus on recovery efforts.

Persons with disabilities (PwDs) have also experienced heightened vulnerabilities. Prior to the disaster, more than 2.5 million PwDs, including 775,012 individuals with severe disabilities, resided in the affected regions, according to the Türkiye Earthquakes Recovery and Reconstruction Assessment.<sup>5</sup> Following the earthquakes, many have struggled to access specialized healthcare, mobility aids, and rehabilitation services, as reported by Amnesty International. The lack of accessible assistive devices and the limited capacity of care facilities have further deepened these challenges, highlighting the urgent need for inclusive and targeted interventions to ensure their rights and needs are met.

2 Country Office Annual Report 2023 Turkey – UNICEF. P. 1. <https://www.unicef.org/media/152076/file/T%C3%BCrkiye-2023-COAR.pdf>

3 Humanitarian Transition Overview - Türkiye Earthquake Response (August 2023). <https://reliefweb.int/report/Turkiye/humanitarian-transition-overview-Turkiye-earthquake-response-august-2023>

4 UN Women Brief on Earthquake in Türkiye Gendered impacts and response. P. 16. [https://eca.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/UN%20Women%20Brief%20on%20Earthquake%20in%20Türkiye%20Gendered%20Impacts%20and%20response\\_0.pdf](https://eca.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/UN%20Women%20Brief%20on%20Earthquake%20in%20Türkiye%20Gendered%20Impacts%20and%20response_0.pdf)

5 TÜRKİYE EARTHQUAKES RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION ASSESSMENT. P. 13. <https://www.sbb.gov.tr/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Turkiye-Recovery-and-Reconstruction-Assessment.pdf>

The disaster has also amplified protection risks, particularly for groups with pre-existing vulnerabilities. Damage to institutional facilities and the limited capacity of the Ministry of Family and Social Services have resulted in significant gaps in protection services. These gaps have disproportionately impacted high-risk cases involving sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child protection. Single female-headed households, already struggling with caregiving responsibilities and loss of income, face additional barriers such as the loss of documentation, housing, and community safety nets, further limiting their access to critical services. “The Humanitarian Transition Overview” report by OCHA further emphasizes these challenges, noting that the loss of family members, community structures, and income disproportionately impacts already vulnerable populations.

In response to these challenges, cash-based interventions have emerged as a critical tool for addressing protection risks. Field assessments and reports indicate that cash assistance, when integrated into broader protection frameworks, can address immediate needs while fostering resilience. Humanitarian organizations have implemented various forms of assistance, including multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), vouchers, and in-kind distributions. However, gaps remain in addressing protection-specific vulnerabilities, particularly for high-risk groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities (PwDs).

To bridge these gaps, the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) initiated the Cash for Protection (CfP) Programme in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). This programme is uniquely designed to address the specific protection risks of affected individuals through tailored financial assistance as part of a holistic case management approach. By providing targeted cash transfers, the CfP Programme not only meets immediate survival needs but also helps individuals to regain stability and dignity, enabling them to access essential services and support systems. Moreover, the programme ensures that protection concerns, such as those related to gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection, are incorporated into the assistance process, enhancing the overall effectiveness of humanitarian efforts.

Through this approach, the CfP Programme aims to reduce vulnerabilities while empowering affected individuals, especially those from marginalized or high-risk groups, to rebuild their lives and create a foundation for long-term recovery and resilience.

## CASH FOR PROTECTION PROGRAMME DESIGN

The Cash for Protection (CfP) Programme is designed to provide integrated and comprehensive support to beneficiaries, ensuring that **cash assistance is not seen as a standalone intervention but rather as part of a broader protection strategy**. The programme integrates cash assistance into case management processes, where beneficiaries receive complementary services, such as psychosocial support, legal assistance, and access to other critical services. This holistic approach maximizes the impact of cash assistance and helps meet the diverse needs of those affected.

Cash assistance has been identified as an effective tool for addressing specific protection risks, and the CfP Programme uses it alongside other protection modalities. These include case management and protection services, creating a well-rounded response to the beneficiaries' vulnerabilities. The programme targets individuals who are identified or referred based on their specific protection vulnerabilities. Through a comprehensive assessment process, those with the most pressing needs and risks are prioritized for assistance, ensuring that the support reaches those who need it the most.

The ultimate goal of the CfP Programme is to contribute to **clear protection outcomes**, such as reducing risks and mitigating threats. This is achieved by systematically tracking and monitoring beneficiaries' progress, assessing their satisfaction with the services provided, and evaluating the overall impact of the programme on their well-being. To ensure that these outcomes are achieved, the programme employs robust mechanisms for tracking, monitoring, and reporting on the assistance provided, thereby ensuring transparency and accountability throughout the process.

Community engagement is a key element of the CfP Programme. Beneficiaries have access to various feedback and accountability mechanisms, such as the 168 Call Center, feedback boxes, and face-to-face interactions. These channels allow beneficiaries to voice their concerns and provide valuable feedback, enhancing trust and improving programme efficiency.

Lastly, the programme strictly adheres to protection principles, including "do no harm," prioritizing the needs and safety of individuals, ensuring non-discrimination, and upholding informed consent. By embedding these principles into every stage of case management—from identification and referral to follow-up and impact assessment—the CfP Programme ensures that all interventions are respectful, inclusive, and effective in addressing the root causes of vulnerability. All interventions are conducted with the utmost respect for beneficiaries' rights and dignity, ensuring that they are aligned with the overarching protection goals.

## **WHERE A CASH FOR PROTECTION PROGRAMME WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED?**

### **Addressing Protection Threats**

Cash assistance is recognized as an effective tool for mitigating protection risks in settings where traditional forms of aid may fall short. It provides immediate relief, helping individuals regain stability while addressing ongoing challenges.

### **Integrated into Holistic Case Management**

As part of a comprehensive approach, cash assistance is incorporated into case management processes. It supports other interventions such as legal aid, psychosocial services, and protection activities to enhance overall support for beneficiaries.

## **Targeted Approach Based on Vulnerabilities**

The programme prioritizes individuals based on a detailed assessment of their protection needs. This ensures resources are allocated to those most at risk, ensuring that vulnerable populations are the focus of the intervention.

## **Cash Assistance as a Tool for Sustainable Protection**

Beyond meeting immediate financial needs, cash assistance is designed to achieve lasting protection outcomes. The use of cash is aligned with clear objectives, and its impact is tracked and evaluated to ensure it contributes to long-term safety and stability for beneficiaries.

The Cash for Protection programme is designed to address immediate protection risks and reduce their impact on affected individuals. By providing cash assistance, the programme enables beneficiaries to meet critical needs, preventing exposure to further risks and strengthening their ability to recover.

This intervention is intended as a complementary measure within a broader protection framework, rather than replacing traditional protection services. It is not a regular cash transfer, but a targeted, short-term response designed to address specific protection vulnerabilities. The programme is linked to identified protection risks and aims to contribute to tangible protection outcomes, ensuring a comprehensive and context-specific response to the needs of those most at risk.

## **KEY FEATURES OF THE PROGRAMME DESIGN**

### **Individual-Based Targeting**

The programme emphasizes the identification and support of individuals rather than families or households as a whole. Protection risks are assessed on a case-by-case basis, recognizing that vulnerabilities, such as exposure to gender-based violence, child labor, or trafficking, often affect individuals differently within the same context.

### **Alignment with Case Management Frameworks**

The CfP programme operates as a complementary tool within the broader case management process. It integrates cash assistance with other protection interventions, such as legal aid, psychosocial support, and advocacy, to create a holistic response tailored to the individual's needs.

### **Facilitating Access to Critical Services**

The programme recognizes the barriers that individuals often face in accessing fundamental services, particularly in post-disaster or crisis contexts. By offering cash assistance, the CfP programme ensures that individuals can overcome these barriers, reinforcing their capacity to secure essential services such as legal representation, healthcare, or education, which act as preventive and strengthening measures.

## Short-Term and Targeted Assistance

The programme is designed to provide short-term, need-specific financial support. Assistance is linked to clear protection objectives, such as enabling access to safe housing, facilitating healthcare, or preventing exploitation, ensuring that cash is used purposefully to mitigate or resolve protection risks.

Cash assistance is provided once for individuals identified with specific protection risks. If these risks persist, beneficiaries may be eligible for up to two additional payments, with a maximum of three cash assistance interventions in total, based on case management evaluation and continued protection needs.

## Preventive and Restorative Focus

CfP interventions are not only reactive but also preventive. By addressing financial barriers to essential services or enabling timely interventions, the programme reduces the likelihood of harm and strengthens the individual's resilience against future risks. For example, cash can be used to prevent eviction, cover urgent medical expenses, or support survivors of violence in accessing safe spaces.

## THE PROCESS OF CASE MANAGEMENT AND THE DECISION FOR INTERVENTION

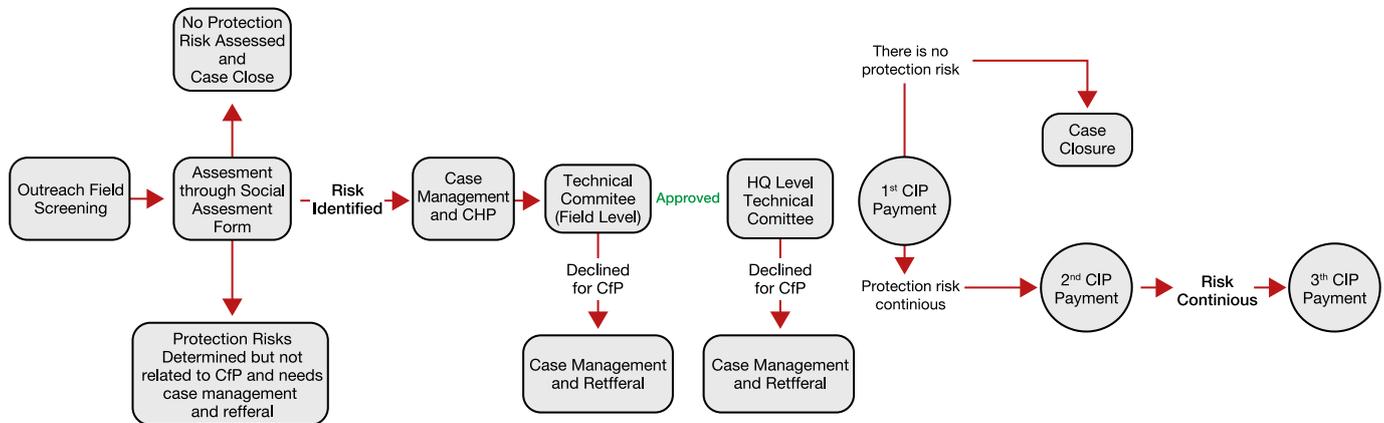
Case Management is a core element of the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) Programmes, providing a structured framework to assess and address protection risks in the aftermath of crises. Within this framework, Cash for Protection (CfP) is one of the tools used when financial assistance is determined to be the most effective solution for mitigating specific protection risks.

To identify protection risks, Social Workers from the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) use a Case Assessment Form. This standardized form is designed to help gather detailed information on an individual's vulnerabilities and immediate risks.

Following the assessment, the identified protection risks and needs are evaluated to determine whether they can be mitigated or resolved through the programme's intervention methods. If the risks can be addressed through CfP support, the individual is considered eligible as a beneficiary.

Not every identified protection risk automatically leads to CfP intervention. Instead, a multi-step evaluation process is followed to determine the most suitable response. CfP is one of several options considered within a broader protection strategy, tailored to the individual's specific needs.

## Case Management and Cash for Protection Process



**Outreach and Field Screening:** TRC protection specialists engage with beneficiaries through various methods, including welcoming them at TRC Community Service Centers located in earthquake-affected provinces, conducting field screenings and household visits at container sites, and receiving referrals from third parties such as INGOs, NGOs, and governmental institutions in the field.

**Social Assessment Process:** Identified cases are thoroughly evaluated using a standardized social assessment form to determine the presence of protection risks. Based on the assessment outcomes:

- **Protection Risks Eligible for CfP:** If protection risks qualifying for CfP are identified, the case proceeds to the next stage. A preliminary case management plan is developed, and CfP is recommended.
- **No Protection Risks Identified:** If no protection risks are found, the case is closed at this stage.
- **Protection Risks Unrelated to CfP:** During the case management process, if identified protection risks cannot be addressed through CfP assistance, the case will be referred to other relevant services while the case management process continues.

**Field-Level Technical Committee Review:** Cases deemed eligible for CfP by the protection specialist are reviewed by a field-level technical committee to assess their eligibility.

- If **approved**, the case proceeds to the HQ-level technical committee for additional verification.
- If **declined**, the individual is referred to other appropriate services and assistance.

### HQ-Level Technical Committee Review:

The headquarters technical committee, comprising the PGI team and the programme deputy coordinator, conducts a final assessment:

- If **approved**, the CfP payments are processed.
- If **declined**, the individual continues to receive case management and other relevant services.

**CfP Payments and Monitoring:** Approved cases receive financial assistance through a series of payments:

- After the **first payment**, the protection risk is re-evaluated. If risks are no longer present, the case is closed.
- If protection risks persist, a **second payment** is made, followed by another assessment.
- For continued risks, a **third payment** is issued, ensuring sustained support for those in critical need.

**(!)** Each individual is eligible to receive cash assistance up to three times, ensuring that reliance on social aid is minimized.

**Case Closure:** The process concludes when assessments confirm that no further protection risks exist, marking the case as resolved.

This systematic approach ensures that CfP interventions are both targeted and dynamic, addressing protection risks effectively while avoiding duplication of assistance. It also integrates case management to provide holistic support beyond financial aid, catering to the unique needs of vulnerable individuals and households.

## INTEGRATION WITH CASE MANAGEMENT

Case management forms the foundation of the Cash for Protection (CfP) programme, serving as a critical mechanism to address the complex and individualized protection needs of those affected by disasters. In disaster-stricken areas, individuals at heightened risk—such as survivors of violence, victims of discrimination, or children subjected to abuse—often remain unseen within conventional assistance frameworks. These individuals require targeted, personalized support to navigate their vulnerabilities and regain stability in their lives.

The CfP programme, integrates case management into its design to ensure that beneficiaries receive holistic, needs-based and effective assistance. This approach enables protection specialists to systematically assess individual circumstances, identify specific risks, and determine appropriate interventions. Case management not only prioritizes the identification of protection risks but also provides the structure necessary to deliver a coordinated response tailored to the unique needs of each individual.

The TRC employs a beneficiary-centered model that combines cash assistance with other essential protection services. Additionally, beneficiaries are guided through the process to overcome barriers to accessing the services they need, with follow-up measures in place to address evolving needs.

The integration of cash assistance into the case management framework enhances its effectiveness. The CfP programme provides financial support as a strategic intervention to reduce or eliminate identified protection risks. Cash modality is unconditional and it can be issued up to three times per individual, depending on the persistence of their needs. This support is designed not as a standalone solution but as a complementary tool to strengthen the overall protection response. By enabling individuals to access critical services, recover from immediate threats, and rebuild their resilience, cash assistance helps restore dignity and agency to those affected.

In disaster-affected areas, such as regions impacted by earthquakes, this approach becomes even more vital. Many individuals face not only material losses but also profound disruptions to their coping mechanisms and social structures. By integrating cash assistance into a broader case management process, the CfP programme addresses immediate risks while fostering long-term resilience. This ensures that individuals are supported not only in meeting their urgent needs but also in rebuilding their lives and strengthening their capacity to withstand future challenges. Through this comprehensive framework, the CfP programme exemplifies a protection-focused intervention that places the dignity and empowerment of individuals at its core.

## INTERVENTION IMPLEMENTATION

Once CfP is deemed appropriate, it is integrated into the individual's case management plan. This integration ensures that the assistance is not provided in isolation but is part of a comprehensive approach that may also include psychosocial support, legal aid, or referrals to other essential services. The process emphasizes:

- **Flexibility:** Tailoring interventions to meet the unique circumstances of each individual.
- **Sustainability:** Aligning support with long-term recovery goals to avoid dependency.
- **Empowerment:** Involving beneficiaries in decision-making to promote autonomy and dignity.

A photograph of a man in a dark jacket standing and presenting to a group of people seated in a room. The room is dimly lit with a strong red glow. The man is on the right side of the frame, facing the group. The group is seated on chairs and some are looking towards the presenter. The background shows a room with a wooden floor, a white wall, and a window with blinds. The overall atmosphere is professional and focused.

# CASH FOR PROTECTION PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT

The Cash for Protection (CfP) programme was initiated in November 2023, leveraging Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) calculations to determine financial assistance. Initially, the programme included two payment categories: maximum and minimum, aligned with the general needs of beneficiaries facing protection risks. These payments were allocated based on the level of protection risk assessed for each beneficiary.

## **ROLE OF MINIMUM EXPENDITURE BASKET (MEB) IN CFP DESIGN**

MEB is a framework that calculates the essential needs of households or individuals in a specific context, including food, shelter, healthcare, and other basic items. In the CfP programme's early stages, MEB calculations were crucial in determining the baseline for cash amounts. This approach ensured that assistance levels were adequate to cover basic needs while also addressing specific protection risks.

While the initial MEB-based structure was effective, it became clear that protection outcomes required a more targeted approach. The redesigned payment structure based on protection risk codes builds on the MEB framework but integrates the nuanced needs of individuals facing different types of protection risks, ensuring a more tailored and impactful intervention.

As the programme evolved, payment categories were redesigned to align with the primary protection risk code categories, further prioritizing the protection focus. This change aimed to better address the specific protection needs of beneficiaries by tailoring the cash assistance provided to their unique circumstances. Consequently, four distinct payment categories were introduced, each adapted to address the primary protection risks identified through the case management process. This redesign ensures that the assistance is not only targeted but also effective in achieving protection outcomes.

## NEW PAYMENT CATEGORIES

- **Disability, Health, and Psychological Situation**

This category addresses the needs of individuals with disabilities, serious health conditions, or those requiring psychosocial support. It includes expenses for specialized medical care, rehabilitation materials, or adaptations necessary to ensure safety, dignity, and inclusion.

- **Children at Risk**

This category focuses on children facing protection risks such as abuse, neglect, or exploitation. It supports expenses related to school attendance, access to safe spaces, and initiatives to prevent child labor or other harmful situations.

- **Legal Documentation and Legal Assistance**

Designed to help individuals access legal processes and representation, this category covers costs such as securing identity documents, legal fees, and other essential processes to safeguard rights and ensure protection.

- **Violence and Discrimination**

This category supports survivors of domestic violence, gender-based violence, or discrimination. It includes assistance for safe housing, psychosocial support, and legal aid to protect and empower those affected.

## Enhancing Recovery Through Targeted Assistance

The redesign of the CfP programme to align payments with protection risk codes reflects the commitment to a protection-first approach. This approach ensures that assistance is not only responsive but also empowering, helping beneficiaries regain control over their lives. By addressing barriers to recovery—such as the inability to access safe housing or healthcare—the programme contributes to rebuilding both material and non-material resources, particularly in earthquake-affected regions.

Through its alignment with protection principles, the CfP programme strengthens recovery by enabling individuals to revive better conditions for their lives, reinforcing their coping mechanisms, and enhancing resilience against future risks.

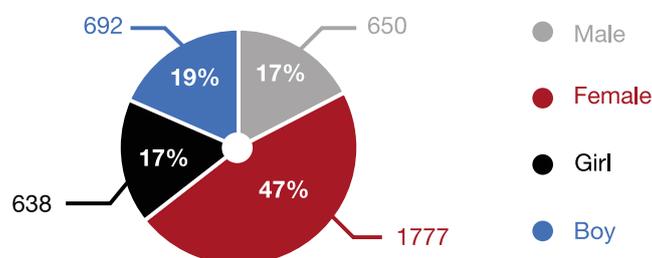
## PEOPLE REACHED/ASSISTED THROUGH CASH FOR PROTECTION PROGRAMME

The Cash for Protection (CfP) programme is designed to address the diverse and critical protection needs of individuals affected by crises. By integrating cash assistance with broader protection strategies, the programme ensures that support is tailored to the unique vulnerabilities of each beneficiary. This approach not only alleviates immediate risks but also strengthens resilience and recovery.

**Table 1.1. Protection Risk Category**

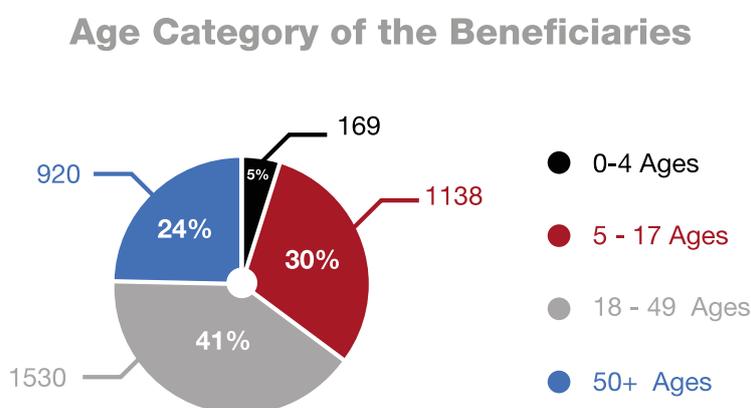
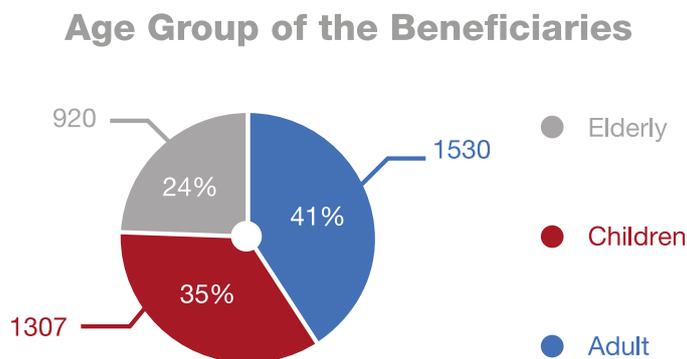
Protection Risk Category	Uniq Beneficiary Number
Violence and Discrimination Related Protection Needs	794
Legal Documentation Related Protection Needs	462
Household, Family and Marriage Related Protection Needs	1075
Health and Psychosocial Status Related Protection Needs	2290
Economic Situation Related Protection Needs	790
Disability Related Protection Needs	470
Child at Risk	1080
Other Protection Needs	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>3757</b>

The table categorizes cash for protection assistance based on specific protection risk categories and corresponding number of beneficiaries. The programme has supported a total of 3,757 beneficiaries, addressing various protection-related needs since its inception in November 2023 through December 2024. The categorization of cash for protection assistance highlights diverse and multifaceted protection needs of vulnerable individuals. Health and psychosocial issues emerge as the most pressing concern, while economic and family-related risks remain prominent. Cash assistance proves to be an essential and flexible tool to address to address these needs, allowing beneficiaries to access services, meet immediate expenses, and regain stability.

**Table 1.2. Gender Dissemination of CfP Beneficiaries****Gender Dissemination of CfP Beneficiaries**

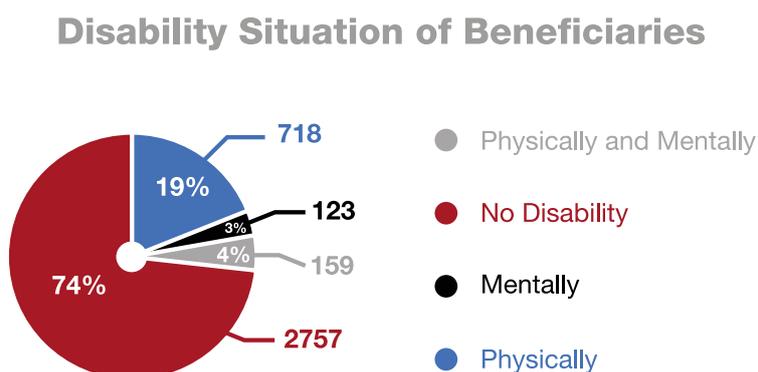
The chart illustrates the gender distribution of the 3,757 beneficiaries supported by the CfP programme. Women make up the largest group, accounting for 47 per cent (1,777) of the total beneficiaries, followed by men at 17 per cent (650). Among children, 19 per cent (692) are boys, and 17 per cent (638) are girls. This dissemination highlights the programme's focus on addressing the distinct needs of vulnerable individuals across different gender and age groups.

**Table 1.3. Age Group of the CfP Beneficiaries**



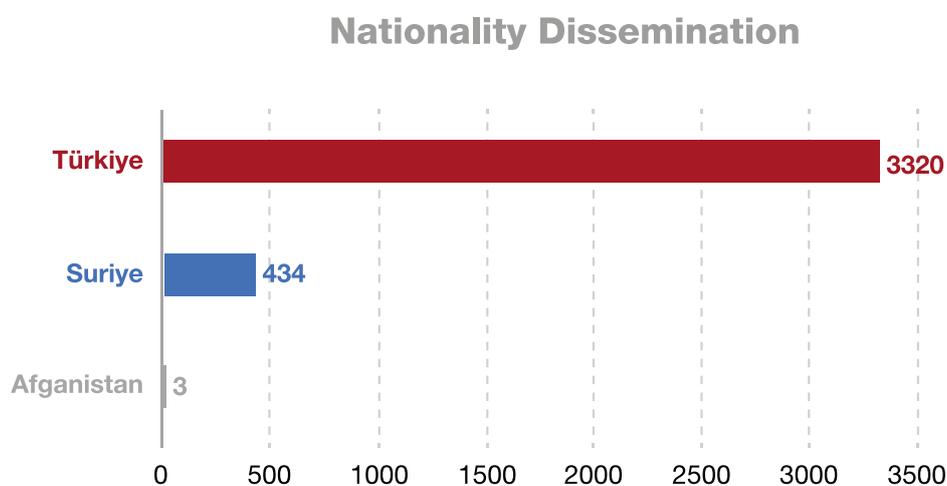
The charts above highlight the age group dissemination of CfP beneficiaries. The distribution emphasizes the programme’s inclusive approach, ensuring support for vulnerable individuals across all age groups. The majority of the assistance targeted adults, followed by substantial outreach to children and the elderly, demonstrating a balanced allocation of resources aligned with their specific needs.

**Table 1.4. Disability Situation of Beneficiaries**



The chart provides an overview of the disability status of beneficiaries. Among the total beneficiaries, 74 per cent (2,757 individuals) reported having no disabilities. Those with disabilities are distributed as follows: 19 per cent (718 individuals) have physical disabilities, 3 per cent (123 individuals) have mental disabilities, and 4 per cent (159 individuals) have both physical and mental disabilities. This breakdown highlights the prevalence and types of disabilities among the population served.

**Table 1.5. Nationality Distribution of Beneficiaries**



The chart illustrates the nationality distribution of beneficiaries under the Cash for Protection programme. The majority of recipients (3,320 individuals) are Turkish nationals, followed by Syrians, who account for 434 beneficiaries. A small number, only 3 beneficiaries, are Afghan nationals. This highlights a predominant focus on supporting Turkish and Syrian populations, with significantly fewer Afghan participants.

# KEY FINDINGS

## KEY FINDINGS FROM THE FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION (FGD) WITH FIELD WORKERS ON THE CASH FOR PROTECTION PROGRAMME

- **Programme and Implementation Process Insights**

### **Beneficiary Engagement in the Case Management Process**

- Beneficiaries are actively involved in the assessment and intervention planning stages, ensuring a participatory approach. This involvement facilitates trust-building and empowers beneficiaries to take steps toward resolving their issues.
- Prioritization of immediate and solvable issues at the beginning of the process strengthens trust and encourages further engagement.

### **Role of Cash Assistance in Enhancing Participation**

- Cash for Protection (CfP) serves as an empowering tool, motivating beneficiaries to take action and access additional resources.
- Cash assistance improves beneficiary participation in the case management process by building trust and providing practical solutions to immediate risks.
- It helps prevent dependency while fostering sustainable change and cooperation in subsequent intervention phases.

### **Programme Evolution and Payment Categories**

Initially based on general MEB calculations, the programme transitioned to a protection-focused design with four payment categories tailored to primary protection risk codes:

- **Disability, Health, and Psychosocial Support**
- **Children at Risk**
- **Legal Documentation and Assistance**
- **Violence and Discrimination**

Payment amounts were refined to better align with the unique needs of beneficiaries under each category.

### **Challenges in Application and Information Gaps**

- Field workers occasionally lack information on specialized areas such as health-related cases and addiction risks.

- Concerns about unintended consequences of cash assistance (e.g., misuse for substance abuse or exacerbating economic violence) were raised.
- Some referring organizations equate CfP with poverty alleviation, leading to misaligned expectations.

### **Recommendations for Payment Categories and Criteria**

- Suggestions were made to introduce new risk codes, such as for young adults pursuing higher education and women seeking employment support.
- Current payment amounts are insufficient in specific contexts (e.g., transportation costs for health services or educational supplies).

### **Challenges in Coordination and Service Delivery**

- Issues with service referrals and gaps in coverage by other NGOs, particularly in areas with fewer actors.
- Specific logistical barriers include limited bank access in some areas, causing beneficiaries to travel long distances to withdraw funds.

### **Programme Effectiveness and Impact**

- Cash assistance is effective in mitigating risks, empowering beneficiaries, and preventing dependency.

Beneficiaries often reach out to Social Services Centers first when they face subsequent needs, indicating trust in the system.

## **RESULTS OF THE POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING (PDM) METHODOLOGY**

The PDM process begins with the development of a structured questionnaire designed to gather specific, measurable data relevant to the programme's objectives. Once finalized, the questionnaire is uploaded to an online platform and shared with the designated survey team. A short training is provided to familiarize the team with the form, its purpose, and the type of information being collected.

Sampling strategies are then determined based on the characteristics and size of the beneficiary population. For smaller populations, efforts are made to reach as many beneficiaries as possible. For larger populations, a statistically representative sample is calculated using tools such as sample size calculators, with attention to proportional representation based on key demographics or locations.

Once the preparation is complete, the survey is conducted by the field team or call center. After data collection, the results are analyzed to evaluate programme performance and impact, culminating in the preparation of a detailed PDM report.

The PDM study whose results are presented in this report was conducted in the six most affected provinces in the earthquake zone, where 252 individuals were interviewed between 8 August and 12 August, 2024. The primary objective of this study is an assessment of the effectiveness of service delivery, the satisfaction level of individuals and the pertinence of the selected assistance modality.

A total of 1,830 individuals benefited from this programme across all eight payment cycles, from the 1st to the 8th. For this Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) study, sampling was conducted from 695 individuals who benefited from the Cash for Protection assistance during the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> payment cycles. Individuals from the first three payment cycles were excluded as it has been too long for them to recall details about the aid, and those payments occurred in 2023. To ensure the study's relevance and focus, the target group was limited to recipients from this year. A simple random sampling method was employed to randomly select units within the population, ensuring that every individual had an equal chance of being included in the study, without any specific order or pattern influencing the selection process. This method was chosen to minimize bias and enhance the sample's representativeness.

The sample size was calculated using the Raosoft sample size calculator. Assuming a response distribution of 50 per cent, with a 95 per cent confidence interval (CI), a Z-score of 1.96, and a margin of error of 5 per cent, the sample size was determined to be 250 respondents.

## KEY FINDINGS FROM PDM REPORT

### Effectiveness and Accessibility

**Communication:** 97 per cent of individuals received information about the assistance; however, 10 per cent faced challenges due to literacy or language barriers.

**Access:** 97 per cent reported no issues accessing the assistance, but 3 per cent faced challenges such as reaching bank branches.

### Safety

**Security:** Nearly all recipients reported no security concerns while withdrawing or keeping the assistance.

**Privacy:** Individuals overwhelmingly felt their privacy was respected, with only a small number encountering minor social challenges

## Satisfaction

**General Satisfaction:** 99 per cent of individuals found the assistance helpful or very helpful.

**Amount of Assistance:** While 79 per cent were satisfied with the cash amount, 20 per cent felt it was insufficient, particularly due to rising living costs and healthcare needs.

## Impact

**Utilization:** The assistance was primarily used for healthcare (51%) and food (31%), addressing critical needs.

**Well-being:** 88 per cent reported improved living conditions, with enhanced household communication and reduced stress levels for 95 per cent of recipients.

## Demographics

**Gender Representation:** Females represented 64 per cent of respondents, ensuring a balanced perspective.

**Disabilities:** 29 per cent of respondents had a disability or chronic illness.

## Accountability

**Feedback Channels:** The Turkish Red Crescent Call Centre and direct interactions with staff were the most utilized feedback mechanisms. However, there is a growing preference for digital methods like WhatsApp.

## Areas for Improvement

**Assistance Amount:** A reassessment of the cash amount is recommended to meet diverse financial pressures.

**Communication:** Improved messaging and materials tailored to individuals with literacy or language barriers are essential.

**Feedback Mechanisms:** Expanding and simplifying feedback options, including digital channels, can enhance accessibility and responsiveness.

The report highlights the positive impact of the CfP programme while recommending enhancements to address identified gaps and challenges.

# RECOMMENDATIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED FOR CASH FOR PROTECTION PROGRAMMES

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. Programme Design and Strategy

#### 1.1 Tailored and Evidence-Based Design:

- CfP programmes should be designed considering regional needs and contexts. Payment structures customized by risk categories can better address individuals' specific needs.
- Programme design should adopt approaches based on existing data and impact assessments.

#### 1.2 Protection-First Approach:

- Programmes should prioritize reducing protection risks as a primary goal. This ensures that assistance focuses directly on protection outcomes.

#### 1.3 Dynamic and Adaptive Frameworks:

- CfP programmes should be flexible to adapt to changing contexts. Regular updates should be made considering the dynamic nature of crises.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be updated regularly.

#### 1.4 Integration with Other Sectors:

- Cash assistance should be made more effective by integrating solutions with services such as education, health, and psychosocial support.

#### 1.5 Tailored Programme Design:

- The design of Cash for Protection (CfP) programmes should be customized to address protection risks in specific contexts. This approach is supported by risk codes and payment categories that enable the prioritization of risks.

#### 1.6 Monitoring and Evaluation:

- A comprehensive evaluation system should be established to ensure continuous monitoring of programme impact.

## 2. Targeting and Beneficiary Engagement

### 2.1 Individual-Centered Targeting:

- Programmes should address protection risks at the individual level. Individual assessment processes should be developed, considering the uniqueness of all protection risks and the individual's coping capacity.

### 2.2 Inclusive Feedback Mechanisms:

- Feedback channels such as call centers, face-to-face meetings, and digital platforms should be expanded.
- Feedback mechanisms should be simplified to become more accessible and user-friendly.

### 2.3 Cultural Sensitivity:

- Interventions should be designed respectfully, considering local cultural norms and the needs of vulnerable groups.

## 3. Governance and Coordination

### 3.1 Clear and Accountable Governance Structures:

- Roles, responsibilities, and decision-making mechanisms must be clearly defined.

### 3.2 Centralized Decision-Making for Efficiency:

- A centralized management structure should be adopted to enable rapid operational decision-making, while still supporting flexibility at the local level.

### 3.3 Cross-Sectoral Collaboration:

- Collaboration with organizations operating in different sectors should be established. This enhances the impact of CfP programmes and more comprehensively addresses beneficiaries' needs.

### 3.4 Donor Engagement:

- Continuous communication with donors and funders should ensure a transparent framework aligned with the programme's objectives and sustainability.

## 4. Capacity Building and Training

### 4.1 Specialized Training Programmes:

- To improve programme quality, specialized training on topics such as gender-based violence, child protection, and addiction should be provided for field teams.

### 4.2 Continuous Learning:

- Regular training and capacity building should be implemented to address knowledge gaps in programme execution.

### 4.3 Interagency Knowledge Sharing:

- Participation in platforms that promote knowledge sharing among different organizations should be encouraged to improve coordination and programme development.

## 5. Advocacy and Policy Engagement

### 5.1 Influencing National Policy:

- CfP programmes should contribute to the development of national protection strategies.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- Beneficiary engagement in the case management process builds trust and encourages sustained cooperation.
- Addressing immediate and solvable issues first empowers individuals and motivates further participation.
- Cash assistance enhances beneficiaries' ability to access resources and mitigates protection risks effectively.
- Transitioning to risk-specific payment categories improved alignment with beneficiaries' unique needs.
- Categories tailored to risks such as violence, health, and legal needs ensure targeted and effective assistance.
- Specialized training for field workers on topics like healthcare and addiction risks is essential.
- Concerns about misuse of cash assistance, such as for substance abuse, highlight the need for better safeguards.
- Traditional feedback channels, such as call centers, remain crucial for accessibility and trust.
- Expanding digital channels like WhatsApp increases accessibility for tech-savvy beneficiaries.
- CfP interventions improve living conditions, household communication, and emotional well-being.
- Targeted cash support reduces risks, enhances resilience, and supports long-term recovery for vulnerable groups.
- Beneficiary involvement in the assessment and intervention planning fosters trust and empowerment.
- Cash assistance served as an effective tool for addressing protection risks and promoting sustainable change.
- Transitioning to payment categories based on protection risk codes improves programme impact.
- Safeguarding is needed to address concerns about unintended misuse of cash assistance.

# CONCLUSION

The Cash for Protection (CfP) programme demonstrates the transformative potential of integrating cash assistance into broader protection strategies. By aligning financial support with specific protection risk categories, the programme ensures that assistance is targeted, effective, and impactful. The emphasis on individual-based targeting, holistic case management, and community engagement underscores the programme's commitment to addressing the diverse vulnerabilities faced by beneficiaries in a dignified and sustainable manner.

Lessons learned from the programme reveal the importance of prioritizing immediate and solvable issues to build trust, tailoring assistance to meet unique risks, and empowering beneficiaries to actively participate in the case management process. By meeting critical needs such as housing, healthcare, and safety, cash assistance has enabled beneficiaries to stabilize their situations and reduce exposure to further risks in the aftermath of crises. These efforts have not only mitigated protection risks but have also fostered resilience and long-term recovery for vulnerable individuals and communities.

While the CfP programme has achieved significant outcomes, ongoing enhancements are necessary to address emerging challenges. Recommendations such as refining payment amounts, expanding feedback mechanisms, and providing specialized training for field workers will further strengthen the programme's effectiveness and accountability.

In conclusion, the CfP programme demonstrates the power of cash assistance as an immediate and effective intervention in crisis settings. By addressing protection risks with a rights-based and individualized approach, the programme has not only alleviated immediate hardships but also contributed to the long-term recovery and resilience of affected populations, particularly in disaster-stricken areas.

