

MENA CVA Community of Practice

10th of September 2025

*The seventh CVA MENA COP meeting took place on 10/09/2025 on teams COP series meeting.

Meeting Details & agenda:

Date:	Wednesday September 10th, 2025- 11:00 to 12.00 (Beirut time)
Attendees:	Facilitator: Nabeh Allaham, IFRC MENA CVA thematic lead
11 attendances	Cash Center of Excellence: Reem Jawhari Lebanese Red Cross: Elisia Abdo. Iraqi Red Crescent: Rasha Younes Iranian Red Crescent Society: Abaas Mohammadi Yemeni Red Crescent Society: Chisomo Teputepu, Hend Wasabi Syrian Arab Red Crescent: Rama Muzayen Iran Red Crescent: Abbas Mohammadi DRC: Daniel Wanyoike Mungai ICRC: Francesca REINHARDT NRC: Consuelo Interiano Netherland RC 510 TEAM, and 121 PLATFORM: Inez Gortzak, Erna Goudet
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Opening Remarks (5 min). • Netherland Red Cross 510 team /121 platform presentation (20 min). • Updates from COP Members (20 min). • Updates from the COP Facilitator / Co-Chair (10 min). • AoB (5 min)

Meeting minutes:

This COP meeting marked the seventh session in the series of monthly COP meetings for 2025. It focused on presenting the 510 team from the Netherlands Red Cross on their services and provide a small induction on 121 platform as data management system and how can be used from the CVA FP during the CVA intervention, on the other side the second part focused on discussing key developments and ongoing activities at the national, regional, and global levels. The agenda included updates from COP members, showcasing progress and experiences from various National Societies, cash counting exercise, as well as updates from the COP facilitator on upcoming priorities and coordination efforts.

1. Opening the meeting:

The meeting started by the CVA thematic lead after welcoming all the attendance from all the COP members, then sharing the COP meeting agenda with explanation on the points and how the meeting will proceed.

2. Netherland Red Cross 510 team /121 platform presentation.

Inez Gortzak opens the session by thanking the COP member for hosting the Netherlands RC (510 & 121 team) to provide a short session on the support could give from the Netherlands Red Cross in terms of cash and voucher assistance.

Where Inez mentioned there are multiple ways how they support national societies in digitalizing their processes, from the registration process, for example by using Kobo. To all the way to setting up a full data management system to supporting all the phases of the cash programs or different.

510 team support 10 bilateral partners, in addition to support other national societies that need cash I M support or data and digital support with a skilled and qualified people.

Then Inez shared with the COP members the 510-team ambition, to empower national societies to improve how they collect, use and manage data so their cash programs can become more effective and accountable and are also easier to scale to a larger number of beneficiaries, throughout the full CVA program cycle, in addition to preparedness efforts or during emergency.

With focusing on the localisation data solution to make sure that they really fit the context of the national society, with providing a capacity building courses to ensure that these digital tools can be owned locally.

Then Erna took over the floor to explain more on the 121 platform to cover all the following topic:

- How the 121-platform team support in setting up the system according to the NSs infrastructure.
- How the NS can have a separate database and appoint the person how can access to.
- The identifies user would ne assigned a certain role and permissions.
- Provide a real example on the drought intervention in Ethiopia, where Erna manages to take the COP members in a quick tour in the platform features, like (programme summary, #of targeted people, distributed cash, project budget, and all other quick access info to summarise the project.

Then took them in a quick live simulation on how you can use the platform in all the projects cycle, and how can the platform paly a key role in communication with the targeted people, transfer the money as well to the financial services provider, and monitor the implementation.

The team create a survey and shared with all the MENA CVA COP to fill with their thoughts and interests on what they want to learn more about the 121 platform to arrange a separate session to discuss all the details in depth.

One the floor was opened to the questions, there were some questions raised up,

- If the beneficiaries have no ID or bank account like (irregular migrations), how can the system provide a solution, or how can we deal with this case?

- Does the platform have a PDM / satisfaction survey in the monitoring process?

But regarding to the tight time, the team send an email after the meeting with full answers on the questions.

3. Updates from COP members:

- **Iranian Red crescent society:**

Abbas provided the updates from the IRCS, where IRCS have ongoing three projects in CVA, two projects in collaboration with the IOM, the project is located In Tehran Delegation. the first project is MPC for supporting vulnerable migrants and host communities , where cash provided to 70% of migrants and the 30% for the host communities , Covering eight provinces in Iran (Albor, Sistan Baluchestan, Gaz, Razavi, Khorasan, Isfahan, Fars, South Khorasan and Tehran) , targeted the women headed household , family with disabilities , or patients , the total budget is 267,000 euro to support 600 households almost 3300 individuals ,

The second project is cash for protection targeting the family members with disabilities to provide a medical devices or any physical rehabilitation , 70% for the migrants and 30% for the host communities in the same provinces , where the estimated budget is 178,000 euros in collaboration with IOM ,the project target 1000 individuals, through the gift card , while the third intervention is in collaboration with ICRC after the 12 days of war in in Tehran, the project is aiming to support the affected families , and migrants , where 100100 CHF is allocate for this projects to ocover 30 to 500 families ,the assessment phase has started in Tehran branches.

- **Yemen Red Crescent:**

Hend from the YRCS started her updated on the current CVA intervention regarding to the floods in country, where the YRCS started in collecting data, registration and verification, in addition to some distribution in a few areas, then she summarises the intervention regarding to the geographical interventions as following:

In Amran city 500 HH will be targeted, while 300 HH in AL jof, and Marib 1000 HH will be covered by one instalment of minimum food basket, through the contracted FSP in collaboration with the Norwegian RC.

In the other hand, another CVA project will target 1000 HH in Alhudaida will be covered by one instalment of minimum food basket in collaboration with ICRC, the Transfer value is 5800 YER.

While the third intervention is in lahj city, where 1200 HH is planned to support with cash for shelter by providing a 64000 YER, with the support from the Danish red cross.

In terms of the capacity building, YRCS in collaboration with the IFRC, NRC, ICRC and BRC planning to deliver three cash for support services trainings, 1 training on the HQ level, while the other 2 trainings will be on the branch level in Sanaa.

- **Lebanese Red Cross:**

Elisia Abdo provide the updated from the Lebanese RC side, by dividing to various categories, in terms of the ongoing response regarding to the escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon , LRC managed to distribute MPCA for 12,297 HH , through the cash on counter mechanism BY the contracted Financial service Provider , where the transfer value was 200 USD based on the SMEB calculation for six months , it was mentioned by Elisia that LRC capacity can go beyond this number , but the reached target is based on the availability of funds .

Under the regular programme:

Overall 513 HH is receiving the MPCA through the BLF bank by ATM card , highlighting that under an integrated project with Austrian RC between LRC's ECOSEC and WASH , LRC is supporting 190 Syrian, and Lebanese households, with a condition to attending a hygiene promotion awareness session to receive the cash assistance . For the NLRC Project, it was mentioned the delivery mechanism was the purple application (e-wallet) , where the beneficiary will be able to redeem the assistance using a QR code , but regarding to some challenges related to compliance , LRC replace the delivery mechanism with the restricted cards (e-voucher) while continuing the efforts of coordinating with Purpl on the issues faced to put the delivery mechanism in place.

In terms of CVA preparedness the self-assessment workshop took a place in May, and the structured cash POA finalised and shared with different partners for their support in key activities like (drafting the SOP, Data management system), Elisia mentioned on the ongoing collaboration with the 510 to support in the PDM of cash specifically.

At the end, Elisia highlighted the LRC participation in the cash coordination webinars that organised by IFRC MENA region and CCOE and with Cash hub on global Level.

- **Syrian Arab Red Crescent:**

Rama Muzayen presented updates from SARC, beginning with the key challenges in implementing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). Liquidity remains one of the main issues causing delays in delivering cash assistance to affected individuals. However, recent updates from the Central Bank indicate that this issue may be resolved within the next two months. Additionally, SARC has started distributing cash assistance in USD, considering several key considerations in this process.

SARC has reached 18,080 households to date, providing a total of USD 6 million in cash assistance.

Additionally, SARC is planning a cash for resilience project in collaboration with the ICRC to support 4,000 households across seven governorates, with five monthly instalments of USD 100 each.

The CVA project with the Turkish Red Crescent is also ongoing in two governorates. Each affected household will receive USD 100, while the number of instalments will be determined at a later stage.

Under the recovery and livelihoods intervention with the ICRC, Cash is provided to support the affected people in MEI (Marco economic initiative), with 2000 USD.

In terms of the data management system, and digital payment solution SARC conducted a Feasibility study on the best system that can support in the CVA intervention, the study reports has been shared with all the partners and the decision will be taken from the management on the best approach.

- **Iraqi Red Crescent:**

Racha from the IRCS provided updates on CVA projects that funded by Danish RC, where IRCS finishing the distribution of the cash assistance to the Syrian in the refugee's camp (Dahuk, domiz 1, and domiz 2). It was supposed to test the new modalities Q card but related to some challenges in providing the ID for the Syrian beneficiaries, it was not possible to process with, so the delivery mechanism has changed to deliver the cash in hand through a consisted committee from the Iraqi red Crescent's head quarter.

On the other hand there was a visit from the Turkish red crescent to seek on the potential support for a cash project in three areas) Misan , Waset , and Al anbar) to support approx. 600 HH , with 200 USD ,through the Q red system ., where the Turkish RC provide a presentation on the system and how can the staff use it in terms of CVA intervention .

- **Cash Center of excellence CCOE:**

Reem from the Cash Centre of Excellence shared updates on upcoming two initiatives, the first is the cash for health learnings workshops, where a series of four workshops will target the enhancing both CVA and health staff skills in how we can design implementing and monitoring the cash for health projects. reem asked the MENA CVA COP to share the call with all the health staff in their NSs and apply on, before the deadline (next week).

The second initiatives are about the cross regional peer to peer exchange programme between MENA and Europe, that will be hosted by Turkish RC, and will take a place from 3rd to 7th of November, reem encourage the MENA CVA COP to apply on application form as the 10th of SEP is the deadline.

4. Updates from COP facilitator

Nabeh started with providing updated on the following two points:

- CVA global dashboard (CVA repository), MEAN region managed with the support from the CVA FP to collaborate with the CVA regional thematic lead to upload all the required Info, where still two NSs need to complete their information to finalize it.

- Finalize the proofreading the CVA preparedness toolkit in Arabic, the tools will be shared soon with all the NSs , and posted on the Cash hub as well , there is an idea to make a webinar to publish the tools , and get one of the NS who involved in using these tools to talk about their experience .

Meetings schedule

The CoP meets every second Wednesday of the month at 11:00 Beirut time until March 2026 – the frequency of schedules will be reviewed during the March 2027 meeting.