# Cash-Based Responses/Technical Working Group (Northern Syria)

**Meeting Minutes:** Thursday 3rd September  
**Venue:** SCI, Antakya  
**Coordinator:** Jennifer McAteer  
**cbr.twg@gmail.com**

**Attendees:** IRC, PIN, REACH, SCI, WVI, Masrrat, Kader-FCL, Mercy Corps, DfID   
( ACTED, NRC via Skype)

**Attachments:** August market monitoring report, draft modality decision tree

**Dropbox link:** [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t44bfyivgctdtqt/AABf4QaVRt2EzXKPv2q8LTXea](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/t44bfyivgctdtqt/AABf4QaVRt2EzXKPv2q8LTXea)

## Agenda points:
- Welcome, introductions – thank you to CARE for hosting the meeting this month
  - 1. Sub group updates
  - 2. Market Monitoring update
  - 3. AOB

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<td>1. <strong>Introductions</strong></td>
<td>Roger Dean is the NRC Regional Cash Assistance Project Manager who will be leading a project over the next year into remote management of cash programmes. He will be in touch with partners in Turkey through a consultative process to find out more. The aim is to build guidance and training + materials.</td>
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| 2. **Sub group updates** | **Winterisation**  
The group did not meet this month but the cluster is engaged in gathering the specifications for items to be included in the SMWEB. The next step is to confirm the specifications through the cluster request which will be sent out in the coming weeks. REACH are ready to include the items in the monthly monitoring once the specifications are confirmed.  
The items will be listed in the REACH market monitoring but also included in the calculation tool for organisations to monitor.  
**Basic Operations**  
Building the decision tree is ongoing and comments are welcome to the draft – see attached. The purpose of the decision tree is to support decisions between modalities and to be included in proposals when applying for cash/ voucher funding to explain the decision. |  
Next sub groups meetings to be set up by Jen  
List to be finalised in the coming weeks  
Methodology and tool to be written and signed off by the group  
Feedback and development of these tools to be completed by next month |
The group met in August to discuss remote vendor management, including process monitoring and blacklisted behaviours. The guidance will be reviewed further by the group before sharing more widely.

**Assessments and Research**
The group have not met this month but work on the cost effectiveness study to define the parameters and the MOU is ongoing. More information will be shared with the group once these details are defined.

A group met to discuss the analysis of the market monitoring report, including the local exchange rates, currencies used and whether the Turkish Lira or USD is expanding.

**Livelihoods**
A small group met to discuss CFW. Details of ongoing projects were shared and ideas for topics to work on was decided. The first topic will be standardising the wage rate followed by work opportunities for women. Invitations to join the CFW group will be extended to any organisation working in CFW or interested in learning about it.

| 3. Market monitoring update | Chris from REACH presented to the group on the August round of market monitoring. We have hit a milestone this month as 6 months from the initial data collection round by REACH and 3 months since the CBR-TWG partners began coordinating on the data collection. The August round saw a huge expansion of the coverage, now including 27 sub districts across 4 governorates and 3 Kurdish areas are included. Results have been somewhat skewed overall by the varying averages across the new areas, for example fuel which remains subsidised in al Hasakeh. Trends in prices are beginning show the difference caused by distance from the commodity source, i.e. the fuel prices in the Kurdish regions close to or further from the source. In ISIS areas the prices are somewhat controlled.

Future questionnaires will include data collection on the variety of currencies used and whether use of the Turkish Lira is expanding.

In future partners will be consulted around key anomalies and trends to enable accurate and details narrative analysis. | Consider further analysis of besieged areas and rural vs. urban in the quarterly report. Possibly include members’ data in smaller rural markets. Amend box chart – change scale of tea to better show the variance of other commodities. There is a potential opportunity to evaluate multiple currencies being used in the south and if this has an impact on SMEB values. |

| 4. AOB | 1. Meeting schedules: the group confirmed they are happy to continue with meetings once a month to enable to the sub groups to continue | More details to be shared soon |

**Next meeting of the CFW task team will take place in the next month and will discuss the standard rates for wages across organisations and how to calculate it.**

**Future questionnaires will include data collection on the variety of currencies used and whether use of the Turkish Lira is expanding.**

In future partners will be consulted around key anomalies and trends to enable accurate and details narrative analysis.
2. Hawala report is still in negotiation with UNICEF; the tools in excel format will be shared for use and adaptation by the BOP team and beyond but the full report is still embargoed
3. Have been in contact with the ACU to continue discussions on aligning the market monitoring and not duplicating.
4. ALL ORGS MUST SUBMIT CBR REPORTING MATRICES!!
5. 4Ws disaggregation did not take place this month – more discussions will be held with the clusters next week
6. HPF – will look into coordinating on HPF strategy and technical review for the next round of applications
7. Please complete the survey for learning needs analysis – training focus will be decided on that basis. A potential training has been identified but timing and agenda will be adapted. Dates TBC.
8. Next meeting – round table – sharing project info and challenges
   - Mercy Corps
   - GOAL
   - IRC
   - NRC

Members to prepare presentations

**Next meeting:** Gaziantep on 8th October. Agenda to follow – will include roundtable sharing of project outlines and challenges.

Sub group meetings will take place in the meantime, time, date and venue TBC.