Cash-Based Responses Technical Working Group (northern Syria)

Main meeting agenda, 7th April 2016

Venue: NRC Gaziantep, 10am  
Interim Chair: Roger Dean, NRC (roger.dean@nrc.no)

Attendees: Ahsan, Save the Children, REACH, ACTED, NRC, Relief International, IYD, GOAL, World Vision, Mercy Corps

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| Introduction                          | 10:00 | Roger  | • Note taker  
• Round table introductions  
• Agenda overview |
| Rolling chair                         | 10:15 | Roger  | SCI has re-opened recruitment for coordinator position, deadline April 12th. Short-term options being investigated, including NRC CashCap  
https://www.savethechildren.net/jobs/job-details/2906  
ACTED to chair May CBR-TWG in Antakya, nathan.stevens@acted.org |
| Round table                           | 10:30 | All    | Org 1  
Ma'rrat Nu Man update on e-cash programme on hygiene kits  
Org 2  
Market assessments; restricted commodity voucher for fuel, 2-3 weeks from kicking off; using modified RAM  
Org 3  
Preparing to start e-vouchers and e-cards (Azzaz city, outside the camps)  
Org 4  
Finished winter program 30K HHs (NFI value-vouchers, no PDM yet); direct fuel contribution/commodity voucher for winter fuel  
- 380 markets/vendors  
- Last month completed the Idleb response  
- Aleppo response  
- New arrivals (depending where they are coming from, and at; direct cash, NFI etc.)  
Fuel (mainly olive palms from local markets, sold at collective centers); significantly cheaper than diesel  
Other orgs operating in-kind at the moment, preparedness phase for cash |
| Sub-groups update                     | 10:45 | Nathan Team | Policy paper all but complete, to be tweaked in the following areas and distributed to clusters and others. Comments to nathan.stevens@acted.org by 14th please  
If prices are higher, impact on market?  
- Difficulty of adhering to general best practice in besieged areas (e.g. having staff monitoring distributions). Suggest agencies identify additional |

Commented [RD1]: Recruitment closes 12th  
Commented [RD2]: GOAL, PIN, NRC, IRC, Solidarites, SCI
risks and context-specific mitigation measures. Any suggestions appreciated.
- Important this not seen as a ‘cash problem’ – mainly a humanitarian principles problem

MEB team to meet in the coming week. NFI cluster members keen to include more items

| Other workplan points | 11:00 | Hosam GC All | Reporting matrix to be circulated with meeting minutes
- Concern about heavy reporting burden
- Lack of clarity about original purpose of collecting data outside the clusters
- Members to try entering data for one reporting cycle (from April 15th to May 15th) and reflect at next meet

Global Communities to be approached to see if they would like CBR-TWG assistance/input for a launch event for the feasibility study (Nathan S)

CFW Calculator status unclear but tool appears usable, so agencies to use it.

Agreed starting work on MPG work stream required Coordinator in place, deferred

| AOB | 11:15 | All | Market Monitoring update
- Maintain coverage in north, 25 sub-districts
- Syrian pound up 436 to 465 (Feb), 1.59 SP to TL
- Chicken price fell back significantly
- High prices for ghee, tomato paste in Aleppo, Raqqa, mainly Kurdish areas
- Spike in govt diesel but not representative of real prices
- Keen to collect unskilled labour rates but need definition from MEB group
- Concern about drop off in engagement from partners, need to keep agencies engaged
- (REACH to get an advocacy slot at next TWG meet)

Potential Calp 2 training in Gaziantep/Antakya, GOAL to investigate, NRC and ACTED offered to contribute to needs