

Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) Transfer Values

Interim Guidance: March 2021

Notes:

- This is an interim guidance produced by the NW Syria FSL Cluster, with support from the CWG.
- This document is informed by a broader set of guidance being updated this year, including:
 - (i) the Food Security Sector recommendations for the 2021 HRP; and
 - (ii) the Northern Syria Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)
- This interim guidance **applies only to the monthly general food assistance**, which can be provided through various modalities: in-kind, cash or voucher as appropriate to the local context; for a feeding period of 30 days and a minimum of 8 distributions (8 months out of 12 months) to the same assessed food insecure households.

1. Interim Guidance: Objectives and Intended Outcomes

Objective	Intended Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harmonize transfer values for general food assistance in the form of cash or vouchers. To provide some key recommendations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FSL partners have a harmonized approach. Field staff and local stakeholders clearly understand and appreciate the standardized transfer value and tension is minimized, if not avoided.

2. CVA Recommendations and Rationale

CVA Recommendations	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Transfer value:</i> \$60¹ <i>Currency:</i> \$50 in USD, and the value of the \$10 in the local currency preferred by recipients² 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This value is approximately 70% of the daily kcal intake (around 1550 Kcal per person per day in a monthly family food ration) as per the FSS guidance. It is also reflective of 70% of the SMEB food only proxy basket.

3. Key Recommendations to FSL Partners

- Conduct base-, mid-, endline assessments both of the CVA recipient HHs, and the market system (commodities and financial service providers).
- Conduct periodic market monitoring to validate/triangulate with the REACH monthly market findings.
- Coordinate consistently with the FSL Cluster and CWG by reporting to the monthly 4Ws and sharing assessment tools and findings.
- Ensure that this modality is coordinated well at the area level and in case of any issues, report immediately to the FSL Cluster.

¹ Although the prices of the food SMEB may change on a monthly basis as monitored by REACH, changing values on a monthly basis is not practical and may also lead to confusion among beneficiaries. The Cluster, CWG and REACH will revisit this transfer value every 3 months. This transfer value is based on a HH size of 6 members for now until the SMEB tool is updated later this year by the CWG in close collaboration with FSL and other key Clusters.

² This is due to the well-known scarcity of good quality lower USD denominations in NWS. The choice of local currency (TRY or SYP) should be decided by the preference of the aid recipients, likely consistent with the currency most widely used for daily transactions in the response area.