

Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) Transfer Values

Interim Guidance: March 2023

Notes:

1. This is an interim guidance produced by the NW Syria FSL Cluster, with support from the CWG and SAG members of FSL cluster.
2. 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, irrespective of modality frequency, either one or mixed modalities, i.e. 4 rounds cash plus 4 rounds vouchers.
3. Consider two rounds of food assistance distribution at once during emergencies and in case of any outbreak of diseases.
4. This document is informed by a broader set of guidance being updated this year, including:
 - 4.1. Recommendations for Response Packages-Food Security and Agriculture/Livelihoods Sector - Humanitarian Response Plan 2022-2023 [LINK](#).
 - 4.2 Northern Syria Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) 2023; it uses household approach for cash transfer value [LINK](#).
 - 4.3 CVA Transfer Value Interim Guidance developed in March 2021 [LINK](#).
5. This document takes into consideration the following challenges reported by partners and their implications on delivery of humanitarian assistance as:
 - 5.1 The tension/confusion among beneficiaries, caused by different transfer values per household for cash and voucher assistance (CVA) for food, ranging from 40 USD to 95 USD, a result from the recommended per capita calculation methodology.
 - 5.2 The need to change implementation plans and enhance coordination (i.e., target area) to avoid creating tension (4.1) with beneficiaries of partners implementing different values in same area of operation.
 - 5.3 The confusion at retailers' level, caused by different transfer values and approach per implementing partners.
 - 5.4 Increase of costs in relation to money transfer fees imposed by financial service providers (FSPs)
 - 5.5 The catastrophic and long-term impact of the earthquake, the resulting increase in people in acute need in the face of decreasing humanitarian funding.

1. Interim Guidance: Objectives and Intended Outcomes

Objectives	Key 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 and transfer values for CVA for food. Tension/confusion among recipient HHs and community at large is minimized. Field staff and local stakeholders clearly understand and appreciate the standardized transfer value.

2. CVA Recommendations and Rationale

Key Recommendations: CVA for food	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Transfer value:</i> \$65¹ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This value is based on 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 worth \$76 per HH of 5 members – equivalent to approximately \$13 per member. It is recommended that \$65 is the maximum transfer value per HH even in case organizations apply HH size targeting approach.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Currency of distribution:</i> TRY or USD or mix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommended shift from USD to TRY currency is based on accountability to affected people (AAP) principles -- putting less burden on HHs displaced and traumatized by the earthquake. Please refer to the NWS-CWG EQ Bulletin 2 for more rationale and Key Messages for the community.

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 5Ws and sharing assessment tools and findings.
- Ensure that this modality is coordinated well at the area level with other humanitarian actors. In case of any issues, report immediately to the FSL Cluster.

¹ Although the prices of the food SMEB may change monthly 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 monitor this transfer value regularly. Revision will be triggered by a 15% change (increase or decrease) in this value. This transfer value is based on an average HH size of 5 members.