

Report

March 2024

MENA Membership Engagement Event



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS: ADVANCING CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA) IN MENA SESSIONS SUMMARY

Session 1: Let's Get Started!

Meircan Han, the PMER Deputy Coordinator at the Turkish Red Crescent, kicked off the event with a warm welcome. He emphasized the power of collaboration in driving forward cash and voucher assistance (CVA) efforts in the MENA region.

Session 2: CALP in MENA Roadmap for 2024!

Participants got a sneak peek into CALP's plans for MENA in 2024. Here are the priority actions:

- **Support to CWGs:** Offering practical help in navigating tricky situations like high inflation and currency depreciation.
- **Guidance for Crisis Moments:** Equipping cash responders and CWGs with the know-how for rapid onset crises.
- **Sharing Is Caring:** Promoting knowledge exchange and best practices through communities of practice (CoPs).
- **Fostering partnerships:** to push CVA forward through collaboration with diverse stakeholders.
- **Leading the Way in Knowledge and Innovation:** Diving into critical thematic areas through research and thought leadership.
- **Building capacity:** Empowering through our program CVA skills course and tailor-made specialized training programs.

Session 3: Let's Talk Membership

Participants dived into interactive discussions exploring the perks of being a CALP member and how to enhance collaboration.

We've garnered valuable feedback from our community, shedding light on the benefits of CALP membership:

Added Value of CALP Membership

- Dive into a treasure trove of resources, including top-notch capacity-building materials.
- Count on CALP's research and evidence to guide your work.
- Join lively discussions and share experiences in our CALP-hosted forums, bringing together diverse backgrounds and expertise.

Working Better Together

- Let's team up with sectors to firmly integrate CVA into various responses, tackling policy-level issues.
- Create a repository to capture challenges and solutions faced by CVA actors.
- Share best practices widely to boost adoption among similar actors.
- Join our online membership meetings (once or twice a year) for closer ties and learning opportunities across the region.
- We're committed to attending cash working group (CWG) meetings, maintaining regular communication with cash actors.
- Let's explore evidence gaps together, with CALP's support.
- Facilitate direct discussions with donors where cash actors can raise issues.

Engagement & Strengthening

- Engage in bilateral meetings with CALP to spark collaboration.
- Enjoy regular membership networking opportunities.
- Your organization's commitment is key to meaningful engagement.
- CALP's website is your go-to source for straightforward information.
- Feel the network vibe and engage through existing channels.
- CALP invests resources in identifying and addressing common regional issues through research and capacity building.

Session 4: Insights from State of the World's Cash Report

Participants gained insights from the State of the World's Cash (SOWC) report, highlighting the urgent need for more effective CVA, adaptability to changing circumstances, and systemic changes to fully harness CVA's potential.

Session 5: Panel discussion on navigating Crises with Cash

Our panelists included:

- Ahmet Unver: UNHCR Türkiye, Co-Chair of the Cash-based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI TWG)
- Ahmed Abu Shammaleh: OCHA, Gaza CWG Co-chair
- Bihter Moschini: Takaful Al Sham, Northwest Syria CWG Coordinator

During this engaging conversation, panelists discussed the challenges they faced in coordinating emergency responses, the effectiveness of cash in meeting urgent needs, and their views on its scalability and sustainability in crises. They also shared their thoughts on CALP's role and suggestions for enhancing collaboration and knowledge-sharing on this issue.

It was an insightful discussion that shed light on the practicalities and potentials of cash responses during emergencies.

Feedback Roundup: What attendees had to say

After all the sessions, CALP conducted a quick poll to gauge attendee satisfaction. The results spoke volumes:

- **Thumbs Up for Format:** The majority of responders gave a nod of approval to the event's format, finding it engaging and effective.
- **Demand for More:** Attendees were eager for CALP to organize similar events in the future, highlighting the value they found in the discussions.