

TOR for Greece Cash Working Group **European Refugees and Migrants Crisis Response**

Background

In the course of 2015, Europe was increasingly confronted with a wave of refugees/migrants arriving on its shores from countries experiencing protracted crisis, violence, authoritarian and oppressive regimes and chronic poverty.¹ The total number of refugees/migrants who arrived in Europe from January 2015 until December 2015 has reached over 1 million people². UNHCR estimates that approximately 50,000 refugees and migrants are currently stranded in Greece with approximately 13,250 in the northern border town of Idomeni, 5,775 on the five islands, and over 10,000 in the Athens-Port of Piraeus area³. Despite the slowdown of arrivals in early 2016, there is still a continuous flow of refugees and migrants arriving on the shores of Greece. The crisis continues with an estimated 200,000 projected to be stranded in summer in 2016 despite the new EU/Turkey deal.

Objective of the Overall Cash Working Group

The overall objective and role of the Greece CWG is to provide a platform for discussion and establishing standards/recommendations on market based responses (inclusive of vouchers, tickets, coupons or cash) for the refugees and migrant emergency. This group will serve as a technical advisory group composed of market/cash based programming experts and implementers to provide guidance to implementing agencies/organizations. This group will critically analyze the situation to make recommendations on the appropriateness, effectiveness, and efficiency of market/cash based approaches overall and at each specific location. This group will also provide guidance on, targeting, and beneficiary accountability and protection.

Specific Objectives:

- Provide a platform for country dialogue, coordination, cooperation and evidence based learning integrating with humanitarian coordination system in place in country
- Coordinate other humanitarian actors in developing the 4W or 5W of activities to avoid duplication of humanitarian response.
- Promote market/CBI for refugee/migrant crisis at country level
- Provide guidance / consistency on targeting and accountability (including process)
- Provide guidance / evidence for protection mainstreaming
- Determine assessment and information needs and create a plan for obtaining information
- Explore market/CBI options across the transit/migration route
- Identifying when and where each type of market/CBI is most appropriate based on local context and making the agencies aware of the associated risks and propose mitigation measures.
- Elaborate guidelines for CBI
- Provide guidance on monitoring and evaluation to ensure ability to demonstrate effectiveness and impact
- Document lessons learned, best practices and experiences and share with a wider CaLP and humanitarian community.
- Influence donors and policy makers to allocate more funding and support for market/CBI

Technical support and capacity building

- Provide technical guidance and support implementing agencies on the following in order to facilitate a coordinated market/CBI:
 - defining beneficiary vulnerability and selection criteria
 - creating transparent and accountable distribution processes

¹ ISS paper 289: 1

² IOM, December 2015.

³ UNHCR report "Europe Refugee Emergency Site locations in Greece as of 22 march 2016 08:00 a.m. EET"

- incorporation of protection principles
 - determining monetary amounts based on MEB and SMEB
 - Identify financial and non-financial service providers and share information about performance
 - Identify and disseminate financial regulations to comply with when doing market/CBI
 - identifying appropriate CBI transfer mechanism
 - share information on CTP capacity building initiatives
 - Identify existing social protection safety net, including GoG's CBI, and make recommendation for integration with NGOs CBI when appropriate
- Make recommendations on if/how agencies can work together to reduce redundancies and increase efficiency
 - explore feasibility of adopting a multi-agency single card system, consortium model, or other coordination structures
 - Ensure Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP)⁴ principles and Minimal Economic Recovery Standards (MERS)⁵ are incorporated in market/cash based program recommendations in order to ensure technical quality and minimal standards are met.

Information Management

- Consolidate and share information on the use of cash transfer programming, market assessments, cash feasibility, cash post distribution monitoring reports, evaluation reports and other operational information.

Membership and coordination

Membership to the Cash Working Group is open to all humanitarian actors operating in Greece and using cash or vouchers as part of their humanitarian response to the refugees and migrants crisis.

The Cash Working Group is co-chaired by the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

Meeting Frequency and Venue: once every week the first 3 month, tbd after the 3 months.

The meeting takes place at the Samaritan's Purse office, Kleisthenous street 15, Athens. Greece.

⁴ <http://www.cashlearning.org/>

⁵ <http://www.seepnetwork.org/minimum-economic-recovery-standards-resources-174.php>