



Inter-Agency  
Coordination  
Türkiye

## CBI TWG SUMMARY NOTE - iNGO and CVA in TÜRKİYE

This note aims to (I) Compile existing available information and procedures for International Non-governmental Organisations (iNGOs) to follow for registration by Ministry of Interior (MoI) to implement cash-based interventions, (II) stress the problems newcoming iNGOs to Türkiye context experience in their registration process and, (III) Highlight possible advocacy points and the possible support from Humanitarian Coordinator.

### Background

- On February 6, 2023, two major earthquakes occurred in Türkiye's South-East Anatolia and Eastern Mediterranean region, with the epicenter in Kahramanmaraş. As a result, 11 provinces were declared earthquake-affected zones.<sup>i</sup> Infrastructure and shelters suffered significant damage, and markets, financial service providers, and services were disrupted. The Government of Türkiye (GoT) called upon humanitarian actors to take immediate action and provide in-kind assistance and services.
- As the situation evolved in these cities, partners observed an increased need for cash assistance among the residents. The demand for in-kind distributions, which was higher immediately after the earthquakes, has significantly decreased. Many registered local and international NGOs in Türkiye, as well as unregistered iNGOs, have planned and/or implemented Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in the earthquake-affected cities.
- To operate in Türkiye, iNGOs must complete the accreditation process through the Ministry of Interior (MoI). The regulations for iNGOs can be accessed through the document published by the MoI.<sup>ii</sup> iNGOs can establish a representation or branch, collaborate, operate, or become a member of an association or parent organization. Accreditation can be obtained at the provincial or Türkiye-wide level. iNGOs interested in operating in Türkiye should apply directly or by mail to the Directorate General of Civil Society Relations of the Ministry of Interior.
- During the state of emergency, the Presidential Decree No. 128<sup>iii</sup> issued which enabled iNGOs to complete their registration without waiting for the procedural actions set forth in Article 5 of the Law No. 5253. As per this decree operational flexibilities below were granted:
  - Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will be able to engage in activities related to earthquakes regardless of their stated purpose and operating conditions as specified in their bylaws.
  - iNGOs will also be able to carry out work related to earthquakes without requiring permission or being restricted by their approved areas of activity.
  - In Turkey, iNGOs that do not have permission to operate but wish to engage in activities in provinces where a state of emergency has been declared will be granted permission by the Ministry of Interior Affairs for the duration of the state of emergency.
- This flexibility was subsequently terminated as of 9 May 2023.

### Summary of the actions from CBI TWG

- CBI TWG relayed crucial information on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, during second Weekly CBI TWG EQ Meeting, regarding Presidential Decree No.128 that provides a fast-track application for unregistered iNGOs to complete their registration without waiting for the procedural actions set forth in Article 5 of the Law No. 5253.
- CBI TWG called for its members to report their challenges and barriers regarding permits for



implementing cash in Türkiye, and members did not give reference to any specific circular or action.

- Some iNGOs have not completed their registration but established partnerships with local NGOs and implement CVAs via their local NGO implementing partners.
- Some partners whose charter/registration did not explicitly mentioned delivery of cash in their registration status have found themselves in a grey area where it is unknown whether cash distribution is forbidden or allowed.
- Some partners in the field informally reported that they are experiencing hardships while implementing cash programmes. As reported by partners, governmental bodies such as governorates can be distant to iNGOs implementing CVA programmes.

### Actions/Advocacy Lines

Based on exhaustive consultation and research, the Cash-Based Interventions Technical Working Group (CBI TWG) has concluded that there are no specific permit requirements for implementing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in Turkey for iNGOs. Consultations have revealed that if the charter/bylaws of the iNGO include humanitarian aid and the delivery of cash to beneficiaries, any registered non-governmental organization would be able to deliver CVA. Therefore, the main challenge for some organizations in not delivering CVA is that their charter does not explicitly include the distribution of CVA, and the coverage of the iNGO is limited to certain provinces only. The points below have been raised to the HC as advocacy points to support CVA implementation by iNGOs:

- There is a need to advocate with the line ministry to bring clarity on registration requirements for delivering CVA and provide flexibility during the ongoing state of emergency.
- There is a need to identify the challenges and needs of iNGOs that still experience problems regarding the delivery of CVAs.

---

<sup>i</sup> The 11 most affected provinces include the 10 provinces where a state of emergency of three months has been declared (Adıyaman, Gaziantep, Kilis, Hatay, Malatya, Diyarbakır, Adana, Osmaniye, Kahramanmaraş and Şanlıurfa) and Elazığ. *Flash Appeal: Türkiye Earthquake* (February - April 2023), 15 May 2023, <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/98890>

<sup>ii</sup> MoI published a document on their corporate website [www.siviltoplum.gov.tr](http://www.siviltoplum.gov.tr), *Yabancı STK'ların (Dernek, Vakıf, Kar Amacı Gütmeyen Kuruluşlar) Türkiye'deki Faaliyetleri*, 15 May 2023,

[https://www.siviltoplum.gov.tr/kurumlar/siviltoplum.gov.tr/islemler/YabancıStk/Yabancı\\_STKlar\\_icin\\_Basvuru\\_Rehberi2023.pdf](https://www.siviltoplum.gov.tr/kurumlar/siviltoplum.gov.tr/islemler/YabancıStk/Yabancı_STKlar_icin_Basvuru_Rehberi2023.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> Presidential Decree No.128 is announced on Association of Civil Society Development Center: Information Note on Notification Obligations and Activities of CSOs Operating in the Provinces Affected by the Earthquake, Olağanüstü Hal Kapsamında Bazı Tedbirlerin Alınması Hakkında Cumhurbaşkanlığı Kararnamesi, 15 May 2023, <https://www.stgm.org.tr/en/information-note-notification-obligations-and-activities-csos-operating-provinces-affected>