

## Guidelines: Emergency MEB & Updated Transfer Values

This two-page document explains the rationale for the new Emergency MEB and the updated transfer values. It also provided recommendations on how best to use these two tools, endorsed by the CWG on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It is highly recommended for all humanitarian agencies implementing CVA programmes in Gaza to integrate these new tools into their response analysis and implementation in order to harmonize responses and increase efficiency.

### I. Emergency MEB (EMEB)

The MEB Task Force established a new EMEB to better capture and calculate that the needs that an average household in Gaza (six members) would face during an emergency. *The EMEB is intended to assist persons affected by emergencies such as man-made and natural disasters.*

The MEB Task Force decided to establish an EMEB instead of a Survival MEB (SMEB) as it was unanimously agreed that ensuring minimum standards should always be the target objective. Therefore, *the MEB should be the basis to calculate transfer values for all regular programming, including Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA).*

Nonetheless, emergencies present their own considerations. High number of households with acute needs arises, some needs are prioritized over others, and agencies mobilize to provide different forms of assistance. In such emergencies, *the EMEB can be implemented alone or together with other forms of assistance* to best support affected households. As it is a tool for emergencies, *it is recommended to use the EMEB for 1-3 months only.* If the affected household needs become chronic, then it is suggested for these households to be assisted through regular programming and MEB value.

The EMEB is composed of the expenses that a household cannot avoid and would prioritize during or right after an emergency. These expenses are multi-sectorial: food, shelter, WASH, education, health, clothes, communication, and COVID-19 expenses:

<b>Food</b>	Food		
<b>Shelter</b>	Monthly fare for the disposal of solid waste	<b>Education</b>	Note book A4
	Fee for disposal of sewage - public networks system		Pencil with Eraser - Orbit - China
	Emergency light		Ballpoint Pen -bej - France
Maintenance (including shelter and bed needs)		Eraser - Aorepett - Chinese - large size	
		Colors wooden box (12 color) - Long - Orbit	
		Schoolbag	
		School uniform	
		<b>Health</b>	Health
		<b>Debts</b>	Debts
<b>WASH</b>	Drinking water	<b>Communication</b>	Communication
	Non-drinking water (Water tariff for consumption 5.1 - 10 cubic mete		
	Toothbrush - Sensodyne		
	Toothpaste (Toothpaste - Sensodine - America)	<b>Energy</b>	Energy
	Toilet soap - Palmolive - America		
	Toilet paper - large size 48 roll - Mulet - Israel	<b>(Winter) clothes</b>	Winter Jacket
	Sanitary pads - Always - Israel	Winter Pull-over	
Diapers children	Winter Shoes		
		<b>Transportation</b>	Transportation
		<b>COVID19</b>	Face masks
			Hand sanitizer (sanitizer for hand and body, HYCLEAN/ALCOHOL GEL,

*Note: The expenditures lines in red were removed from the MEB. All green expenditures lines remain for the EMEB.*

Some regular MEB expenses were removed as they are unlikely to be prioritized. *The value of the EMEB is calculated at 1,285 NIS per month per household.* To compare, the 2021 MEB was calculated at 1,743 NIS per month per household. Nonetheless, the MEB and EMEB should not be confused with the emergency transfer value, which will be explored in the next section.

## II. Updated Transfer Values

Given the updates to the MEB and the new EMEB, the MEB Task Force proposed to update the transfer values to be used for CVA assistance, particularly MPCA. *It was recommended to employ the same logic to calculate the transfer values as in 2020: the Regular Transfer Value should equal 60% of MEB value, while the Emergency Transfer Value should equal the EMEB minus the average income of a poor household.* The income data is the average from the data collected in the Socio Economic and Food Security Survey (SEFSec) by the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics and the baseline data collected by the Gaza Protection Consortium (GPC) for its MPCA programme.

The main guiding principles used to calculate the updated transfer values were i) to have solid logic and data behind the values, ii) to propose values that are likely to be accepted and integrated by CWG members, and iii) to continue the efforts to harmonize and follow the logic and methodology used by the Ministry of Social Development for its National Cash Transfer Program. The latter point is particularly relevant for the Regular Transfer Value.

The updated transfer values are the following:

- **Regular Transfer Value** = **1'046 NIS per household per month**
- **Emergency Transfer Value** = **645 NIS per household per month**

*The updated transfer amounts are lower than the previous values as the updated MEB and EMEB are also lower.* This decrease is mainly a result of the change from expenditure-based calculations only to a mix of price-based and expenditure-based calculations. Some key expenditure lines such as rent were removed as 90% of Gazan households do not have rent costs. There has also been little to no inflation in Gaza recently. These lower numbers are in line with the GPC evaluation midline review that concluded that the transfer values were on the higher end of the spectrum. Last, but not least, lower amounts allow more households to be assisted and possibly for longer periods of time.

As the transfer values were endorsed by the CWG on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, *it is recommended for agencies to start employing these transfer values as soon as technically possible.* As their names suggest, the regular transfer value is designed and recommended for regular programming and the emergency transfer value is designed and recommended only for emergency situations.

To note that the CWG members requested for the MEB Task Force to look into creating different transfer values according to family size. The MEB Task Force will meet to explore how best to do so and to propose specific transfer values for endorsement from the CWG.