

## The Movements Cash Peer Working Group (CPWG) Virtual Meeting

*June 8-11, June 2020*

### PARTICIPANTS

RC/RC Movement	First Name	Last Name	Status	CPWG Role
American Red Cross	Marianna	Kuttothara	Present	Chair
Austrian Red Cross	Wolfgang	Klug	Present	Member
British Red Cross	Emma	Delo	Present	Chair
Danish Red Cross	Lisbet	Elvekjaer	Present	Member
Ethiopian Red Cross	Kalkidan	Belete	Present	Member
German Red Cross	Mareike	Tobiassen	Present	Excused
ICRC	Joanna	Burton	Present	Member
IFRC	Caroline	Holt	Present	Member
IFRC / Danish Red Cross	Nathalie	Juul	Present	Coordinator
Kenya Red Cross	Sammy	Mbuguah	Present	Member
Netherlands Red Cross	Rodolphe	Visser	Present	Member
Swiss Red Cross	Anne-Katherine	Moore	Present	Member
Turkish Red Crescent	Orhan	Hacimehmet	Present	Member
QUORUM REACHED			YES	

### INDICATORS AND TARGETS

The purpose of the session was to discuss the indicators and targets for 2020-2025, especially with a focus on the additional 4 proposed indicators (supplementing the three existing indicators); the scope, how to measure them (data sources), and next steps if they were deemed to be fit for purpose.

The indicators and targets exercise not only has the purpose of informing our work, but also informing about our work. Thus, telling the world about cash and showing the unique value of the movement is an objective in itself. A roll out strategy should be developed including a communication strategy.

### RESEARCH

The CPWG agreed that the research task group in the next month should finalize an overview paper on Movement research themes in cash. The session had two desired outputs: 1) to present the general paper on research themes found to have special importance while adding significant value for and in the movement; 2) collected agreement on a plan for and a prioritization of the three priority themes (the three themes listed above); scope, methodology, problem statement, and next steps.

#### THE 3 PRIORITY THEMES:

##### Cash and localisation of aid

In the strengthening of localised response, National Societies' level of preparedness, delivery capacity and community reach are cardinal. The purpose of research on this topic is to explore parameters key to ensure/build National Societies' long-term standing capacity delivering quality Cash and Voucher assistance (CVA) programmes for small, medium and large emergencies. National Societies each have a leading and often legislated role in disaster and crisis response in their national context through their auxiliary status with

their national governments. National Societies are and will increasingly be partners of choice for these national governments, for international actors, and for donors seeking to reform the humanitarian system. However, despite the Grand Bargain commitments to the localisation agenda made by the humanitarian community, it has not transpired into significant investment or direct funding to local and national humanitarian actors. There continue to be a significant lack of direct funding to National Societies to build sustainable national humanitarian actors who are better able to deliver, manage and coordinate effective cash-based assistance in high risk settings.

### Cash and Social Protection

Humanitarian objectives are focused on saving lives and meeting the basic needs. However, in the context of protracted and more frequent emergencies there is an increasing need for better connections across humanitarian and development work to provide more sustainable and long-term assistance. CVA can be used as a flexible and efficient tool to expand social protection systems to accommodate people affected by crisis. A carefully designed CVA response as a part of a national social protection system can strengthen the capacity of governments and host communities to tackle the strain on access to different services and economic opportunities, as well as ensuring effective protection and support to the most vulnerable people. CVA in social protection offers a golden opportunity to establish the bridge from rapid response measures in crisis situations to medium and long-term development targets. However, despite the general consensus on the potential of CVA integration with national social protection systems, there remains a need for rigorous research to provide evidence-based information, especially on impact. The movement has a particularly advantageous position with regard to CVA implementation in the context of social protection models due to its unique auxiliary role to their governments.

### Cash in an Economic and Financial Crisis

Economic and financial crises increase vulnerabilities for people. This is particularly detrimental when a population also is affected by other – sometimes transcending - emergencies, such as civil unrest, conflict, and population movements that in itself negatively impacts the capacity to meet immediate needs and access basic essential services. A weaker economic activity pressures both the informal and formal labour markets often leading to fall in earnings and higher levels of unemployment. Further, a financial crisis typically involves a large currency depreciation, which changes relative prices. The currency depreciation often affects consumer prices, and the higher cost of imported food puts a further strain on the vulnerable. Moreover, when faced with an economic crisis, governments often respond by tightening the monetary and fiscal stances, often leading to cuts in public outlays on social programs, transfers to households, and wages and salaries.

Working in the context of economic crisis can pose additional challenges for humanitarian organizations such as lack of foreign currency (liquidity), supply chain (framework agreements), and predictability of aid for beneficiaries. Understanding which barriers humanitarian organizations are facing when considering CVA in an economic and financial crisis context will provide more CVA options to people affected by economic and financial crisis. This is especially relevant as it is evident that, above challenges have made many agencies revert to in kind distributions.

It still has to be decided whether the status of the NS in terms of ‘cash readiness’ is a factor to be explored or not. (e.g. in Lebanon we know the NS can use CVA, but the financial crisis inhibits this, whereas in Libya the NS has no CVA experience and the financial crisis inhibits this).

Purpose of the research will be to identify blockages of using CVA in financial crises and identify solutions. Central to that is also to have a wider understand of the movement’s experience in this field, so first to focus on contexts where RCM has experience of using CVA in a financial crisis (Lebanon, Libya, Zimbabwe etc.) but also bring in at least one context where CVA is not used (Venezuela?) as part of the comparative approach.

## **TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

### **TOOLKIT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

Currently, the Toolkit TWG is working on guidance on content. In this process, stakeholder interviews are conducted to get a better understanding of what resources are helpful and what could be approved and / or added.

### **INFORMATION MANAGEMENT (IM) TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

The IM TWG is currently doing a revision of their ToR and is aligning the workplan with the other Technical Working Groups (e.g. preparedness). The IM TWG is working on innovation workstreams to ensure more information available to support National Societies navigate in the various initiatives available.

### **TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

The Training and Development Technical Working Group is currently working on how learning objectives can be / are linked to the competency framework.

### **CASH PREPAREDNESS (CVAP) TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

The CVAP Technical Working Group is currently working on CVAP tools for the updated CVAP guidance. Upcoming tasks include reviewing PER benchmarks once opportunity arises. An overview of NSs investing in CVAP will be made public in July on cash maps.

### **SOCIAL PROTECTION TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP**

The Social Protection TWG is a newly established TWG. The group have drafted a workplan and a position paper is expected to be finalized in June. They are looking into linkages with other Technical Working Groups especially concerning guidance and tools.

### **HEALTH TWG**

The Health TWG is a newly established Technical Working Group. The initial focus of this Technical Working Group is research and evidence and developing a menu of response options for cash to meet health outcomes.

## **FSP & Operational Blockers**

Currently, 50 National Societies have included CVA in their country plans for the Covid-19 response. To identify potential operational blockers/identify challenges, IFRC is establishing a task force. The aim is to bring in experience from various technical areas (such as legal, logistics, operations, and finance) to identify potential and possible solutions to be tested