

Webinar Series: Adapting to COVID-19 The Use of Cash & Markets in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement – 6th May 2020



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6 th May	Agenda	Speaker
3 mins	Introduction	David Dalgado - Host
5 mins	RCM Cash Hub & Help Desk	Emma Delo, Cash & Markets Technical Team Manager, British Red Cross
15 mins	ICRC Tip sheet: Cash and Voucher Assistance and COVID19 and examples of how these have been used so far	Alexandre Gachoud, Cash & Market Specialist, EcoSec Unit, ICRC
15 mins	An overview of how NS are preparing to respond including some challenges and opportunities that we are seeking to explore	Caroline Holt, Manager Global Cash Transfer Programming, IFRC
15 mins	Questions and Answers	Participants to post questions in the chat.



A Cash Helpdesk for the Movement

Webinar: Adapting to COVID-19
6.5.2020

A Cash Helpdesk for the Movement

- Cash is a critical tool in responding to COVID-19
- Markets are responding in new and adaptive ways
- Likely more NS directly or at request of Government/partners will use cash
- Helpdesk refocused to provide remote technical support, information and learning
- Open to all Movement members
- Coordinated with the IFRC, ICRC and CPWG

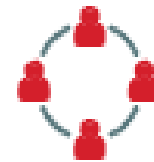
What support can I get?

Guidance and support Cash Helpdesk



- Fast-track cash preparedness
- Design and implement cash in response to COVID-19
- How to persuade others and make the case for cash
- Accessing and adapting Movement cash guidance, tools and trainings
- Any other cash query you might have

Information and learning cash-hub.org



- Frequently asked questions
- Information updates and webinars
- Case studies, facts sheets and learning resources
- Discussion forum to share and exchange ideas
- Share your knowledge and expertise with others

How can I access?

CashHub

Hosted by
 BritishRedCross

 SEARCH

**CASH IN
EMERGENCIES
TOOLKIT**

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Cash Helpdesk for the Movement / Helpdesk transferts monétaires / Helpdesk de transferencias monetarias / مكتب المساعدة النقدية

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Question and Answer Session

Please keep microphones muted.

Please post questions in the chat. These will be read out by the host so please make them as clear as possible.

Any questions not responded to in the Webinar we will see if we can respond later and share a link.

A global pandemic

- All 110 contexts where ICRC works have confirmed cases (almost 100 contexts in which an entry ban or confinement measure were imposed).
- The CVA tipsheet serves as guidance to help field teams think through different ways:
 - 1) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through ongoing CVA
 - 2) inform the adaptation of CVA in the context of COVID-19
 - 3) promote sensitivity to evolving markets dynamics.
- Inspired by the “Shield & Sword strategy” developed to tackle previous outbreaks.
- Drafted by myself, with inputs from other ICRC cash & markets specialists (HQ & Regional). Reviewed by members of the Movement Cash Preparedness WG.



TIPSHEET: Cash and Voucher Assistance and COVID-19 (v1 – March 21st, 2020)

This tipsheet serves as guidance to help field teams think through different ways:
1) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through ongoing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA);
2) inform the adaptation of CVA in the context of COVID-19;
3) promote sensitivity to evolving markets dynamics.

This tipsheet is inspired by the “Shield & Sword strategy” developed to tackle previous outbreaks such as cholera. The primary objective is the SHIELD: measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The next version of this tipsheet will expand more on how CVA can contribute to early measures to address the impact of COVID-19 (eg: for healthcare, loss of lives & livelihoods).

This tipsheet focuses specifically on CVA and is meant to complement other reference guidance: it is general, but we will work with you to tailor advice to your specific context and needs. Please remember that not only EcoSec handle cash or use CVA so please share this tip sheet widely inside your Delegation. This tipsheet identifies some of the main identified risks involved with CVA that should be considered before adapting or stopping an ongoing or planned intervention. Such difficult decisions should always factor in our humanitarian mandate to assist affected people (eg: if you decide not to distribute cash, vouchers or inputs for the upcoming planting season in many countries, the effects of a failed or poor agriculture campaign should be considered).

If you have any questions or need support, please reach out to Alexandre Gachoud, EcoSec Cash & Markets Specialist based in Geneva, or to your Regional Cash & Markets Specialists Glenn Hughson (Nairobi) or Tanjona Andriamarolaza (Dakar). If other Protection or Assistance departments have questions on using CVA in their responses, please reach out to Jo Burton, Institutional Cash & Markets Specialist.

1. Adapting ongoing cash & voucher interventions

1.1 Design and Objective

➤ Focus on the core aspects of your planned intervention and do them well. Aspects of your interventions (eg: transfer of a cash grant or part of a MEI grant; more focus on the “cash” aspect rather than the “work” one in cash-for-work interventions) that can reduce the exposure and vulnerability of conflict affected people should be prioritized over the next 2 months, if the seasonal calendar allows for this (eg: planting season).

➤ Recognize that physical currency can play a role in the chain of virus transmission and assess the risks. Make sure all staff regularly wash their hands with soap and clean water (or with hand-sanitizers) when handling paper money, cards and vouchers. Ask our financial service providers (FSP) to use new banknotes or disinfect the ones they are using in our cash distributions. Consider using a different delivery mechanism such as mobile money or banking cards. Consider also switching to paper vouchers (eg: for a one-off distribution) or electronic ones (if Red Rose has already been deployed). Laminating paper vouchers means they can be disinfected before handing over to affected households. However, laminated vouchers can also present potential risks as bacteria might remain between the paper and plastic layers unless thoroughly disinfected.

➤ If your programme relies on voucher fairs, assess the risks involved: consider extending the period of the fair or switching to a simpler modality (eg: cash transfers using mobile money) to avoid large gatherings.

➤ Keep communication channels open: make sure you have working telephone numbers for your focal point at the National Society, key informants, community gate keepers and service providers so you can contact them even if physical meetings are not possible. Mobile data restrictions in some sites hosting displaced population camps present a challenge to host communities, displaced people and aid agencies: staying informed and life-saving health interventions require rapid and effective communication.

CVA and COVID19: the Schield

- The primary objective is the SHIELD: measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Key recommendations:

1. Adapting ongoing cash & voucher interventions

1.1 Design and Objective

1.2 Implementation and delivery mechanisms

1.3 Reconciliation, use of assistance and monitoring


2. Specific elements to consider in CVA feasibility studies and market assessment

Interesting use of the tipsheet (part 1):

- **Burkina Faso & Nigeria**
- **Yemen & Gaza**



CVA and COVID19: the Sword

- How CVA can contribute to early measures to address the impact of COVID-19 (eg: for healthcare, loss of lives & livelihoods) 
- Key recommendations:
 - Could be presented during the next webinar once the doc is finalized and disseminated within the Movement.

Caroline Holt, Manager Global Cash Transfer Programming, IFRC

Stop sharing screen so Caroline's video feed can be seen.

Questions and Answers

Please post questions in the chat