Humanitarian agencies interview checklist

During assessments, you will interview humanitarian agencies. There may be a working group already in place in the country where cash is discussed. If there is not, linking with OCHA or the food security sector is a good place to start. Also, there may be information available through the CaLP network.

You should take this opportunity to gather cash-specific information that will allow you to:

1. confirm the information gathered from local authorities regarding social assistance policies and programmes
2. learn about previous humanitarian responses, particularly those which involved cash
3. know whether a cash response is being considered to meet the affected population’s needs, and why.

Below you will find a list of questions to choose from and adapt to your context in order to ensure that cash issues are taken into account in your assessment.

### Previous humanitarian response

* Is there any relevant learning from past emergency responses regarding the suitability and efficiency of different transfer modalities?
* Do you have any experience with local financial service providers, including e-transfers? Could you share your learning from this experience?
* Based on your experience, are there any cultural issues/preferences related to communication and accountability (types of communication device, language, etc.)?

### Response to the shock

* What are your agency and other organizations planning to do in order to meet the affected population’s needs? What types of transfer modality and distribution mechanism are being planned/used?
* Do you think that the needs of the affected population could be met efficiently through a cash response?
* Probe questions:
  + Does the affected population have access to the local market after the shock?
  + Would the market be able to provide the items/services that the affected population needs at reasonable prices? What are the potential issues/bottlenecks?
  + Does the affected population have preferences towards any response modality/mechanism?
  + Is there a monetary estimation of the affected households’ needs?

### Social assistance policies and coordination

* What are the social assistance strategies and policies put in place by the government?
* Who are the key actors involved (ministries, decentralized offices, donors, United Nations)?
* Is there any cash **coordination** mechanism in place (government, United Nations, clusters, technical groups, etc.)?

### Social assistance programmes

* What are the social assistance programmes that have been put in place by the government or other actors?
* How do they work in terms of targeting, registration, distribution, monitoring, etc.?
* Do you think it would be possible to take advantage of these programme to provide humanitarian assistance to shock-affected households (e.g., expand social assistance programmes or align humanitarian response to existing programmes)?

### Risk

* Are there any risks associated with a potential cash response?
  + Refer to issues such as social unease, security, gender, protection, elderly people, children and minorities.
  + Consider also government policies that could be obstacles to a cash response.
* What is the national legislation on personal data protection and privacy?