

27th January 2021 Cash Hub Webinar Summary Points

Topic: Cash Preparedness

| Speaker | Summary Takeaways |
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| <p>Inès Dalmau Gutsens, Cash and Market TA, British Red Cross</p> <p>Bilal Hussain Shah, Cash Preparedness Officer, IFRC</p> | <p>Overview of the Cash Preparedness Approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (RCRCM) has been one of the first humanitarian organisations to engage in cash preparedness. • The approach in 2012-2013 on the initial pilots for cash preparedness started with a cash capacity assessment and with the gaps and strengths identified developing a plan of action, and working on these actions over 2 years, with an evaluation at the end. • In 2015 the RCRCM set up a Cash Preparedness Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop guidance for National Societies (NS) on cash preparedness and the companion tools. • From a number of evaluations we found that Cash Preparedness with NS was successful to help them utilise Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in responses, The evaluations also highlighted that for the preparedness to be sustained that we needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a higher leadership commitment to CVA preparedness ○ to extend the timeframe for preparedness from 2 to up to 5 years. ○ To find standard metrics to measure cash preparedness. ○ To link cash preparedness with other NS development activities such as PR, FbF. • We have updated the Cash Preparedness guidance and this is available here • For NS to be successful they must undertake/invest in these 5 key areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Leadership commitment ○ Processes, systems and tools ○ Financial and human resources and capacities ○ Community engagement and accountability, coordination and partnership ○ Test, learning and Improve. • At the same time as cash preparedness the NS must have the opportunity during the preparedness timeframe to utilise CVA and learn by doing. • Currently 60 National Societies are investing in Cash Preparedness and 12 NS are actively considering engaging in Cash Preparedness. 3 Engaged previously but had to stop due to a range of reasons. |
| <p>Pham Thanh My- CVA Focal Point, Viet Nam Red Cross</p> <p>Michael Belaro, Regional Coordinator,</p> | <p>Viet Nam RC – Cash Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The achievements and successes of VNRC in our ability to scale up can be attributed to the investments made in Cash Preparedness. • VNRC started its cash preparedness in 2013 as part of the global pilot and then there was follow up support in 2018-2019. |

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| <p>Cash Assistance, Asia-Pacific, IFRC</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong support and guidance from the senior management helped significantly to scale up CVA response.• VNRC published a Cash position paper for 2018-2023 that serves as guide in informing our operational responses.• Cash focal persons were also designated across the 22 disaster prone provinces.• Translation of tools was important and we translated the Rapid Assessment on Market (RAM) Guidance into Vietnamese and undertook training in our chapters.• Familiarity with both Redrose and KoBo toolbox for data management was gained.• Since 2019 we have had pre-agreements with identified Financial Service Providers, this has been tested and scaled-up in 2020 for COVID-19 response.• VNRC built capacity from NHQ down to Chapters. Trainings were done on CTP (Cash Transfer Programming), Information management and market assessment. We were also able to conduct training down to the commune level especially in using the RAM tools in our market assessments. Training of the local government commune leader was very important, and we targeted those disaster prone communes specifically. <p>COVID-19 response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In April 2020, during the peak of the lockdown and social distancing measures, VNRC assessed how to support the vulnerable with COVID-19 (jobless, outdoor labor etc.). In May, VNRC set up Humanitarian stores/market with commodities vouchers for beneficiaries to allow them to access essential goods from the support of domestic businesses and partners.• In order to support the remaining affected people, after the government's COVID-19 support package, VNRC developed a guideline for multi-purpose cash (MPC) for COVID-19 and quickly implemented (MPC) in the identified priority provinces.• A total of 178,257 people were reached with the voucher and multipurpose cash grants from May to September 2020. <p>Key achievements and challenges in our CVA journey</p> <p>Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Switched from cash-in-envelopes to using FSPs, which has helped with speed of delivery.• Varied transfer mechanism available now including cheques, bank transfer, mobile money payment with SMS, & ATM card. Assessed and decided to look at agreements with different FSPs to ensure coverage across Vietnam.• Building capacity at the grassroots level has been very important so commune level community leaders have been part of helping to implement the cash assistance. <p>Challenges:</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Rose powerful tool but in English. We need to ensure we allocate some of our cash preparedness funds for translation of key tools like Red Rose and RAM. • Financial resources required for Red Rose and therefore KoBo toolbox used instead for data management. • Inter-agency cash coordination is important and agreeing a common MEB (Minimum Expenditure Basket) can be challenging and take time. • Although significant scale up of the cash response, some provinces do not have CTP experience as yet. |
| <p>Bermet Muradylova – CVA Focal Point, Kyrgyzstan Red Crescent (RCSK)</p> <p>Bektur Imankulov – CVA regional coordinator, IFRC ROE</p> | <p>Kyrgyzstan RC – CVA Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2020 the National Society (NS) was able to deliver CVA to 46,202 people. Our Cash preparedness journey started in 2016 with a one-off response using cash and since then we agreed we needed to invest in cash preparedness to increase our use of Cash of scale. • Thinking about the 3 most important things we would like to share about our cash preparedness journey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We were able to turn our director general to be very supportive of Cash, so we have full support of senior management to utilise CVA in responses. Utilising CVA in a response is now always considered first in comparison to other response options. ○ We were able to build capacity of key staff at both HQ and all branches, with resource people and CVA focal points in key programming departments too (such as Disaster Management, Health, and Social Development departments). We have volunteers and staff members all over the country that are able to setup and design programmes utilising CVA. ○ In 2020 the NS became the partner of choice for both Movement and other humanitarian agencies (such as UN agencies). • Picking out a few key parts of CVA preparedness for us: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enabling systems - we updated our approved procedures to include CVA and included CVA in contingency plans. ○ Programme tools - we developed mini projects and the tooling in all our strategic areas/sectors such as DM, Health and Social Development. The Stress Test was very important to us because we tested our SoPs in a real time. ○ Capacity and Resources – We have trained and developed a number of staff and volunteers (such as NDRT) to enable CVA delivery across the country. Some of these staff are PECT trained, and some have supported PECTs in other countries and also helped delivered CVA in other IFRC missions. ○ Communication and Coordination – we are developing our CEA capacity including through Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) and Hotline. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our plans include further CVA trainings, involving more FSPs, Continuing work on digitalization (mobile data collection, self-applications, information management).• Key achievements for RCSK: leadership buy-in throughout, adaption of CVA trainings and tools to Kyrgyzstan, learning by doing/piloting/testing, access to dedicated CVA support, well-functioning CVA specific Working Group supported by Swiss RC for quality assurance, dedicated project funding for CVA activities. |
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Prepared by David Dalgado, Cash Hub team based on what was shared in the Webinar.