

Webinar 22: Fast Track Cash Preparedness

The Use of Cash & Markets in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

09 June 2021



	Agenda	Speaker
3 mins	Housekeeping	David Dalgado, Cash Hub team, British Red Cross - Host
7 mins	Opening	Gianluca Rigolio , Cash Coordinator, Regional Office Europe, IFRC
12 min	Armenian Red Cross experience	Hayarpi Karapetyan , CVA focal point, Armenian Red Cross
12 mins	Belarus Red Cross	Igor Trusov , CVA focal point, Belarus Red Cross
3 mins	Wrap-up	Bilal Shah , Officer, Cash Preparedness and Capacity Building – Global, IFRC
15 mins	Q&A	

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/cash-hub>

www.cash-hub.org - Cash Helpdesk available for all RCRC Movement CVA support



Overview of the Fast Track Cash Preparedness

Gianluca Rigolio, Regional Cash Coordinator Europe, IFRC

Bilal Hussain Shah, Cash Preparedness Officer, IFRC

Purpose of the approach



This fast-track CVA preparedness approach is an adapted version of the RCRCM standard CVA Preparedness.

It is aimed at supporting National Societies considering CVA under COVID-19 response to have the **minimum requirements** in place to deliver CVA in a timely, accountable and effective manner.



Brief Information and experience

- Developed in response to COVID-19.
- The timeframe required for this approach is 3 months.
- 3 core areas:
 - National Society leadership acceptance and organizational capacity.
 - Coordination and partnerships.
 - Response modality and delivery mechanism (assessment and response options analysis).
- Baseline/PoAs and endline fast track cash capacity self assessment.



Piloting of Fast Track approach

- 10 NSs were identified to pilot the approach.
- Piloted in Armenia, Belarus, North Macedonia and Tajikistan in Europe region. Lesotho and Namibia in Africa region.



ARMENIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (ARCS) CVA programs

- Various Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) programs for Syrian Armenians (from 2013)
- Utility payment for collective shelters hosting people from NK (funded by IFRC) - with Ministry of Territorial Administration
- Cash support to host families (funded by ICRC) - with Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, FSPs
- Cash Assistance to people from NK (130\$ per person per month) (funded by UNHCR)—with Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, FSPs
- Common platform led by USS
- Participation in Cash working group meetings involving local NGOs and int. organizations





ARMENIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (ARCS) CVA programs

CVA FAST TRACK CASH PREPAREDNESS

What gaps were identified from the self-assessment?

- Baseline capacity assessment
- Monitoring needed for the program “Payment of utilities of collective shelters”
- Training and raising skills of volunteers on CVA in regional branches
- Training and raising skills of volunteers to conduct PDM (technical assistance by IFRC-installment of Kobo, development of questionnaire,etc)





ARMENIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (ARCS) CVA programs

CVA FAST TRACK CASH PREPAREDNESS

Duration: Feb-April 2021

Budget: 15'000CHF

❖ **Strengthening ARCS capacities** (regional and HQ level)

- Training of volunteers on CVA (15 people from RBs)
- Training of volunteers on how to use KoBo for verification and monitoring of cash programs
- Post Distribution Monitoring of the program paying utilities of collective shelters hosting people from NK
- Need for equipment in Regional Branches
- Needs assessment of people from NK conducted by the volunteers via KoBo

February 2021

- **Capacity Assessment – Baseline**
- Development of ToR for CVA focal point and CVA working group
- CVA essential training organized for ARCS staff with support of ICRC and IFRC

March 2021

- Development of brief guidelines for CVA implementation
- Improvement of feedback mechanism
- scripts, technical upgrades of the telephone helpline- CVA hotline number 8184.

April 2021

- Development of monitoring and verification systems for CVA
- Application of the available systems and tools developed during implementation of the program

- **Consultations with the stakeholders** (relevant Ministries, NGOs and int. organizations)
- **Analysis of secondary data** to understand the possibilities to implement CVA in Armenia



Ways forward and ARCS future plans

- To further enhance the capacities of ARCS

- To improve the existing systems

- To increase the number of trained staff and volunteers on CVA; training for 50 volunteers for future planned CVA programs

**THANK YOU😊
QUESTIONS?**



BELARUS RED CROSS



BELARUS: Fast-Track CVA preparedness



09.06.2021

Minsk

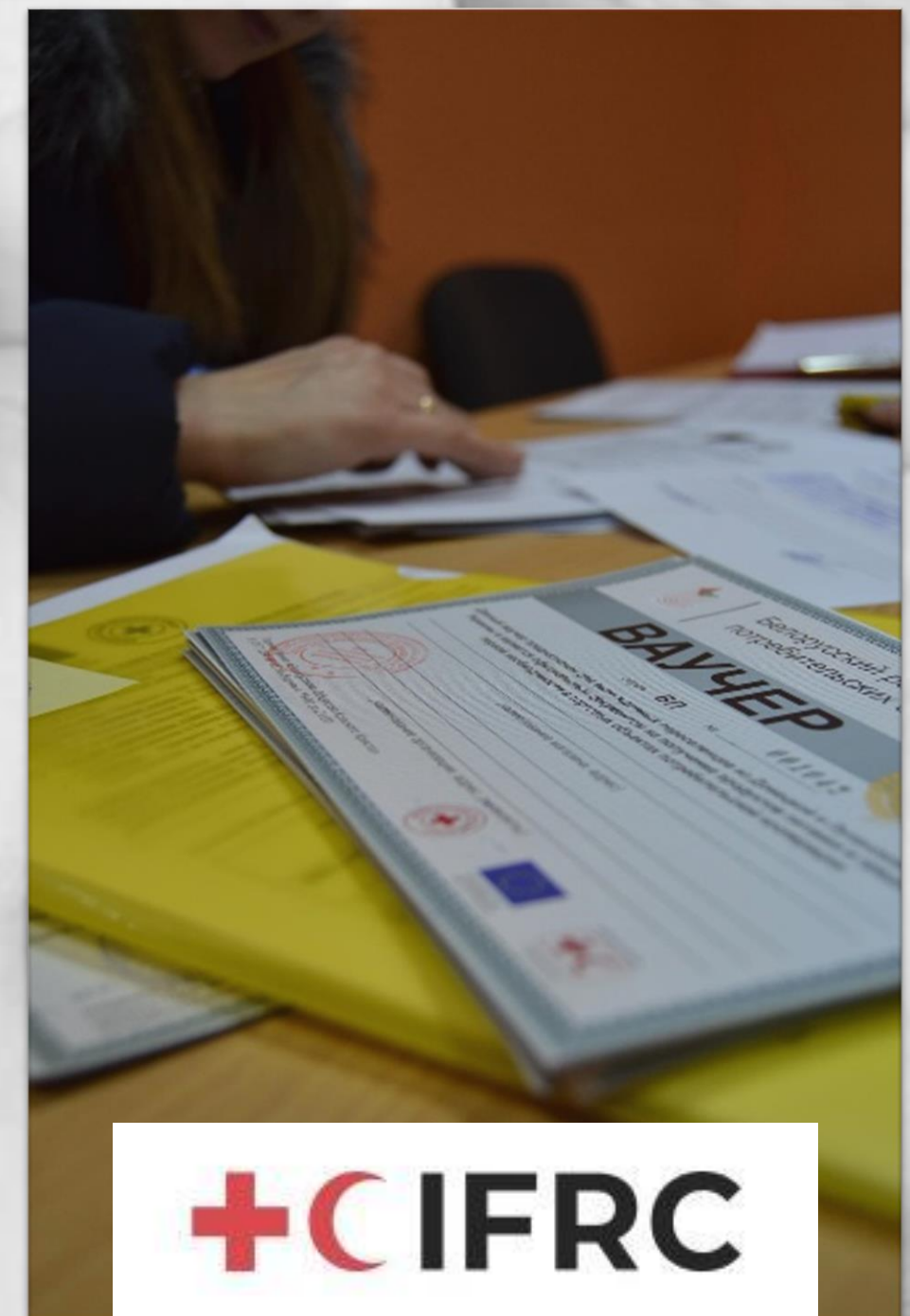
Belarus RC CVA experience:

- Cash distribution to refugees in Belarus (with UNHCR support)
- Microfinance Initiatives (MFI) in 2018 for the displaced people from Ukraine and helping to give them grants to setup private businesses etc. and vouchers distribution
- Voucher assistance and distribution of in-kind aid during the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020-2021.
- Payment for psychological assistance and rehabilitation services for people injured during the crisis situation (2020).
- **Micro-project for the Fast-Track Cash Preparedness (4 months in 2020-2021)**



Experience from supporting displaced people from Ukraine:

- **Vulnerability criteria:** older people, people with disabilities, incomplete families, large families (at least 3 children below 18), pregnant and lactating women, unaccompanied minors and orphans
- **Additional criteria:** income and economic situation in the family
- **Support in accordance with the size of the family:** 1-2 people – 1 voucher, 3-4 people – 2 vouchers, 5 and more people – 3 vouchers



MICROFINANCE INITIATIVES (MFI)

supported by the ICRC

Main criteria for selecting beneficiaries:

- vulnerability
- motivation
- skills/experience

Implementation

- 135 MFI
- more than 80% of the profitable projects

The possibility of additional income

- for 135 families
- for more than 250 persons (applicants and their family members)



Social effects

- Social integration and engagement of ukrainian displaced persons in Belarus;
- Development of business initiatives in the community and the local population



Voucher assistance and distribution of in-kind aid during the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020-2021

People who received assistance:

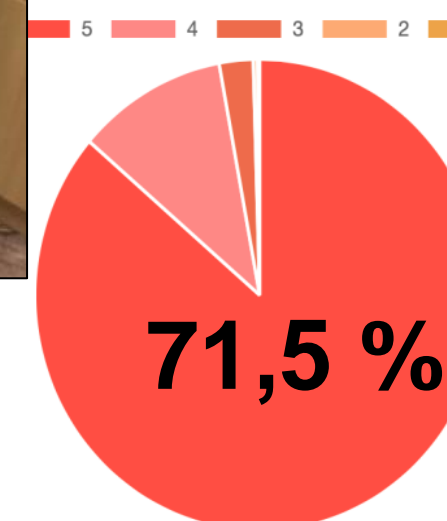
- * People with disabilities, single-parent families and large families with low income
- * Older people living alone with low income
- * Families which are in difficult situations (people affected by an emergency, people who have lost their jobs and have no support)
- * Former prisoners
- * Homeless people



> 10700
vouchers

7 100
food parcels

7 100
hygiene kits



**Satisfaction level
with the voucher
program**

+C IFRC

Payment for psychological assistance and rehabilitation services for people affected by the crisis situation (2020).



Requests received
by helpline:

assistance of volunteers
in the delivery of food and
medicines

assistance in informing
and referral

treatment, rehabilitation,
care

psychosocial support

psychological assistance

humanitarian assistance

The information hot line "201" has been operating since April 2020

Micro-project for the Fast-Track CVA Preparedness

(December 2020 – March 2021)

Key Pre-project Self-Assessment findings

- No permanent TWG CVA
- Decisions made within the framework of existing projects
- Orders were signed each time, they included the procedure for implementing assistance and a list of employees responsible for implementing projects.
- Within each project the retailers and stakeholders had to be re-identified
- No clear understanding of the current state of the market and the development of banking infrastructure in the regions.
- SOPs for CVA programs were not integrated into the national society's emergency response plan.



Micro-project for the Fast-Track CVA Preparedness

(December 2020 – March 2021)



Main objective:

To develop procedures necessary for readiness of Belarus Red Cross to use CVA as the main means of support to the population affected by the disasters.

Outcomes areas:

- Staff Capacity.
- Procedures and documents for CVA are developed. Mainstreamed at all levels and across all departments.
- Coordination and cooperation

Micro-project for the Fast-Track CVA Preparedness

(December 2020 – March 2021)

Activities

- Analysis of secondary data to understand the possibilities to implement CVA in Belarus, CVA implementation strategies (amounts of support, mechanisms, etc.), possible impact of CVA on the market in various scenarios.
- Development of various scenarios for CVA during disaster response.
- Training of staff in CVA (trainings, development of guidelines and power point presentations)
- Consultations with the stakeholders (relevant Ministries, NGOs and international organizations) on applying CVA.
- Development of SOPs for CVA working group members.
- Development of monitoring system for CVA.
- Improvement of feedback mechanism – scripts, technical upgrades of the telephone helpline 201.



Micro-project for the Fast-Track CVA Preparedness

(December 2020 – March 2021)



What resources were needed (financial and human):

- Staff support
- Development of helpline and feedback collection mechanism

Support during the process received:

- support from the CVA team of delegates from the IFRC Regional Office for Europe, technical support of IFRC office for Russia and Belarus
- cash-hub.org
- the trainings course "Cash transfer programming in emergencies" of "Livelihoods Centre"

Micro-project for the Fast-Track CVA Preparedness

(December 2020 – March 2021)



Pre-project vs. End line self-assessment

- No permanent TWG CVA **improved**
- Decisions made within the framework of existing projects **Improved and standardized**
- Orders were signed each time, they included the procedure for implementing assistance and a list of employees responsible for implementing projects. **Improved and standardized**
- Within each project the retailers and stakeholders had to be re-identified **Ready to go for framework agreement**
- No clear understanding of the current state of the market and the development of banking infrastructure in the regions. **Analysis conducted and is used**
- SOPs for CVA programs were not integrated into the national society's emergency response plan. **Improved and standardized**

Micro-project for the Fast-Track CVA Preparedness

(December 2020 – March 2021)



Plans for the future

- Sign framework agreements with the key service providers after market analysis and due diligence
- initiate the process of concluding contracts with key partners from government, non-governmental organizations and business for cooperation.
- Integrate the CVA into CEA activities in particular the feedback mechanism.
- Create and develop a monitoring and evaluation system.



+CIFRC

**Thank you
for attention!**

***Igor Trusov,
Belarus Red Cross,
Disaster response officer,
CVA & CEA focal point.***

Bilal Shah

Cash Preparedness and Capacity Building – Global, IFRC

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Questions and Answers

Please post questions in the chat,

(Stop sharing slides so video feed can be shared)

- **Gianluca Rigolio**, Cash Coordinator, Regional Office Europe, IFRC
- **Hayarpi Karapetyan**, CVA focal point, Armenian Red Cross
- **Igor Trusov**, CVA focal point, Belarus Red Cross
- **Bilal Shah**, Officer, Cash Preparedness and Capacity Building – Global, IFRC
- **Stefania Imperia**, Knowledge Manager, Cash Hub Team
- **Cara Wilson**, Team Coordinator, Cash Hub Team