

The Movements Cash Peer Working Group (CPWG) Virtual Session Q3

June 15-17, 2021

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
Kenya Red Cross	Peter	Murgo	Present	Member
ICRC	Clara	Setiawan	Present	Member
IFRC	Caroline	Holt	Present	Member
Danish Red Cross	Nathalie	Juul	Present	Coordinator
Netherlands Red Cross	Rodolphe	Visser	Present	Member
Swiss Red Cross	Anne-Katherine	Moore	Present	Member
Turkish Red Crescent	Bülent	Oztürk	Present	Member
QUORUM REACHED			YES	

Purpose of call

The purpose of the calls was to discuss and agree on the future priorities of the CPWG in the coming years, building on strategic discussions from the previous months. Further, due to the expected growth in membership, how the CPWG best organizes itself to accommodate both the growth and the strategic priorities will be explored.

Lastly, there will be election and appointment of new chair(s).

2020 Counting Cash Update

Joseph Oliveros (IFRC) and Arturo Garcia Fernandez (IFRC) gave an update on the collection of Counting Cash 2020 data. The process is in the final consolidation period, however, numbers are not yet definitive. When finalized, it will be published at the cash hub.

Process

The process has been as previous years and started in March through the regional cash focal points who contacted the NSs who reported feedback using an excel sheet with main data. In 2021, there will be conducting a review of the data collection, aiming to make it as easy and manageable for NSs to share data.

General observation/conclusions

- **More Cash:** Increase in the use of cash – both in terms of cash expenditure and the number of NSs who implement CVA programs. Cash is becoming a more natural modality for NSs and more NSs than ever are using cash.
- **Exchange Rates:** Turkish Red Crescent and American Red Cross have numerically decreased their cash expenditure. This is thought to be due to differences in exchange rates - small changes in exchange rates can have big impacts on the final results. Going forward, there should be found a way to compare numbers taking differences in exchange rates into account.

IFRC Update

Caroline Holt (IFRC) gave an update on IFRC and their strategic direction.

2020 Counting Cash – what does it mean?

As per the result of the 2020 Counting Cash exercise, more NSs are using cash and CVA programs are reaching more people, hence the Movement is going in the right direction. Covid-19 has played a part in this and has been an accelerator for cash. This, reinforces the importance of preparedness, e.g., securing pre-placed contracts, data management solutions etc. Further, there need to be an awareness of a potential digital divide as there is an increasing amount of cash done through e-cash. Therefore, ensuring having data management/protection etc. in place is crucial.

The IFRC Cash Ready Review

Highlights from the review:

- There is a need for better systems
- There is a need for more sustainable investment in structures both on regional, country and cluster level
- The importance of Investment in preparedness
- Forecast Based Action (FBA) should be prioritized
- The continued need to integrate cash into sectors, e.g., wash, health, education etc.
- CVA is getting a lot of attention and focus, both operationally and strategically. However, there is still identified resistance to CVA from some NSs. There should be thought-out approach on how to address this and interact with those NSs
- There is a need for more training
- We should be better at benchmarking national salaries. The Movement is currently losing people to other NGOs, UN etc. due to the fact that in many places, our salary level is not competitive.

Priorities for the CPWG

The purpose of this agenda item was to discuss the priorities for the CPWG revisiting previous discussions on strategy, and the overall direction for the CPWG going forward. The identified areas of strategic focus were discussed:

- Counting Cash Phase II
- Strengthening Regional Capacity/CPWG Re-structuring
- CVA and Relief (ERU Review)
- IFRC Cash Ready + Roadmap Support
- Updated RCRC Mov CVA Strategic Framework
- Advocacy

Counting Cash Phase II

Delegates are currently testing the new indicators and establishing a baseline for data collection. Daniela Vergara has been hired as a dedicated resource to support Joseph Oliveros (IFRC) and Arturo Garcia Fernandez (IFRC) on this. It will be looked at comprehensively and preliminary results are planned to be shared in the last quarter of 2021 – there will also be given periodic updates to the CPWG.

Strengthening Regional Capacity

There is a need for attracting sustainable funding for supporting regional goals. This corresponds with the CPWG restructuring efforts and the rationale behind it, working more closely with the regional cash groups.

ERU Review Findings

It is a key consideration how to best integrate CVA in the work of the ERU Review, e.g., support on training modules, maybe having separate modules on CVA.

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to facilitate a joint meeting between the CPWG and the Relief Working Group to identify natural connections and explore how to best integrate cash into relief.

Update on Membership and Discussion on Restructuring

Overall, the call for membership was a huge success. There was a huge interest in the CPWG from a diverse range of NSs. It is expected that many new members will be welcomed which raises the question whether this will require the CPWG to revisit its structure due to the significant growth in membership. Further, this will add additional resources to the group, why it is worth considering how to best utilize this strengthened capacity.