



AFRICA REGIONAL CASH ROADMAP 2022-2025



Ambatoabo, Madagascar, November 2021. Communities are receiving the monthly cash as part of the cash transfer operation.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ARO	Africa Regional Office
CEA	Community Engagement and Accountability
CoP	Community of Practice
CPWG	Cash Peer Working Group
CVA	Cash and Voucher Assistance
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FbA	Forecast-based Action
FSL	Food Security and Livelihoods
FSP	Financial Service Provider
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IM	Information Management
GCT	Group Cash Transfer
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MPC	Multipurpose Cash
NS	National Society
PGI	Protection, Gender, and Inclusion
PNS	Partner National Society
RCRCM	Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

About the Africa Cash Roadmap

The roadmap consists of several related and integrated parts:

- 1) This PDF which is an overall introduction to the Cash Roadmap
- 2) The online Cash Community of Practice (CoP) for African National Societies [here](#)
- 3) The online Cash Roadmap outlining National Society priorities for CVA on an annual basis [here](#)
- 4) An online Kobo survey, which feeds into the online Cash roadmap and specific action plans for National Societies in Africa

Authors

The Africa Cash Roadmap was designed and authored by Jordane Hesse, Independent Consultant and Maja Tønning, IFRC's Regional CVA Coordinator for Africa.

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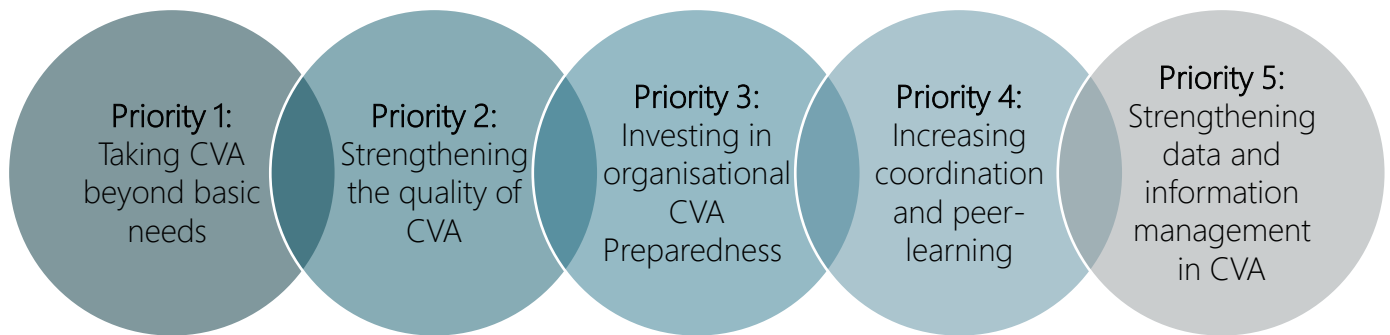
The authors would like to thank all movement members for their time and their insights.

Frontpage photo: © Caren Ramanantoanina, Communications Officer, IFRC Africa.

Introduction

The purpose of the Cash Roadmap is to establish overall priorities for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in the Africa Region from 2022-2025 that are aligned to the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCRCM) global goals of scaling CVA and to improve the quality and timeliness of assistance provided to affected populations. The cash roadmap furthermore is set to enable the capacity strengthening of National Societies (NS) in CVA. Figure 1 below outlines the cash roadmap priorities in short. Details and action areas of these priorities are further outlined in the section on [Regional priorities](#).

Figure 1: Cash Roadmap priorities



The cash roadmap is tailored to a new reality after the COVID-19 crisis, where the majority of NS in the Africa Region are engaging in and scaling the use of CVA. Additionally, the cash roadmap is linked to ongoing IFRC initiatives related to CVA including the Agenda for Renewal/Plan and Budget 2021-2025, Africa Red Ready, the Africa Zero Hunger initiative, and the updated Cash Preparedness for Effective Response Guidance.¹

The developments on CVA in the Africa region are aligned to global developments, where the use of CVA modalities steadily increases in scale globally with 19% of total international humanitarian assistance delivered through CVA in 2020.² This equals to USD 6.3 billion of CVA transferred directly to affected populations and a 25% increase from 2019 to 2020.

The RCRCM is, at the global and regional levels, committed to scaling the use of CVA with an ambitious 2025-global goal of 50% of all humanitarian assistance³ being provided through CVA. The RCRCM is in a unique position to influence the global and national cash agendas and for pushing the localisation of aid using CVA by its presence in every country and its auxiliary role to the government.

Purpose and objectives the Cash Roadmap 2022-25 for Africa

- The roadmap establishes priorities and targets for the use of, investment in preparedness for and development of CVA modalities in the Africa Region.
- The roadmap is a way to demonstrate NS commitment to CVA.
- The roadmap creates a basis for developing cash action plans for each NS.
- The roadmap is a framework to engage the support and commitment of the RCRCM partners in Africa.

¹ IFRC Agenda for Renewal: <https://oldmedia.ifrc.org/ifrc/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Plan-and-Budget-promo-doc-FINAL.pdf>, National Society Cash Readiness: <https://cash-hub.org/resources/national-society-cash-readiness/>, other strategic documents can be obtained from the Regional CVA Coordinator.

²The Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2021, Development Initiatives: <https://devinit.org/resources/global-humanitarian-assistance-report-2021/chapter-4-funding-effectiveness-and-efficiency/#abe19c2c>

³ Excluding services, i.e. the 50% counts primarily individual and household level assistance (cash vs. in-kind).

Regional priorities – Africa

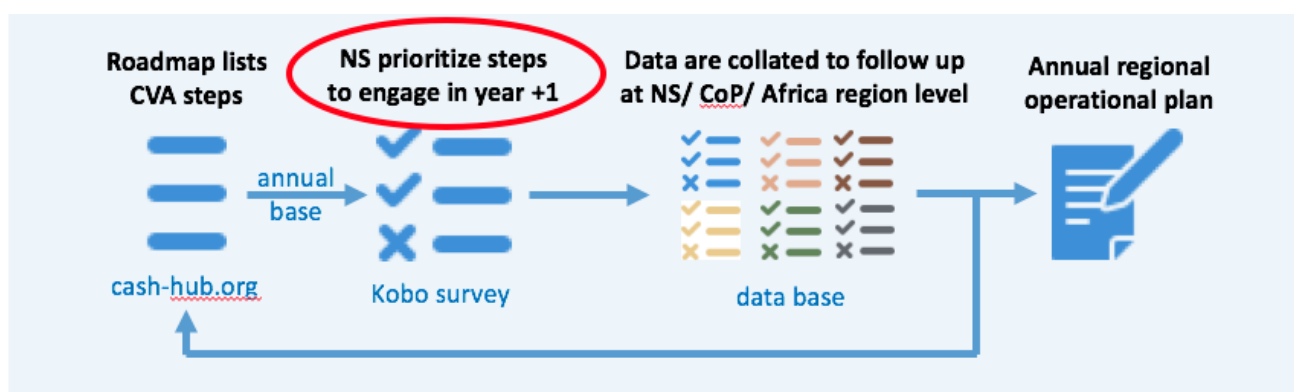
The Africa Cash Roadmap 2022-25 outlines overall priorities for CVA in the Africa Region and provides a basis for NS to establish CVA targets and action plans, recognising that the CVA journey looks different for all NS.

The Cash Roadmap 2022-25 was established based on ongoing CVA activities as well as several consultations with NS and partners in the Africa Region. Throughout the consultations, which were done primarily through sub-regional workshops, participants discussed challenges in implementing CVA based on their existing experience with CVA modalities.

To create a NS-centred cash roadmap, a more interactive, easy-to-translate, online platform has been developed, which is hosted by an online cash Community of Practice (CoP) for all African NS and sits on the [Cash Hub](#).⁴

NS in Africa set their CVA targets and action plans on an annual basis through a Kobo survey outlining priority actions linked to NS' reported challenges, types of interventions they engage in and RCRCM objectives on CVA. The Kobo survey will feed into a platform that shows NS priority actions all over Africa. Furthermore, the NS' CVA targets and action plans will feed back into the annual regional operational plan for CVA and into updating the Cash Roadmap itself. From 2022, the Africa Cash Roadmap furthermore should be linked to directly inform annual operational planning for NS and IFRC delegations.

Figure 2: Process to update the cash roadmap



To enable the development of the priorities outlined below, NS can engage in virtual learning sessions, webinars, online and in-person training, and peer learning opportunities, meanwhile the online cash roadmap and cash community of practice provides linkages to relevant resources and updates.

Priority 1: Taking CVA beyond basic needs

The majority of NS in Africa engaging in CVA continuously prioritise responding primarily to basic needs.⁵ While this is often logical in relation to the DREF modality (depending on the type of disaster), there is potential in other responses to use other CVA modalities. Promoting CVA beyond basic needs will increase both the general use of CVA (i.e. scale and number of operations using CVA modalities) as well as support more dignity and freedom of choice for populations affected by a variety of disasters and facing diverse needs. See also Priority 2 on complementary activities, which further supports Priority 1.

⁴ There is a general gap for the Africa region in translation of documents and in facilitating webinars in other languages, especially Portuguese, but often also French. Furthermore, there is currently no Cash CoP in Portuguese despite the region having 5 NS primarily speaking and preferring Portuguese.

⁵ While this is true for DREF's and Emergency Appeals (EAs) there is potentially more diversity to be found in projects supported by PNS.

Table 1: Key outcomes and action areas related to Priority 1 on multipurpose and multisectoral CVA

CVA is the default response option	NS include CVA as their default response modality in NS Vision and Strategy.
	PNS, with support from other RCRCM actors, ⁶ advocate for inclusion of CVA as a default response option in PNS/HQ strategy to strengthen support for CVA and CVA preparedness.
NS increasingly use multipurpose cash transfers (MPC)	NS understand and prioritise the use of MPC's and include various needs beyond basic needs in their calculation of transfer values. The transfer values are based on a thorough revision or establishment of a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB).
	IFRC encourages unearmarked funding to support the agility of National Societies to adapt their project to a variety of needs for affected populations, also in covering aspects that may fall outside of PNS priorities.
	NS increasingly support multisector needs with CVA in their responses. This might not be equivalent to a full MEB, however, where more than two sectors are considered, NS should consider MPCs.
NS have increased capacities to utilise CVA modalities across sectors	NS engage in coordination and prioritise harmonisation with other actors in countries around the MEB.
	NS link to the Africa Zero Hunger initiative when engaging in Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL) (including basic needs projects). ⁷ IFRC delegations are familiarized with the initiative and corresponding tools and should support NS in designing FSL interventions using CVA modalities. <i>(See also Priority 2)</i>
NS understand the linkages between CVA and other RCRCM priority technical areas	NS consider multisectoral needs (shelter, WASH, nutrition, health, protection) in needs and market assessments (including access to services and account for the potential to scale CVA modalities to other sectors in contingency plans and CVA SOPs.
	IFRC and Partners foster collaboration across technical areas and support the development of guidance and resources on linking CVA modalities to existing and emerging areas, including, but not limited to: Urban response, Migration, Forecast-based Action (FbA) and Early Action, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and community resilience, and Group Cash Transfers (GCTs) in resilience, recovery, and sudden-onset responses.

Priority 2: Strengthening the quality of CVA

In any response using CVA modalities, it is essential to mainstream activities that put affected populations at the centre. While CVA preparedness enables the strengthening of institutional CVA capacities (see also Priority 3), Priority 2 of the Africa Cash Roadmap focuses on bringing together key action areas that further strengthen the quality of CVA. The following outcomes and action areas need to be adapted to context and type of CVA. Meanwhile, it remains essential to recognise that NS have different starting points for strengthening CVA depending on their existing experience, capacities, and access to support.

⁶ Cash Hub, Livelihoods Centre, and/or IFRC.

⁷ The Zero Hunger initiative focuses on the use of unrestricted cash assistance to meet various food security and livelihoods needs and objectives, which can be used as a foundation for developing especially medium-term Emergency Appeals (6 months+).

Table 2: Key outcomes and action areas related to Priority 2 on the quality of CVA

CVA is designed around length of responses	NS modify the design of CVA depending on the length of the project to achieve different short- and medium-term outcomes. Overall, several instalments of cash assistance per household are prioritised, also in emergency response.
Cash+/ complementary activities are an integral part of any response using CVA	NS increasingly include Cash+ or complementary activities in their responses including awareness raising, technical trainings for affected populations, referrals, etc.
CEA, PGI, and CVA Risk Management are mainstreamed in all responses and are considered mandatory	NS mainstream protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) in projects using CVA modalities. NS integrate activities related to PGI including gender equality and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) when using CVA modalities. IFRC supports training and awareness on this.
	NS train all staff and volunteers engaging in CVA on PGI, gender analysis, and GBV and child protection referrals.
	Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) is mainstreamed in all projects. NS go the extra mile in consulting affected populations on suggested CVA design.
	NS conduct risk analysis specific to the use of CVA modalities and update this according to specific projects. IFRC and PNS support capacity strengthening related to risk management in CVA.
The environment plays a role in designing CVA	IFRC, Partners and NS mainstream environmental considerations into analysis tools and project design. ⁸
Cash Ready NS lead on innovation efforts	IFRC, Partners and NS collaborate on innovative solutions (such as DIGID being piloted in Kenya and Uganda) and support peer learning and potential scaling of innovative solutions in other NS in the Africa Region.

Priority 3: Investing in organisational CVA Preparedness

As of 2021, 26 NS were engaged in structured CVA preparedness processes, however, 4 of these being short term investments based on the Fast-Track Cash Preparedness assessments. The strengthening of NS capacities and preparedness to implement CVA is a key priority for the RCRCM and is considered fundamental to deliver quality CVA at scale, on time and effectively. Several PNS as well as IFRC are investing in CVA preparedness in the region already and continue to do so, also for NS.

Gaps remain, especially in supporting cash preparedness for smaller NS with limited or no external support. Overall, cash preparedness efforts can and should still be prioritised and increased for all of Africa, however, the route for NS towards cash preparedness may be different; especially for those with limited staffing structures and fewer humanitarian response projects.

⁸ ECHO's guidance on environmental principles and requirements may be used as a guiding document on CVA and the environment. Furthermore, the CaLP Network has a dedicated page to resources on the topic [here](#).

Table 3: Key outcomes and action areas related to Priority 3 on CVA preparedness

RCRCM CVA preparedness strengthen efficiency, timeliness, quality, and accountability of NS' responses	PNS and IFRC continue to support NS to assess their organisational capacity for CVA and develop Plans of Action for CVA preparedness.
	CVA trainings are continuously rolled out at national, sub-regional and regional levels. (NS, IFRC, Partners)
	NS ensure that training and capacity development is escalated internally to relevant staff functions and volunteers at HQ and branch level.
	IFRC supports Financial Service Provider (FSP) procurement and the establishment of minimum 2-year framework agreements to ensure compliance to IFRC procedures. IFRC conducts trainings to support NS and PNS in understanding and following procedures.
Low and no-cost CVA preparedness is prioritised for NS with no or limited partner support	IFRC increasingly promote CVA preparedness as an integral component in the Africa Red Ready strategy and CVA is prioritised in Preparedness for Effective Response (PER).
	PNS and IFRC continue to support NS in identifying must-do preparedness activities, including outlining how these can be done for NS with limited budgets to support CVA preparedness.
	IFRC continue fundraising efforts for CVA preparedness for NS with no financial support for CVA preparedness.

Priority 4: Increasing coordination and peer-learning amongst National Societies

During the second half of 2021, the IFRC increased the focus on setting up peer learning structures for all African NS through sub-regional cash Communities of Practice (CoP) (see [Annex 1](#)). Having an actual structure in place, unlocks the potential for NS' increased engagement, learning opportunities and direct capacity development. Overall, coordination at different levels supports and strengthens NS' capacities in CVA.

Table 4: Key outcomes and action areas related to Priority 4 on CVA coordination and peer-learning

Internal coordination is manifest and maintained	NS establish structures and take lead on coordination with Movement actors in country engaged in CVA, particularly in countries where more than one partner engages in CVA implementation and CVA preparedness.
NS benefit from peer learning initiatives	NS and Movement partners participate in sub-regional CVA CoPs (virtual monthly meetings and annual in-person meetings).
	NS utilise the Cash Hub Africa online CVA CoP and gain access to tools and learning opportunities, as well as contacts to relevant IFRC technical focal points and other NS doing CVA in the region.
	NS participate in and present in CVA webinars and global learning.
	IFRC technical teams (global and regional) disseminates and fosters information sharing through learning sessions, webinars, the Cash Hub online CVA CoP etc.

External coordination is prioritised by NS	NS participate in National Cash Working Group or other relevant coordination forums and ensure harmonisation of CVA modalities with other actors.
	NS strategically seek donor funding from beyond the movement.

Priority 5: Strengthening data literacy and information management in CVA

To scale up and quicken CVA response, NS, PNS and IFRC give imperative priority to invest and use existing technologies, and even explore new ones. For the NS to master information management (IM) step-by-step, which includes data literacy as well as law regulations, a combination of professional support options are offered, such as the widely used Red Rose⁹, but also other available and acceptable lower cost solutions.¹⁰

Table 5: Key outcomes and action areas related to Priority 5 on data and information management in CVA

Data literacy is prioritised along the CVA process	IFRC and Partners continuously link NS with RCRCM technical actors that can support data management and IM in CVA, and set-up training for relevant NS. ¹¹
	NS understand the importance of data literacy in CVA implementation and dedicate time and efforts to train all staff and volunteers involved in CVA activities
	NS dedicate data protection focal point for all CVA responses to ensure the respect of affected person's consent, as well as Government regulations and FSP standards.
	Available material, training and learning sessions are translated and offered in English, French and Portuguese.
Proper equipment is made available	IFRC and Partners support NS in supplying and maintaining appropriate hardware and software at HQ and branches.
Data management is mainstreamed beyond CVA	NS engage IM/ICT focal points in CVA trainings and implementation, and transfer ownership out of CVA spectrum to benefit and expand to all NS activities
	IFRC, ICRC and Partners advocate for strengthening / mainstreaming data management in NS as added value in the quality and efficiency of all interventions.

⁹ <https://cash-hub.org/resources/cash-technology/redrose/>

¹⁰ See also, Cash-IM support, learning and training section on the Africa online Cash CoP site: <https://cash-hub.org/resources/africa-cash-community-of-practice/africa-cop-recommended-training/>

¹¹ 510/NLRC Global team has confirmed support for IM in 2022, proposing remote or presential one-to-one tailor-made solutions and trainings (e.g. through sub-regional CVA CoP's).

Annex 1: Africa sub-regional Cash Communities of Practice

Figure 3: Overview of Africa CVA CoP structure in 2021

