**Questions and Answers: High-Level Dialogue**

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| **Questions** | **Responses** |
| Cash support is very reliable, timely, cost-efficient, and manageable. How do we ensure the availability of funds to deliver cash by the NS when it is required? Is there robust back up support from IFRC & partners? For National Societies (NS) who are interested in CVA and want to build their ability to be cash ready, how can this be done and what options for support are available? | Having funds available to mount a cash-based intervention is critical and operational learning has shown that this is a major reason for a delay in providing cash to crisis-affected people. Work to ensure that finance systems are cash ready, including how to draw down on resources, how disbursements are approved and reconciled and how to ensure local liquidity is one aspect focused on during cash preparedness. This has to be done ahead of time and tested to ensure that finance systems can facilitate the delivery of cash as well as meet the required standards and compliance requirements. In terms of the availability of resources, embedding cash into resource mobilisation strategies is another key component of preparedness as well as support being available from the IFRC and other Movement partners in a range of ways (such as through the [DREF mechanism](https://www.ifrc.org/disaster-relief-emergency-fund-dref)). Regarding options for support, a good place to start is to talk to your peer National Societies and those around you who have both delivered CVA and built their capacity through preparedness to be increasingly cash ready. You can see which National Societies are already delivering CVA in your locality from the [Cash Maps](https://cash-hub.org/resources/cash-maps/). It can also be really useful to attend a CVA training in your region to learn more or do an exchange visit with a peer National Society to gain exposure to cash and see delivery in action. The IFRC and its partners are committed to support National Societies to scale up their ability to deliver cash in emergencies and during preparedness and its country, cluster and regional delegations, can extend support and help to connect you to others within the IFRC network. Technical support can often be supported by your IFRC Regional Cash Coordinator as well as the [Cash Hub Helpdesk](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ujzc_l7KiEOoN7Rcfw1xtw3xVChyL_FCgo2OF51MPA9UOVhOWEtMQTAwRVNFWFkzQ0U2SzFJTkZLNCQlQCN0PWcu) who can signpost other National Societies and resources.  |
| For the National Societies who did not test yet CVA or are still reluctant to scale up, what would be your key message to encourage them? It is clear that CVA preparedness is key. What would leadership advise those NS or ICRC delegations that may be hesitant or haven't yet tried CVA. What would be the most impactful support in making that first step? | For National Societies who have not undertaken CVA previously, it is really helpful to talk to other leaders about their experience and what it has mean for their National Society to use CVA. Leadership buy in is critical to being able to prioritise the changes needed to start using CVA. Leaders talking to leaders has been shown to allow perceptions, concerns and even opportunities to be discussed and shared. Seeing is believing – whilst some are reluctant to take up cash, often for very valid reasons, there are few risks that are specific to cash as opposed to all forms of humanitarian assistance. For those that are, these can be considered, management and mitigated. It can be transformative to actually implement and see a small cash pilot in action, this can often help any reluctance to be resolved. The [Movement has a common approach to cash preparedness](https://cash-hub.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/06/CVAPreparedness-Guidance_-Chapter-1_CVAP-Areas_v2-Jun21.pdf) which is built from a large number of National Societies and their own experiences. This guidance should be useful for everyone on how and where to start within your own National Society. There is a [specific chapter for ICRC delegations](https://cash-hub.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/06/CVAPreparedness-Guidance_-Chapter-2_ICRC_v2-June21.pdf) as well. There was common agreement from Leadership during the Forum that the first step in cash preparedness, is to consider how cash could be relevant for the vision and plans for your National Society. Will this improve your ability to provide a service to people that promotes dignity and contributes to local markets? Could this improve the visibility and perceptions of your National Society with stakeholders such as the Government, UN partners and donors? Gaining clarity on how cash can strengthen your National Society is key to then being able to prioritise the resources and time that will be needed. The other key message from Leadership was just do it, start with a pilot, use cash in an operation and then be ready to learn and improve from that experience. Get started and commit to learning and scaling up incrementally, that is how all National Societies have started! |
| What do you think the role of NSs will/could be in view of the recent global Caucus discussions and decision on Cash Coordination? How can NSs position themselves to play a key role supporting the Grand Bargain 2.0 localization agenda? | The IFRC network has been influential in the discussions so far, bringing attention to the role of the local actors and local leadership in cash coordination at all levels and in small, medium and large emergencies. The process now brings real opportunities for National Societies willing to champion a leadership role in their local context as well as present opportunities for increased participation.  |
| This Forum shows that within the Movement there are great experiences and knowledge in CVA among the NSs, how can knowledge sharing be enhanced?  | There are CVA Regional Working Groups or Communities of Practice operating in most regions where National Societies are, the IFRC Secretariat and partner National Societies have come together to enable the sharing of knowledge, amongst National Societies working in similar contexts. In addition to this there are several other fora which allow peer-to-peer sharing including this [Global Cash Forum](https://cash-hub.org/events/global-cash-forum/), regular [Cash Hub Webinars](https://cash-hub.org/resources/webinar-series/), and case studies/tools/reports shared [via the Cash Hub platform](http://www.cash-hub.org). |
| What is the movement position towards the ECHO common cash approach for large-scale cash transfers (with A-B-C partners)? Turkey seems like a good example of how it can be implemented but in other contexts it might be more difficult.  | There is not currently one Movement position to this given the breath and mandates of all the Movement components. However, there is growing experience from the IFRC and National Societies on working with ECHO in small, medium and large-scale responses.  |
| I feel that donating towards organisations who use CVA means that more of my donation goes towards those who are in need, rather than towards suppliers, transporters etc. Is there any indication that moving towards CVA is having an impact on donor relations?  | There is strong evidence that using CVA can be more efficient than provision of in-kind assistance, for instance it can be more shock responsive as shown during the COVID-19 pandemic and it can better meet people’s needs in a more dignified manner. Many donors are strongly supportive of the use of CVA and are encouraging organisations to consider CVA in every operational and programme and to use it where it is relevant. Indeed, several major donor governments came together and agreed a [Common Donor Approach for Humanitarian Cash Programming](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/common-donor-approach-feb-19.pdf) and to a set of principles to improve humanitarian assistance and set out a shared vision for the use of cash in humanitarian action that will be jointly used to guide funding decisions. For many National Societies, using CVA has also been key in attracting further resources to their National Society which is documented in ‘[Strengthening locally led humanitarian action through cash preparedness’](https://cash-hub.org/resource/strengthening-locally-led-humanitarian-action-through-cash-preparedness/) and was discussed in a recent [Planet Red webinar](https://cash-hub.org/resource/localisation-and-cash-and-voucher-assistance-cva-cash-hub-panel-discussion-recording/).  |