

Questions and Answers

Questions and Answers: Europe Regional Session

Q. n.	Full question	Answer
1	Could you provide 3 top recommendations for NSs that would like to engage with Cash?	<p>For NS who have not undertaken CVA previously 3 top tips would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leadership buy-in.• Engage with all relevant NS departments (e.g. Finance, DM, Programmes Logs, CEA, HR) to determine role and responsibilities in advance of a response/pilot.• Start small with a pilot project to test out how to use cash. <p>If not yet done, appointing a cash focal point is also key to ensure a proper coordination of activities.</p> <p>The points are part of CVA preparedness. https://cash-hub.org/resources/national-society-cash-readiness/</p>
2	What are your recommendations for other National Societies working within Government programmes?	<p>Armenian RC (ARC) is helping implementing programmes within Government large-scale interventions. In the last one and a half year, the CVA programme implemented to support people affected by conflict since this was identified as a preferred form of assistance by people seeking refuge in Armenia. Various consultations with stakeholders, relevant Ministries, international organisations are carried out regularly. ARC is also a member of the Cash Working Group and invested in cash preparedness.</p> <p>Advice from ARC:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key to have a good relation with the Government based on mutual trust • If there is an issue with sharing lists of beneficiaries, a Memorandum of Understanding between the NS and the Government on data confidentiality can help • Assistance goes directly to the bank cards, but it is not required to go physically to receive the cash which has been helpful to face the Covid-19 • Creation of a common platform under which all the different organisations can operate • The nature of the Government partners and willingness to cooperate also makes a difference <p>Cash Hub: There are different COVID-19 tipsheets offer advice on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to map relevant entry points for engagement with Government programmes. • How to identify what the NS value-add is for engaging with the government programme. <p>See:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Linkages with Social Protection Systems: Orientation guidance for Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies • Advocating to Governments on the use of Cash and Social Protection during COVID19
3	Can you please explain how to best share experience with the other NS starting in CVA? Are there any peer-to-peer opportunities to help with NS capacity building?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a subregional approach for CVA Preparedness (Central Asia and Russian speaking countries / Balkans / South Caucasus): for newcomers there are ad hoc coordination and peer-to-peer support which can be accessed contacting the Europe Regional Office (ERO) CVA team for coordination.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash Hub webinars (see: https://cash-hub.org/resources/webinar-series/)
4	<p>Any recommendations on how to support NSs to diversify the use of CVA beyond multipurpose (or the classic Livelihoods) to other sectors? (Sophia from Hellenic RC mentioned they work on several sectors)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember that cash is just a tool, so in sectoral cash programmes, technical capacity in that sector is likely to still be needed, along with complementary activities. • Establishing an internal Cash Working Group with key staff of programmes and support services to ensure CVA is considered through all sectors. • There are a wide range of applications of CVA to support sectorial outcomes. This could relate to provision of tranches of CVA to allow housing repair or reconstruction with associated technical assistance for example. Rental Assistance has been used in response to the Venezuela crisis to provide vulnerable people with immediate access to rental accommodation. CVA can provide access to Hygiene Items, or assist with the construction of sanitation facilities. NSs can ask their sectorial leads to understand what aspects of their programming can be delivered through CVA, and to design the programmes appropriately. This will likely include programme design with conditionality and potentially restriction. • Have a look at Cash Hub, CaLP and specific Cluster websites (e.g. WASH, shelter) where there are many existing tools and examples of how cash has been used in different sectors and what needs to be considered. • Strong needs, context, market assessment – understand what the barriers are – are they financial and/or something else?

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