



## Cash and Voucher Assistance Annual Report 2022<sup>1</sup>

Asia-Pacific Regional Office

This report aims to provide a snapshot of the accomplishments of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in 2022. Guided by the Asia-Pacific Cash Roadmap 2022-2025 below are key highlights on the CVA implementation in 2022 and the progress made to some of the key indicators of the roadmap. The statistics on the emergency responses are preliminary, reflecting only the IFRC-supported initiatives. The full set of data and analysis will become available upon completion of the Counting Cash Report in early 2023 to reflect the IFRC-wide information.

Cash Roadmap Goal	Progress made to date
National Societies and IFRC will have increased ability to deliver timely, accountable, and scalable CVA response reaching 50 per cent of humanitarian assistance delivered through CVA by 2025	<b>68 per cent</b> of all emergency responses in 2022 used Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) from 30 out of 44 DREF and Emergency Appeals, with 35 cash-based interventions and projects.  A total of <b>CHF 9,846,520.50</b> has been disbursed in 2022, an increase of more than <b>300% from 2021</b> , reaching a total of <b>439,333 people or 77,765 households</b> , which is an increase of <b>188 % from 2021</b> .

### Progress against the priority areas:

1

#### Priority 1: Increase investments in institutional CVA preparedness

A total of **23 out of 38 National Societies in Asia-Pacific** reported cash and voucher assistance activities, either to have implemented CVA emergency responses or undergoing cash preparedness processes.

**16 National Societies (NS)** have been **engaged in cash readiness initiatives**. 11<sup>2</sup> National Societies are supported with standard cash preparedness processes and 5<sup>3</sup> National Societies are supported on partial and fast-track

<sup>1</sup> Data and analysis presented are drawn from the **IFRC-supported interventions only** that is from completed and active (ongoing) DREF responses and Emergency Appeals, excluding COVID-19 responses

<sup>2</sup> Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu

<sup>3</sup> Afghanistan, China, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam

approaches. Philippine Red Cross and Pakistan Red Crescent are reporting to achieve level 3 on cash readiness, while 10 are reporting level 2 and 4 NSs are reporting still on level 1 of cash readiness.

12 out of 13 IFRC Country and Country Cluster Delegations have designated cash focal persons.

## 2

### **Priority 2: Strengthen National Society and IFRC operational response capacity**

A total of **68% of all emergency responses in 2022** have used **Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)** from 30 out of 44 DREFs and Emergency Appeals, with 35 cash-based interventions and projects.

A total of **CHF 9,846,520.50** has been disbursed in 2022, an increase of more than 300% from 2021, **reaching a total of 439,333 people or 77,765 households**, an increase of 188% from 2021.

A total of 14 National Societies with the additions of the Tonga Red Cross and Laos Red Cross, implemented DREF and EAs funded operations. Afghanistan Red Crescent Society reported having the highest volume of CVA disbursements followed by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and the Philippine Red Cross. The Philippine Red Cross reported having the highest number of CVA interventions with 12 cash-based interventions followed by Afghanistan (5), Bangladesh (3), and Malaysia (3).

Cash and voucher assistance have been implemented **to meet immediate basic needs through multipurpose cash assistance (76%) followed by food security (11%), shelter and settlements (10%), and livelihoods (3%)**.

**Seven** National Societies are supported to **establish longer-term framework agreements** with third-party financial service providers (FSP). Three (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and Indonesia) have already signed and implemented CVA through framework agreements, Pakistan and the Philippines are at the final stages of technical validations, and several service agreements were established such as the vouchers assistance in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh and Timor-Leste and the mobile money payments in Myanmar.

## 3

### **Priority 3: Improve coordination and sharing of learning**

The Asia-Pacific **Cash Community of Practice (CoP) has been restructured** to become a formal CoP with agreed terms of reference and an annual work plan and activities. While the operationalization of the CoP is yet to fully materialize,

there were **four CoP meetings conducted** in 2022. A regional task force on the CVA risk register was established, comprised of NS Cash focal points. The task force completed the regional CVA risk register and analysis with a list of suggested mitigation measures for cash practitioners to refer to during implementation.

**Four global webinars** in collaboration with the Cash Hub were conducted in 2022 with AP National Societies co-presenting, sharing of learning and experiences on the use of CVA in WASH, Migration and Displacements, and Health and Emergency response.

**IFRC remains one of the co-chairs of the regional cash working groups (RCWG)** together with WFP and UNOCHA. The RCWG supported 10 active countries CWGs in the region assisting the in the preparedness and responses to emergencies. IFRC hosted the RCWG IM officer and established the knowledge management platform and dashboards of all County CWGs.

**Nine national societies** are actively engaged in their Country Cash Working Groups (CWG), and the **Philippine RC and Myanmar RC are co-chairs of their respective CWGs.**

## 4

### **Priority 4: National Society CVA impact is measured, evaluated, and shared**

In 2022, Global Cash Forum was conducted and participated by AP NS Leaders for the IFRC APRO, Bangladesh Red Crescent, Palau Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross, and Viet Nam Red Cross. The event was initiated by the British Red Cross and the Cash Hub. The global cash report, Dignity in Action was launched. 2021 Counting Cash Data was completed in early 2022 and is available in the Cash Hub maps.

Four case studies are currently under development featuring the FSP procurement experiences in Afghanistan and Malaysia and the cash preparedness journey of Lao Red Cross, Philippine Red Cross, and Cruz Vermelha de Timor-Leste, to be published by 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2023. The Philippine Red Cross COVID-19 case stories and experiences report is published and available on the Cash Hub. Similarly, the quarterly Cash Newsletter of the Nepal Red Cross is regularly published.

## Key Data on Cash and Voucher Assistance in 2022

### DREF Responses and Emergency Appeals in 2022

	2021	2022	% Difference
 <b>Number of People Reached</b>	228,655	439,333	188% increase
 <b>Number of National Societies Reporting with CVA</b>	13	14	100% increase
 <b>Total Cash Delivered (CHF)</b>	3.2 million	9.8 million	306% increase

- A total of 68 % of all emergency responses in 2022 used Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) from 30 out of 44 DREF and Emergency Appeals, with 35 cash-based interventions and projects.
- A total of CHF 9,846,520.50 has been disbursed in 2022, an increase of more than 300% from 2021, reaching a total of 439,333 people or 77,765 households, an increase of 188% from 2021.
- A total of 14 National Societies with the new additions of Tonga Red Cross and Laos Red Cross. Afghanistan (152,278) reported having the highest volume of CVA disbursements followed by Bangladesh (110,145) and the Philippines (65,110). The Philippines was reported to have the greatest number of CVA interventions with 12 cash-based interventions followed by Afghanistan (5), Bangladesh (3), and Malaysia (3).
- Cash and voucher assistance have been implemented to meet immediate basic needs through multipurpose cash assistance (76%) followed by food security (11%), shelter and settlements (10%), and livelihoods (3%).
- Cash transfers are still the preferred modality (95%) compared to vouchers (5%). Physical cash disbursements (81%) through partner remittance companies and government postal money services. E-cash (38%) payment solutions through bank payments and e-vouchers (5%) via mobile money services and application-based solutions have been tested in Cox's Bazar and Timor-Leste.

### Cash Readiness

- **16 National Societies (NS)** have been **engaged in cash readiness initiatives**. <sup>114</sup> National Societies are supported with standard cash preparedness and <sup>5</sup> National

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p.1

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., p.1

Societies. Philippine Red Cross and Pakistan Red Crescent are reporting to achieve level 3 on cash readiness, while 9 are reporting level 2 of cash readiness and 4 NSs are reporting still on level 1 of cash readiness.



Chart 1. Cash readiness level of AP National Societies

- 12 out of 13 IFRC Country and Country Cluster Delegations have designated Cash focal persons.
- The American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, and the Netherlands Red Cross supported most of the cash preparedness initiatives in 2022.