



## Asia-Pacific Cash Community of Practice

### Terms of Reference

Date : September 2022

*Version control / Document amendment history*

Version	Date	Amended by	Section(s) amended	Description of amendment
V0.1	December 2021	Michael Belaro	N/A	First draft
V1.0	September 2022			Presented to COP, final version

## Background

Implementing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) to the benefit of people affected by disasters and crises is a growing and critical part of humanitarian action, with the potential to drive transformational change in the architecture and programming approaches of humanitarian organizations including Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies. CVA enables people affected by disasters and crises to receive more appropriate and effective support, giving them greater choice, dignity, and control over their lives, and enabling communities through efficiency gains and better support to local markets and economies.

One commitment of the ‘Grand Bargain’ – which is an agreement between the biggest donors and humanitarian aid organizations on getting more means into the hands of people in need and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian action – is to increase the use and coordination of CVA. As a follow-up on IFRC’s commitments to the Grand Bargain<sup>1</sup>, the IFRC commissioned a Cash Roadmap for enhancing cash preparedness in National Societies. A new cash roadmap for 2022-2025, is currently being developed as a follow-up to the previous roadmap. At the Asia Pacific Red Cross Red Crescent Regional Conference held in Manila, Philippines, in November 2018, leaders of National Societies agreed – as part of the Manila Call for Action – on an ambitious target of getting 60 percent of Asia Pacific [and Middle East] National Societies ‘Cash Ready’ by 2022.

Strong direction and support, including at the senior leadership level, are needed to enable greater use of cash – where appropriate – by the IFRC Secretariat and National Societies to drive the transformation of how the Red Cross Red Crescent delivers assistance to people affected by disasters and crises. The creation of a regional reference group among cash practitioners of the National Societies in the region will help facilitate stronger collaboration and sharing of learning as the National Societies themselves undergo those institutional changes.

## Purpose

The aim of the Asia-Pacific (AP) Cash Community of Practice (CoP) is to strengthen the coordination and collaboration among AP National Societies on Cash and Voucher Assistance. The CoP provides technical resources and learnings relating to CVA programming needs and will facilitate technical peer-to-peer support among cash practitioners in the region. The focus of the group will be CVA issues for all types of disasters and crises, including sudden and slow-onset emergencies. In particular, the AP Cash CoP helps ensure the promotion of Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Cash tools and guidance on cash preparedness and emergency response ensuring consistent, coherent, and coordinated activities in relation to cash and voucher assistance crises and resilience efforts.

## Objectives

- To ensure effective and timely coordination and collaboration among Asia-Pacific host and partner National Societies on cash and voucher assistance activities
- To act as a technical, expert reference group for discussion, sharing, and potential applicability of new developments, emerging trends, and innovations in the Cash and Voucher Assistance programming. The primary aim is to be able to use such knowledge and experience to share within the network of IFRC and National Society Cash Practitioners in the region

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<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Grand Bargain commitment to provide greater support to local and national responders through scaling up the use of cash-transfer programmes where appropriate.

Although not an exhaustive list of activities, the below indicates the possible priorities and outputs for the AP Cash CoP, grouped under the two main objectives. The AP Cash CoP Workplan, will be developed as an accompanying document to this Terms of Reference, the Workplan also considers the AP Cash Road and is a 'living document' that will direct the specific actions and work to achieve the objectives of the community of practice:

## Objective 1: Coordination & Collaboration

To ensure effective and timely coordination and collaboration among Asia-Pacific host and partner National Societies on cash and voucher assistance activities

Key Activities and Outputs:

- Facilitate the implementation of the AP cash roadmap, ensuring monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are in place and regularly updated
- Ensure appropriate links to promote coordination and information exchange among National Societies thru learning and sharing sessions and promotion of CVA accomplishments
- Improve coordination on Cash and Voucher Assistance Institutional Preparedness including the roll out the Movement's Cash Preparedness for Effective Response
- Ensure CVA accomplishments are reported and shared, ensuring annual counting cash initiatives are supported
- Facilitate key advocacies on CVA are supported
- Identify common key challenges and come up with key recommendations
- Identify key research topics relevant to CVA and improve quality of CVA programming
- Ensure CVA-related risks are defined and disseminated
- Act as a link to the Global Cash Peer Working Group and National Society Cash Working Groups

## Objective 2: Reference Group

To act as a technical, expert reference group for discussion, sharing, and potential applicability of new developments, emerging trends, and innovations in the Cash and Voucher Assistance programming. The primary aim is to be able to use such knowledge and experience to share within the network of IFRC and National Society Cash Practitioners in the region.

Key Activities and Outputs:

- Develop effective linkages with other relevant sectoral and thematic working groups and networks within the region (Health, WASH, Livelihood, Shelter, PGI, DRR, CEA, AP Migration Network, AP Information Network, AP Youth Network etc.)
- Share CVA-related tools, methodologies, and good practices on CVA responses and cash preparedness and coordination
- Facilitate a regional CVA online platform for ease of sharing IFRC and National Society Resources, serve as a platform for voucher Assistance assessment, analysis, and appropriate response

## Membership

All IFRC and National Society designated Cash focal points are permanent members of the AP Cash CoP. All other Cash practitioners from the National Society however all staff and volunteers of IFRC and National Societies are welcome to be part of the CoP.

The IFRC Regional Delegation will act as the Secretariat of the CoP. The membership however may decide on the overall leadership of the CoP either nominating Chairs and co-chairs or the formation of specific AP CoP working groups to lead on specific tasks.

### Frequency of meeting

Monthly calls will be organized for the reference group discussion aimed at sharing learning and experiences to ensure cross-sectorial collaboration. A quarterly meeting will be conducted on top of the monthly call will be organized to reflect on the progress made relating to the roadmap and understand key challenges.