

CASH PEER WORKING GROUP

2022- A YEAR AT A GLANCE

OVERVIEW

Despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis in Ukraine, the Cash Peer Working Group (CPWG), which is a core group of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (RCRCM), continued to coordinate and improve the quality and scale of mainstreamed cash and voucher assistance (CVA) across the Movement. In 2022, the CPWG met regularly and provided guidance and direction to technical and regional working groups. It also communicated regularly with other groups within the Movement through the [Cash Hub platform](#).

CPWG PRIORITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022

In 2022 the CPWG priorities focused on continuing to build the RCRC Movement's CVA capacity and pushing for a more ambitious goals around CVA that will continue to position the RCRC Movement as a CVA leaders. Below are the details of the main accomplishments that were achieved in 2022:

Counting Cash 2.0

Building of the Counting Cash Initiative that was launched in 2018, the CPWG proposed an expansion to the list of indicators collected globally around CVA to inform and deepen the data that supports the global positioning of the Movement in CVA and the Movement cash preparedness approach. In addition to understanding scale and reach of Movement CVA, the expanded metrics will aim to provide an understanding of preparedness, timeliness, accountability and mainstreaming of CVA across the Movement.

The expanded metrics were developed through a consultative process with key CVA stakeholder across the Movement and was informed by a review commission by the CPWG in 2021 in order to improve the overall counting cash process. In addition to establishing an expanded set of indicators the CPWG also proposed ambitious targets for each of these indicators.

Cash Coordination in the Movement

As CVA continues to become a default service for humanitarian assistance, coordination around how CVA is provided is critical. In 2022 the CPWG has recorded progress on Grand Bargain Caucus on Cash Coordination, and NS involvement in cash coordination to help with decision-making. CPWG hosted a dedicated session for the group members and Caucus actors to discuss implications and brainstorm ideas for encouraging greater NS engagement in cash coordination. The model aims to shift towards locally led cash coordination in targeted contexts, providing opportunities for NSs to step up as local leaders and increase their visibility. In light of it, CPWG agreed to develop a concept outlining cash coordination opportunities and funding asks for NS to play a leadership role that provides predictable, accountable, and timely coordination of cash assistance.

Regionalization - Stronger peer to peer regional CVA CoPs/networks and NS champion

The group has strengthened the IFRC regional Community of Practices (CoPs) to support regional plans for cash and voucher assistance and extend CVA support to national societies within their region. CPWG have focused on fundraising, identifying resource, advocating and engaging NS and IFRC leadership around CVA, and collating information on thematic areas. The CPWG has also advocated for the sustainable continuation of the CoPs and strengthened linkages between CPWG and regional CVA Communities of Practice and networks. CPWG has developed a plan to conceptualize cash preparedness in National Societies, by utilizing existing structures such as the IFRC Regional CVA coordination mechanism, and by creating a sustainable model that will enable the scaling up of cash to meet the new Movement targets for the coming year.

CVA operational reviews and evaluations – UKRAINE Crisis:

The CPWG held fortnightly virtual meetings to provide updates on the actions of the Movement in response to the Ukraine crisis, which were open to CPWG members and other key Movement partners. The meetings evolved into thematic sessions to explore and share lessons on specific topics. The meetings helped for enhanced collaboration, and aimed also to prevent any duplication of efforts of partners responding to the crisis.

With support from the CPWG, IFRC commissioned internal review of CVA in the Ukraine crisis to document successes and learning to inform the global agenda. In the light of the recent findings from the Ukraine review, the CPWG is gearing up to act and implement some of the insights gained from the review. With these plans in place, CPWG is poised to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of people affected by emergencies around the world.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) HIGHLIGHTS

The group continued to expand CVA into other sectors and increase multi-purpose cash transfers. Virtual communication is used to facilitate information flow, coordination, collaboration, and knowledge sharing among CPWG members and TWG co-chairs to avoid duplication of efforts.

The CPWG Technical Working Groups (TWGs) continued to operate effectively in 2022, including the Training, Data/Information Management, Cash Preparedness, Cash and Health, and Cash and Wash TWGs. Despite the dissolution of the Cash and Social Protection TWG due to a lack of activity, CPWG ensured that social protection remained integrated into their work and support to the Movement's cash community. Overall, CPWG demonstrated an incredible ability and agility in managing growth while maintaining priorities set out for the year. Key accomplishments of the TWGs are highlighted as;

Cash and Preparedness Technical Working Group (CVAP TWG)

- Prioritized 24 CVAP-related tools/groups of tools for revision/development, with 10 finalized, 7 in draft version ready for feedback, and the remaining in process, all expected to be finalized by the Q1 2023.
- Completed an updated mapping of CVAP initiatives across the Movement, with additional information on NSs.
- Developed a guidance document on how to integrate the CVAP process with the PER process.

Data Management / Information Management Technical Working Group (IM TWG)

- Coordinated Cash IM support to the Ukraine crisis operation, deploying over 15 surge personnel and activating support from SIMS.
- Conducted learning review for the use of RedRose data management in Africa (Gambia, Zambia, Tanzania, Rwanda).
- Drafted Cash Data Readiness document for preparedness.
- Conducted post-evaluation of the 121 platform and conducted meetings with Digital Transformation Assistance Platform.

Training and Development Technical Working Group (TD TWG)

- Launched CVA e-learning online modules for the FSP subdomain and proposed a project for its continuation and finalization.

Cash and Health Technical Working Group (Health TWG)

- Held engaging webinars with various National Societies participating to share learnings, emerging needs, and opportunities for scaling up CVA.
- Finalized and designed the position paper on CVA for Health outcomes and developed a dissemination plan for regions in collaboration with IFRC.
- Developed tools for Health ERU Cash Readiness work and a referral system design.

Cash and Wash Technical Working Group (Wash TWG)

- Prepared and disseminated a how-to-guide for pilot project and implemented two pilots.

- Developed proposals and concept notes for enhanced partnerships with like-minded organizations interested in MBP and CVA.
- Continued two-way engagement with CVA expert organizations via the GWC Cash and Market TWG & CalP.

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICES (COP) HIGHLIGHTS

In 2022, the CPWG explored how can they support to strengthen the CoPs and agree next steps and actions. Key accomplishments of CPWG related to CoPs include:

- The IFRC Regional Coordinators joined the CPWG quarterly meetings to ensure regular communication and knowledge of resources, and to be informed by operational and NS realities and priorities.
- The CPWG explored ways to support and strengthen CoPs, and agreed on next steps and actions to maintain longer-term sustainability for CoPs with funding commitments for cash preparedness.
- The importance of being peers and sharing experience and learning together as peers was highlighted, along with the need to build trust between the focal points and maintain information flow.

CONCLUSION

The CPWG successfully completed its planned activities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis. The group achieved its objectives for the year through joint effort, dedication, support from leadership, coordination with other humanitarian organizations, and the use of Global RCRC capacity.

Cash-based interventions in humanitarian response respect the rights and dignity of affected populations by empowering them to determine their own needs. Engaging local actors and systems can strengthen their capacity to respond to emergencies effectively. In 2022, the CPWG delivered activities at scale and is grateful to its donors and partners.