

Guidance on CVA coordination during the preparedness phase

Why is it important?

Cash coordination is important both internally within the NS and the Movement and externally with other actors.

Cash coordination is critical to prevent gaps and overlaps in assistance during response and to ensure the best impact is provided to the affected population through a focus on well-aligned quality programming. Cash coordination is cross-sectoral and includes a range of activities across the project cycle, from support to technical design components, to bigger planning and strategic aspects of CVA within a response. Internal and external coordination is a key part of NS CVA preparedness.

Internal coordination

Internal coordination includes two levels:

- Establishing of a NS CVA Technical Working Group (CVA TWG) with the participation of key internal stakeholders and Movement partners that can support the implementation of the CVAP Plan of Action and ensure that cash is mainstreamed across the organization (See [TOR for CVA TWG](#) on the function and format for internal cash coordination).
- Participation in the regional Community of Practice (COP), where experience, guidance and tools can be exchanged with Movement peers from neighbouring countries. The regional COPs are often supported by an IFRC Regional Coordinator

External coordination

External coordination includes the coordination with other humanitarian actors through the national level Cash Working Groups and other relevant coordination fora where cash is discussed. In addition, it also includes coordinating with government entities and private sector actors.

Given the Movement role as auxiliary to government and combined with the long-term presence on the ground, National Societies are well positioned to contribute to and influence cash coordination in their context. Additionally, linking up with other actors that are providing CVA gives an opportunity to discuss and share common operational challenges and good practice and can provide valuable inputs such as market assessment data, FSP mappings, MEB calculations, etc.

There are three potential fora where external cash coordination may take place: with government, including for social protection, through possible cash collaborative networks, and with other humanitarian actors through the CWG.

Working with government

During disaster response the National Society will often coordinate closely with government entities around the collection and analysis of assessment data and the identification of people in need. As part of preparedness, common templates and procedures can be agreed to allow for a timely response.

In many emergencies, needs will exceed the financial capacity of the RCRC Movement, and there will be a need to push for the government to assume its responsibility towards the affected population. As part of preparedness the National Society can advocate for the establishment of shock-responsive social safety nets. And following a crisis it can advocate for vulnerable groups to be included in national social protection systems where these exist.

Exploring linkages between CVA and social protection is a key part of CVAP and will specifically involve the need for NS to closely coordinate with governments, such as line ministries, starting during the pre-crisis phase.

For more guidance and how to engage see: [Cash Hub tip sheet on strengthening linkages with social protection](#).

Cash Working Groups

In most contexts where CVA is a part of a humanitarian response there will be a Cash Working Group (CWG), with the main function to support the effective coordination of CVA for a coherent response. For CWGs which remain active in between emergencies, a key part of this work includes a focus on CVA preparedness.

The role of the CWG can include coordinating on issues such as transfer values and developing a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), targeting, delivery mechanisms and working with FSPs, as well as developing harmonised tools and common approaches across the membership. In preparedness, this can involve sharing information on situation analysis, CVA feasibility, market assessment data and risk analysis. The CWG may also have contact lists of CVA humanitarian actors in country and details of who is doing what and where (i.e. 3Ws).

CWGs may exist at both national and sub-national level and regionally, depending on the scale and type of response. At a minimum, the CVA Focal Point or equivalent staff, should regularly attend country level CWG meetings. In some contexts, the NS may even be well positioned to co-chair the CWG or lead on specific technical task force groups.

In 2022, a Cash Coordination Caucus was endorsed by the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which defined an arrangement for accountable, predictable, effective and efficient coordination of CVA. The caucus formalises cash coordination as part of the existing coordination system and specifies that in settings with no IASC or refugee coordination arrangements, the CWG is chaired by OCHA, and in settings with refugee coordination arrangements, the CWG is chaired by UNHCR. The CWG reports to the Inter Sector/Inter Cluster Coordination Group (ICG) who is accountable for overall cash coordination, under the existing chair (i.e. OCHA or UNHCR). CWGs will always have a co-chair, with local actors prioritised where appropriate.

For a directory of regional and country level CWGs, see:

<https://www.calpnetwork.org/community/cash-working-groups/>

Further information per country CWG, including 3Ws and meeting minutes, can be found at: www.humanitarianresponse.info To locate, search for the relevant country (e.g Afghanistan), then locate the CWG information under 'Working groups'.