

Webinar Questions and Answers

Webinar title: Launching the revised Cash in Emergencies Toolkit – Module 1 Preparedness

Date: 04.09.2024

Question	Answer
<p>What is the most exciting thing about these new tools?</p>	<p>The cash preparedness module of the Cash in Emergencies toolkit has been revised based on experience and learnings and is adapted according to the feedback received from CVAP practitioners and aligned to their specific needs. It is a comprehensive package of tools, from which National Societies can pick and choose those that are most relevant to their needs. One of the key changes in the new version of the toolkit is the complete workshop packages for certain steps (e.g. the standard operating procedures [SOPs] development workshop and the Lessons Learned workshop), including PowerPoint presentation, facilitator guidance, etc., which will be a great help when preparing for and conducting those workshops.</p>
<p>How long does a cash preparedness process last?</p>	<p>An evaluation conducted in 2017-2018 recommended extending the time National Societies invest in cash preparedness. Many cash preparedness programmes have a cycle of two to three years, but the recommendation was to extend this to at least three to four years. After this period, the capacity and situation need to be re-evaluated. Once the plan of action is completed, it needs re-evaluation. A National Society might then decide whether to continue investing in order to move to another level of cash preparedness.</p> <p>There are always new sectors where cash can be used, such as for people on the move or in the technology world. This process is ongoing. For example, the British Red Cross started supporting National Societies in the Sahel in 2017 and remains engaged with most of them. Initially, investments focus on capacity building and developing standard operating procedures (SOPs). The first phase requires more awareness with leadership at both the national and branch levels. Over time, the focus can expand to branches with varying capacities. The journey in the Sahel since 2017 illustrates the long-term commitment required for effective cash preparedness, with current support now more targeted to specific areas of capacity building.</p>
<p>It's incredibly intensive with the number of workshops – vision setting, initial self-assessment, mid-term, end-term. Alongside all the other workshops and trainings National Societies need to run, this might not always be possible (both in terms of time, and financial resources) – what is the absolute minimum in your perspective to still be successful?</p>	<p>These workshops and packages align with other preparedness journeys and National Society development initiatives, focusing on capacity building. It's crucial to understand each National Society's goals and tailor the journey accordingly. Some aspects may not be relevant for certain Societies. For example, in European and American National Societies, we recently started cash preparedness journeys. In larger National Societies like the Colombian and Indonesian Red Cross, we conducted visioning workshops separately, following the cash preparedness module. However, for European National Societies, which began their cash preparedness journey recently due to the Ukraine and impacted countries crisis and emergency appeal, we merged the visioning and planning workshops. This approach considers the smaller capacity and fewer staff and volunteers in these National</p>

	<p>Societies. Practitioners must determine what is best for each National Society, as there is no universal formula for success. Each National Society has different dynamics, leadership, systems, and operating environments.</p> <p>When implementing cash preparedness, it's essential to ensure an agile and appropriate response. There are tools with different versions, such as detailed or simplified lessons learned workshops and SOPs. The packages and tools are comprehensive, allowing National Societies to adapt them to their needs. This flexibility is crucial, as engaging leadership for extended periods can be challenging. The process is long-term, requiring leadership commitment and a solid, realistic plan of action. This strategic approach can have a multiplier effect on other areas of the National Society.</p>
<p>How do you suggest Partner National Societies to use the Cash in Emergencies toolkit when they want to support National Societies with cash preparedness?</p>	<p>Guidance on the process can be found in the Roadmap for CVA Preparedness. The first step is to ensure that there is leadership buy-in to the process and needed investments, and to define the ambitions of the National Society. The second step is to assess the level of preparedness and develop a realistic and phased Plan of Action to support the National Society in achieving their ambitions. The standard tools in the toolkit should be adapted to the context and specific needs of the National Society.</p>
<p>We continue to struggle in some National Societies with the institutionalisation of both organisational preparedness and operational readiness, partly due to staff turnover, but also related to systems, processes etc. How can we strengthen institutionalisation better? What's new in this CVAP roadmap that supports this differently?</p>	<p>Institutionalising cash preparedness into a National Society is challenging. It's essential to understand the National Society's structure, leadership, and operations and the Cash Preparedness efforts should build on and align as much as possible to the existing National Society systems and procedures. National Societies often struggle with funding, but there are various resources they can tap into. Multiple preparedness journeys have been initiated, including cash preparedness, preparedness for effective response (PER), National Societal development initiatives, and logistics capacity enhancement initiatives.</p> <p>Integration is crucial to avoid resource duplication. Cash preparedness should be woven into all parts of the National Society, including finance, logistics, IT, information management, PMER, partnerships, and coordination. Linking these areas can open doors to more resources, whether financial, human, or otherwise, enhancing the cash preparedness journey.</p> <p>It's important to understand the National Society's capacity and progress gradually. This process involves behavioural changes and requires a comprehensive approach. Engaging leadership is vital for institutionalising cash preparedness. Leadership commitment is a significant change, emphasising the need for their active involvement.</p>
<p>What is expected when we refer to 'scaling up' National Society cash preparedness? Which factors need to be considered, and what are the expected outcomes? How do we assure the scaling up of CVA as we plan for a programme exit?</p>	<p>National Societies can aim for different levels of cash preparedness. When initiating the process, a National Society may put in place only the most crucial elements to be able to deliver small-scale cash responses with technical support from partners. As the National Society gains more experience, it may want to institutionalise the use of cash as the preferred response modality, and aim to improve the timeliness, complexity, and scale of its cash operations. As the National Society develops and strengthens capacities and systems, external technical assistance will be less needed. However, there is a need to regularly follow up on the</p>

	<p>cash preparedness status to ensure that staff turnover hasn't hollowed out capacities, and that learnings from cash interventions are captured and used to improve systems, procedures, and capacities.</p>
<p>How do you find the resources needed to fund cash preparedness?</p>	<p>Cash preparedness processes are often funded through Partner National Societies, but funding could also come from other funding sources. The Plan of Action (PoA) developed in the early stages of a cash preparedness process can serve as a marketing tool, and the PoA template in the toolkit has a column for the estimated costs of each activity to facilitate that. The establishment of a CVA Technical Working Group with the participation of Movement Partners present in the country can serve as a space for identifying funding and to coordinate commitments in support of the PoA.</p>
<p>Are there any dedicated tools for anticipatory action – or anticipatory cash – or should we use the 'usual' preparedness tools and then add triggers/specific amount based on different objectives?</p>	<p>Currently, a technical task team is working on intersections between anticipatory action and cash preparedness, including specifically anticipatory actions using CVA. These aspects are not yet covered in the preparedness module of the Cash in Emergencies toolkit, as we haven't yet considered anticipatory action points in detail; however, this is something we now plan to address. Some National Societies have already developed tools for their own anticipatory action including early action protocols (EAPs), and we are examining these aspects.</p> <p>In the next few months, updates related to anticipatory action will be available, which may help in implementing early action protocols when there is a trigger. Please look out for updates from the Cash Peer Working Group's Anticipatory CVA project group in due course.</p>
<p>Is there a SharePoint platform available for National Societies to share knowledge, documents, and reports? For instance, National Societies that have conducted lessons learned, feasibility assessments or other pieces that could serve as valuable guides for planning similar activities in the future.</p>	<p>There is no dedicated SharePoint platform for now, but Movement cash preparedness resources including case studies and learning capture are aggregated and hosted on a dedicated CVAP space on the Cash Hub platform.</p> <p>Movement CVA Communities of Practice (CoP) are also a key source of learning and knowledge sharing on cash preparedness, and there are dedicated spaces for the Africa and MENA CoPs already on the platform, and additional regional CoP spaces under development and on the way.</p>
<p>Any plans to include general information in the toolkit related to 'working with others'? For example, in particular, 'An introduction to partnering with the UN on CVA programming'. Could include key issues, opportunities, challenges, etc. for National Societies to be aware of in order to work effectively with the UN on CVA.</p>	<p>This is a great idea which was not included when developing the revised toolkit. It may be taken into consideration for the next revision of the toolkit, and inputs and lessons learned to inform such a document are welcome. Kindly reach out to the Cash Hub with your contribution.</p>
<p>How do we plan on keeping these preparedness module tools up to date?</p>	<p>Feedback from users of the toolkit will be collected on an ongoing basis through the Cash Hub. Minor corrections may be done immediately, whereas larger changes will be pooled together and the intention is for them to be looked at once a year.</p>