

Opportunities for National Societies when engaging in cash coordination

Coordination also brings added value to National Societies.



Knowledge and Technical Capacity Strengthening

CWG provides opportunities to strengthen technical capacities across organizations using unified approaches. Often, they offer opportunities for joint capacity building and participation in training organized by partners such as CaLP, and learning events where best practices and experiences are shared.

Access to in country technical support. CWG are a space for discussion and finding solutions for common operational challenges. These spaces have proved to be key to setting cash transfer values, exploring delivery mechanisms, negotiating with FSPs, and refining targeting and common monitoring approaches that have a direct impact on programme design and better responses.

Dissemination, development and harmonisation of concepts and tools that are key for CVA interventions are usually standardized among CWG members allowing for resources to be allocated to other needs.

Where exists, CWG, have made efforts on data monitoring, creating joint dashboards and other communication tools that facilitate information sharing around situation and needs assessments, CVA feasibility, market function, risk analysis, and community preferences.

Evidence and knowledge creation opportunities, when resources are limited, different organization can find common objectives for research and impact evaluation, analysis and dissemination.



Visibility of actions and capacities, and resource mobilisation

CWG provide a space where NS work and capabilities can be showcased for other organizations, the government, and potential partners that are not so familiar with the work they do. Co-chairing the cash working group in Kenya, has elevated KRCS' platform, providing it with a strong voice of influence in cash initiatives. Other partners now seek advice from KRCS. This is also the case of Colombia Red Cross that has gained significant visibility, and, more importantly, additional capacities.

Donors place a high value on coordination, and CWGs are the key forums where they observe organizational activities. Moreover, they attend CWG and share information on priorities and funding opportunities. This understanding can enhance donor relationships and open up new income streams. CWG in Colombia has worked to mobilise partners access to key CVA donors.

CWG can also provide opportunities for partnership diversification for additional technical capacity e.g. CaLP or CashCap.

Contributing to programme mapping and CWG reporting provides visibility of National Society programmes, helping NS positioning as a partner of choice.

CWG enables new spaces for advocacy and especially, joint, coordinated efforts among organisations reaching broader audiences. And depicting NS as a credible CVA player through collaborative negotiations.



Effective Partnerships, Coordinated responses

CWG can be a space for emergency response coordination through agreements for resource sharing, combining strengths of different partners for more effective CVA responses, including existing funds.

Establishing robust IM systems is becoming increasingly important in CWG work to ensure easy access to information, secure data exchange, and mitigate the risks of duplication.

Access to more competitive service pricing when engaging as a group with financial service providers.

Cohesive approach establishing effective partnerships and coordination mechanisms with other responders in the same geographical. This minimizes security and other risks such as market inflation, ensuring a more efficient resource use.



Accountability to Affected Population

Humanitarian actors hold the responsibility of collaboration ensuring the best use of resources in interest of affected communities, and coordination for the best positioned partner supporting areas where each has the strongest capabilities.

Coordination supports Do no harm principle e.g. through harmonised transfer values, coordinated targeting criteria and registration, avoiding duplication and leaving people behind, so no tensions created within communities.

Local coordination provides a shared forum with development actors enabling complementary services and referrals, including linking CVA interventions with social protection.

Risks

- At all times, is the responsibility of the National Society analyse risks considering the Movement principles and adopt strategies that do not put humanitarian principles at risk.
- The fundamental principles are not always understood by governmental bodies and other organizations have a poor perception of the neutrality and independence of the National Society, especially when security incidents are recurrent or independence, impartiality and neutrality are challenged. Staff turn-over within partner entities requires constant investment and awareness raising on Movement principles.
- To mitigate risks for data disclosure, all data sharing must be always done in line with country data protection legislation and Movement principles and do no harm approach.
- Coordination lead role may raise expectations of funding available to support CWG agenda but also when engaging with social protection programmes. The plan for the leading role must include expectations management I this regard, especially since there are no specific funds available for coordination.
- New Coordination Model in IASC settings may lead to confusion on the roles and responsibilities of the cochaairs, limiting National Societies access for only programmatic roles while their experience might actually fit better with a non-programmatic coordination.

Cash coordination significantly benefits National Societies, as highlighted by this research. Initially, the focus was on how National Societies could contribute to cash coordination. However, as the research progressed, it became clear that coordination efforts also offer direct advantages and reveal opportunities for National Societies when they engage in cash coordination. Some of these are summarized below.



Learnings from National Societies in their process of becoming leaders of cash working groups



National Societies added value to cash coordination. Increased localisation and recommendations for external actors



Full report: Cash Coordination

Methodology

Information has been compiled through interviews and structured data collection forms from National Societies cash focal points and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) regional CVA coordinators and representatives.

This learning document and gathering of examples will be reviewed and added to on an ongoing basis by a newly established cash coordination working group.

More information and contributions

We would like to continue building on this series with new materials based on National Societies experience. If you have relevant Red Cross Red Crescent experiences related to Cash Coordination that can contribute to this area, please contact Andra Gulei, Cash Hub adviser and lead researcher for this report by email andragulei@redcross.org.uk.