

CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE WITHIN SOCIAL PROTECTION PREPAREDNESS

IN CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

THE CALP NETWORK COMMISSIONED A STUDY TO MAP AND ANALYZE OPPORTUNITIES TO LINK HUMANITARIAN CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE WITH SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS TO HELP PEOPLE TO PREPARE FOR CRISES, WHICH DOCUMENTS RECENT EXAMPLES THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

WHAT DID THE STUDY FIND?

ENABLERS

- Many governments in the region are already innovating with cash and voucher assistance in humanitarian response and social protection. By working with NGOs and UN agencies, they helped to bring necessary technical expertise where it was lacking.
- During the 1st year of the COVID-19 pandemic, several governments in the region adapted ongoing social protection programming to include humanitarian cash and voucher assistance. Each program positively impacted thousands of families affected by crisis.

CHALLENGES

- EFFECTIVE REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS.
- BUILD COLLABORATIVE AND TRANSPARENT SCHEMES BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.
- CLEAR MESSAGING ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HUMANITARIAN CVA VS. ONGOING SOCIAL PROTECTION.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Greater collaboration between regional bodies that focus on disaster preparedness and mitigation and national actors.
- Donors and national governments can also fund anticipatory cash and voucher assistance within ongoing social protection programs, making it easier to plan for its use in crisis.
- International NGOs and UN agencies in the region are well placed to collaborate by sharing their expertise and to strengthen government capacities.

KEY ASPECTS TO REINFORCE



To effectively integrate humanitarian Cash and Voucher Assistance into social protections programs to contribute to disaster preparedness in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is necessary to have:

- EFFECTIVE MULTISECTORAL COORDINATION
- GOVERNMENTS' ECONOMIC AND HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT
- DATA MANAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISMS
- CAPACITY TO FORECAST PREDICTABLE EMERGENCIES

IN CONCLUSION



Cash and voucher assistance can play a significant role in preparation for crises, potentially bringing more effective, efficient, and equitable responses to populations' needs.