BACKGROUND:

The CALP Network glossary the defines Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) as the provision of cash transfers and/or vouchers and specifically includes community recipients (in addition to individuals and households). However, limited evidence and very few guidance and standards exist on how to manage, design, implement and measure Group Cash Transfers (GCT). At the same time, the international community has recognized that localized responses are often the most efficient and effective way of assisting people. GCT can take the localization process a step deeper so that decisions around needs and how to address them are taken and delivered by members of the affected communities themselves.

Over the last ten years, several agencies have experimented with GCT the Local to Global Protection Initiative (L2GP) initiative has documented and supported efforts by various actors to develop approaches for enabling affected populations to lead their responses to the crises in which they find themselves.

Amongst many emerging lessons, the most compelling is around the importance of **establishing mechanisms for disbursing collective grants to allow community groups (whether emergent or existing Community Based Organizations or CBOs) to rapidly design, manage, implement and learn from their interventions.**

There is strong evidence to suggest that the transfer of funds to allow full control over resource utilization by such community groups is a critical part of a wider localization approach for supporting community-led responses to crises. It not only allows rapid, very responsive, and often much more cost-effective local action, the explicit transfer of power seems to have a catalytic effect on promoting self-reliance and autonomous psychosocial recovery. GCT are thus seen both as an end in themselves (they fund local initiatives with immediate impacts) and a means to a (bigger) end – in that they stimulate and contribute to deeper and more extended processes of localization, recovery, and resilience.

However, although CVA distributions have received much attention over the last 10 years as a means of providing targeted relief to individual households, very little attention has been paid to localization and the scalable use of community grants to enable multiple collective responses to disasters.

In 2021 with support from DANIDA, CALP Network and Danish Church Aid (DCA) published ready to be piloted d GCT Guidance and Tools which were developed with input from the former GCT working group under CALP Network's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) including DCA, ActionAid, Oxfam, CRS, NRC, WRC, Tearfund, Christian Aid and Key Aid Consulting. This resource, along with the accompanying report, Leveraging the Potential of GCT, provide a strong foundation for broad funding, testing, learning, uptake, institutionalization of GCT.

PURPOSE OF THE GTCs THEMATIC-WORKING GROUP (TWG):

To facilitate the process of creating broader understanding of, resourcing for, increased uptake of and systematic learning on GCTs among humanitarian stakeholders as a method to center, reach and include marginalized people and maximize their agency and capacities.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

The TWG will be part of the Cash and Locally Led Response working group and will engage local and international representatives from the range of stakeholders who will be critical in realizing and moving this agenda forward, including implementing agencies, donors, and those involved in relevant research and data and information services. The following objectives will guide its work:

- Steer the process of testing and utilization of **Standards and guidance** already developed
- Enable **greater coherence and coordination** between organizations who are engaged in these processes, especially with other initiatives like Local2Global and others
- **Increase the engagement and diversity of the cash community bringing local actors in and to the center –** GCTs have the potential to catalyze and demonstrate progress towards Grand Bargain commitments to cash and other similar frameworks
- Ensure **documentation of learning on GCTs**
- Galvanize greater understanding of and support for **resourcing** GCT programming and learning across the humanitarian community, including non-traditional donors

AREAS OF WORK 2022-2023 – TASK TEAMS & OBJECTIVES:

PILOTING STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE The objectives for this Thematic Working Group are to promote piloting and learning from the use of standards and guidelines developed. The TWG will engage the wider CALP Network membership to enable field testing of the guidance and tools

ENGAGING WITH DONORS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS This will involve engaging local NGOs to lead the discussion on GCTs and targeting existing and potential donors to GCT.

RESEARCH AND LEARNING. A global learning agenda will be developed facilitated by the TWG, inclusive of prioritization by local actors. This may include studying the utility and usability of the existing guidance and tools as they are piloted, how they can be adapted for greatest adoption, the identification of complementary resources for field-practitioners and the study of GCT outcomes and impacts.

WAYS OF WORKING:
- The Group Cash Transfer Thematic Working Group will be under the Cash and Local led response working group.
- The Cash and the local-led response core team will provide oversight of the GCT group.
- It will be co-chaired by two organizations to be elected
- Meetings will be held virtually every month for the first 6 months and then once every two months going forward
- Ad-hoc meetings may be called when deemed necessary
- Members of the Thematic Working Group are expected to actively contribute regularly.
- Membership of local organizations will be prioritized if there is significant interest but underrepresentation of local organizations.
- This TOR will be reviewed, revised, and agreed upon by the TWG members. It will be periodically reviewed (every 6 months initially and then once a year) and updated as necessary

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Co-leads
- The co-leads roles are to develop meeting agendas, based on feedback of the group, core steering group members; lead meetings, follow up on group actions, link the GCT initiative with others relevant.
- Co-lead terms to last one year and be staggered to preserve institutional memory

CALP
- Provide support in maintaining contact lists of participants
- Post WG information, resources, meeting minutes (if requested) on the CALP website

Members
- Two levels of engagement
  - Observer member: attend meetings on a regular basis and put GCT into practice and share learning with the group
  - Core member: attend meetings on a regular basis, put GCT into practice and share learning with the group, contribute as resources allow to the development of the work plan and support progress towards the agreed work plan, contribute to technical input and review of new GCT field resources