

# HOW TO CONSIDER PROTECTION ASPECTS WHEN DESIGNING AN MEB

Protection-related expenditures will significantly differ by context and by cases and will ultimately need to be analyzed locally. They can be very hard to define because protection includes ensuring adequate access to protection assistance (which is a very broad set of activities and services) and individually-based assistance. When working on factoring protection considerations in MEB design, it is important to look at:

- Key protection risks (as identified through a context-specific protection/risk assessment) and associated economic root causes (e.g., risk of child labour is caused by economic poverty, amongst other drivers/causes) that require regular assistance in order to be addressed.
- Key protection costs/expenditures (such as access to services) that might be punctual (e.g. surgery or birth certificate) or recurrent (e.g. counselling).

## ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF PROTECTION RISKS THROUGH CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA)

- The results of the protection/risk assessment will indicate which protection risks are partly/entirely associated to one or more economic causes (root causes). While the drivers for each case may differ, the table below provides an example.

RISK	ECONOMIC ROOT CAUSE
Child labour/ exploitation	Families lack financial means to meet their basic needs and rely on child labour as a negative coping strategy to generate income.
Family separation	Lack of livelihoods opportunities and poverty pushes parents to migrate for extended periods of time in order to generate income, leaving their children behind.
Sexual exploitation	A displaced single mother relies on transactional sex in order to generate income to meet her household's needs.

- The provision of a regular CVA designed to meet households' basic needs can contribute to reducing some protection risks and cases. For example:

RISK	ECONOMIC ROOT CAUSE	CVA
Child labour/ exploitation	Families lack financial means to meet their basic needs and rely on child labour as a negative coping strategy to generate income.	Provision of CVA means the family will no longer need to send their children to work in order to meet their basic needs.
Family separation	Lack of livelihoods opportunities and poverty pushes parents to migrate for extended periods of time in order to generate income, leaving their children behind.	Provision of CVA means the family will no longer have to be separated in order to meet their basic needs.
Sexual exploitation	A displaced single mother relies on transactional sex in order to generate income to meet her household's needs.	Provision of CVA means the single mother will no longer have to resort to transactional sex in order to meet her household's needs.

- CVA can be provided in a preventative manner (e.g. to reduce the presence and harm of protection risks) or in a responsive manner (e.g. to respond to a protection risk/case). For example:

PREVENTIVE CVA	RESPONSIVE CVA
Provide CVA to economically vulnerable families to reduce the need to rely on negative coping strategies such as child labour, family separation or child marriage.	Provide CVA to a victim/survivor of violence in the household to enable her/him to no longer be economically dependent on the perpetrator and take the required actions (e.g. rent a separate flat).

- It is important to remember that in order to sustainably and effectively reduce protection risks/address protection cases; complementary activities (“+”) need to accompany the provision of CVA. These include non-protection related activities (such as livelihoods services) and protection activities (such as psychosocial or legal support, and mental health services).

## COVERING THE EXTRA COSTS ASSOCIATED TO ADDRESSING PROTECTION RISKS/NEEDS THROUGH CVA

In some cases, people at risk/victims might require additional punctual or recurrent expenditures to fully address a protection risk or need. These constitute “protection top ups” that are provided (whenever possible) on top of regular CVA. The provision of a protection top up is usually done on a case-by-case basis, and agreed upon between child protection (CP) and CVA staff. These can include:

- **Transportation costs** to enable access to protection services. These could be related to accessing services such as psychosocial support for example, or for transport to facilities dealing with legal documentation. In some cases, access to such services might be a punctual expenditure (e.g. a one time appointment in another city), which would require a one-off top up; or a recurrent expenditure (e.g. access to a service required on a monthly basis). Consider that transportation costs are often covered in MEB calculations, and top ups are not always required.
- **Communications costs** (telephone/internet): Communications costs may be crucial in some contexts, especially where people are displaced and on the move. In these circumstances, people need to be able to receive critical information and stay in contact with families. These costs can contribute to the ability to maintain family links and improve overall wellbeing. People may also incur costs for communications for ongoing access to services including case management, counselling and psychosocial support (PSS) programmes.

- **Costs related to obtaining legal documentation/ accessing protection services:** these could range from paying for legal/administrative services and fees (including for birth certificates, ID documents, lawyers’ fees (representation), regularization of status etc.) to seeking psychological services. For example, in a refugee setting, or a natural disaster/conflict setting when people have lost their homes/assets etc., the cost of replacement documentation may be critical. This could be costs related to accessing legal documentation, residency permits, work permit renewals and birth registration to reduce statelessness. Similarly, some cases might require regular specialist mental health services: if quality services are available locally, the provision of a protection top up to cover the costs of consultation could be envisaged.

- **Rent/shelter** is important to consider also from a protection standpoint. In some cases, costs of rent will be factored into standard minimum expenditure baskets (MEBs), and in others it will need to be included as a top up to either mitigate or address protection risks. In the example of a survivor of sexual violence who has to flee their home, it is essential to consider both temporary and longer-term shelter options (as without longer term options, survivors might not always accept to leave their house, even if the perpetrator is still there).

It is important to differentiate between the provision of CVA or protection top ups from the Emergency Case Management Fund (which is a fund usually made available to case workers to address immediate risks/emergencies, such as paying for a hotel or an ambulance in most extreme cases). The Emergency Case Management Fund is not considered CVA.



### PROTECTION COSTS ACCOUNTED FOR IN THE JORDAN MEB 2019

#### Transportation:

Costs of transportation for 2 visits (per month) to protection and other services (excluding education): average of 10.60 JoD per person (covering max 2 persons).

#### Communications:

Contribution to costs of communication for a monthly subscription/credit recharge per month: 6.63 JoD per household.

#### Legal documentation:

Fees for issuance of birth certificates: Civil Status Department: 1 JoD (one-off per household, cost divided by 12 months).

## TOP TIPS AND ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PROTECTION IN MEB CONSTRUCTION

- **Shelter:** in urban contexts it is important to estimate the costs of deposit and, in some cases, to consider providing the assistance required to the identification and rental of a new place (especially in refugees/displaced settlements) as these can constitute major barriers, particularly to vulnerable and at risk individuals.
- In the calculation of **transportation costs**, particularly in urban contexts, it is important to consider where (geographically) the individual/HH has relocated to, and whether the cash is sufficient to cover the costs of transportation from that new location. This is important to ensure that the victim, for instance, doesn't lose her/his livelihood by relocating.
- **Gap analysis:** if the transfer amount calculations factors in income, it is important to consider that, in certain circumstances, the victim/at risk person will no longer be able to generate income for a certain period of time (e.g. relocation, distress, need to care for the entire family, child-headed household).
- In contexts where the objective of the CVA is to prevent/reduce **child labour**, ensure that the overall amount of cash transfer is sufficient to cover the value of the income that the child/children might have generated if they had worked, as well as additional fees for the children to access education, if applicable.
- In contexts of **family separation**, consider the overall costs of reunification (legal, transportation, resettlement of a family member).
- **Temporality:** generally speaking, short/one off assistance type might be less effective than longer term (6 months +) assistance. It is also crucial to integrate the possibility to access livelihoods services from the beginning of provision of assistance, in order to ensure that the client doesn't have to re-start relying on negative coping strategies at the end of assistance provision.
- As with all sector coordination structures, ensure protection coordination mechanisms' members are brought into MEB construction discussions from the start, in order to flag relevant expenditures to be included in the MEB. Discuss and agree how to monitor these expenditures and to gather trends from existing protection assessments.
- Bring in local organizations working on protection, including women-led organizations, specialist gender-based violence (GBV) organizations, informal women's groups from the affected communities, as well as representatives of people with disabilities, elderly and minority groups, including people with diverse Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity/Expression & Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC) and children where relevant. These entities and the populations they represent and advocate for are often under-represented in clusters so proactively seeking their perspectives and recommendations is key.

- Talk to crisis-affected people and protection colleagues about protection needs, self-protection or positive coping mechanisms that should be considered in the MEB or as a one-off need, e.g. paying for legal documents or birth certificates.
- As some specific examples of cash for protection, such as cash assistance within GBV case management, or vouchers for adolescent girls to access menstrual hygiene materials, may fall under other sectors or sub-sectors (e.g. GBV, CP, health, or WASH), it is important to coordinate with relevant working groups to ensure non-duplication of these items or costs within the MEB.



## KEY RESOURCES

See various resources on the CALP website ([calpnetwork.org](http://calpnetwork.org)) at [Protection and Cash and Voucher Assistance | Cash Learning Partnership](#)

ERC/UNHCR. (2015) [Guide for Protection in Cash Based Interventions](#) and within this document, the

[Tips for Protection in Cash Based Interventions](#)

Protection [Risks and Benefits Analysis Tool](#)