



Cash and Voucher Assistance Essentials for WASH Cluster Information Managers

What is Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)?

CVA refers to all programmes where cash transfers or vouchers for goods or services are directly provided to recipients. In the context of humanitarian assistance, the term refers to the provision of cash transfers or vouchers directly to individuals, household or community recipients; not to governments or other state actors ([CaLP](#)) .

Thus, cash transfers made directly to service providers with the objective of strengthening WASH services, such as cash grants to hygiene items traders or to urban water kiosks are considered a form of market or service support and do not fall under the definition of CVA. They should be reported as “services”.

The table that follows lists the most commonly encountered forms of CVA and other cash grants in the WASH sector and is not exhaustive. If in doubt about a type of assistance not included in the table, it is CVA if it supports demand (at household, or more rarely at individual and community level) and is not reimbursable.

CVA in WASH in Emergencies...	
Is:	Is NOT:
Household vouchers for water	Fuel vouchers for water truckers
Household vouchers for water supply materials	Microfinance loans for water business creation
Household vouchers for household water treatment	Cash grants to water kiosks
Household cash for water	Financial support to water utility companies
Household vouchers for latrine construction	Microfinance loans for latrine (re)construction
Household vouchers for desludging	Financial incentives for sanitation utilities workers
Household cash for latrine construction	Cash grants to hygiene items traders (e.g. for restocking or infrastructure rehabilitation)
Household cash for desludging	Cash grants to small businesses for new product development
Household vouchers for hygiene items	
Household cash for hygiene items	

Where can I find more information on CVA terminology?

The [CaLP Glossary](#) is the best source to find out more about CVA terminology. The Glossary exists also in [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Arabic](#). You can find here definitions of conditionality, restriction, cash, vouchers.

Where can I find more information on CVA in WASH?

You can find out more about CVA in WASH and on market support interventions in WASH in the Global WASH Cluster [Market-Based Programming in WASH Evidence Building Study](#) . The summary of this document will be soon available in French, Spanish and Arabic.

How should CVA be included in WASH Cluster Monitoring?

In March 2020, OCHA updated the [3W template for inter-cluster reporting](#) to take into account implementation modalities such as cash transfers and vouchers. At a minimum, WASH Clusters are advised to include in their reporting the standard fields included by OCHA in inter-cluster reporting, and where possible and relevant the OCHA optional fields as well. Only interventions that fall under the above CVA definition should be included.