

Linking Humanitarian Cash and Voucher Assistance for EiE with Social Protection Programmes

Aligning / linking humanitarian Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) for EiE with national social protection programmes requires an understanding of the country's social protection system to identify opportunities for collaboration and alignment.

A social protection system is well positioned to respond to shocks if:

- ✓ The government shows strong leadership, and the system has legal and policy backing;
- ✓ Institutional capacity is supported by well-functioning coordination mechanisms;
- ✓ Has sustainable funding;
- ✓ Has an integrated system of programmes that offer high and equitable coverage of population and needs;
- ✓ Has established administrative systems;
- ✓ Has robust systems for informed decision making and accountability;

Ways of enhancing coordination between humanitarian CVA and social protection actors:

- ✓ Generally, there's a lack of coordination across social protection, disaster risk management and humanitarian actors, which can result in duplications and negative effects on cost effectiveness, weak response to the needs of affected populations, and limited sustainability;
- ✓ Humanitarian sectors, including education, can connect to social protection coordination through humanitarian Cash Working Groups (CWGs);
- ✓ Better coordination between humanitarian CVA and national social protection programmes can be enhanced by better coordination between humanitarian sectors, in particular with regards to the consistent use of CVA across sectors;
- ✓ Humanitarian sectors, including education, should advocate for active participation of humanitarian CVA specialists representing CWGs in social protection coordination groups, where these exists, and when relevant; they should also advocate for the participation of social protection experts in CWGs;

Key questions for determining the role of the national system in humanitarian CVA implementation:

- ✓ Is the national social protection system compatible with humanitarian principles? How does the national system manage risks, especially fiduciary ones?
- ✓ Can the national system assist a large proportion of the affected population, cope with higher volumes and frequency of cash transactions, manage risks and be accountable to affected populations?

Options for linking humanitarian CVA with social protection systems:

- ✓ Delivering humanitarian CVA through the national social protection system: **align horizontally** (add new beneficiaries to an existing programme) **or vertically** (increase benefit or duration of an existing programme, or introduce extraordinary transfers);
 - ✓ Example of horizontal alignment: the UNICEF Conditional Cash Transfers for Education in Turkey;
- ✓ Using the social protection system partially, or **piggybacking** onto existing structures: possible to “borrow” some components of the system (e.g. administrative structure, staff) and manage humanitarian cash through a parallel structure;
 - ✓ Example: the UNICEF CVA for EiE in Iraq’s Dohuk Governorate, implemented with support from the Department of Social Affairs;
- ✓ Delivering through a parallel system, while nevertheless building linkages with national approaches, or **shadow alignment**, usually by developing humanitarian CVA which share design features of current or future national programmes;

Key resources:

[UNICEF Programme Guidance: Strengthening Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems](#)

[A Companion Guidance to UNICEF's Global Social Protection Programme Framework](#)

[TRANSFORM "Coordination of Social Protection Systems - Manual"](#)

[Working with Cash-Based Safety Nets in Humanitarian Contexts. Guidance Note for Humanitarian Practitioners](#)

[Identifying practical options for linking humanitarian assistance and social protection in the COVID-19 response](#)