



## Tip sheet on integrating cash and voucher assistance in HNOs and HRP

### Minimum process requirements:

Through continuous work with CP AoR partners and liaison with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), Cash Working Group (CWG) and relevant clusters (in particular food security and education), CP AoR Coordinators and IMs should:

- Ensure relevant CP indicators (related to child labor, early marriage and school dropouts) are included in multi-sector *needs* assessments, along with indicators on household income, expenditure and debt.
- Maintain awareness of CVA *feasibility* assessments done by the CWG and other clusters.
- Contribute to decision-making processes leading to the potential consideration of Multipurpose Cash Transfers (MPC) and ensure CP considerations are duly included in MPC and other sectors' CVA tools and processes as relevant. Suggested CP indicators for MPC are available [here](#).
- Maintain awareness of and contribute to processes led by the CWG that are meant to optimize CVA planning and design, such as the development or update of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), harmonization of transfer value, CVA targeting.
- Work with CP AoR partners and the CWG reflect on the use of CVA for the CP sector and to track it as per [OCHA Guidance](#).

Remember to use the CP AoR Helpdesk in case you have questions and need good examples from your colleagues in other countries.

### Key terms

**Cash and Voucher Assistance (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 given to individuals, households or community recipients – not to governments or other state actors.

The term CVA is used interchangeably in existing literature with the terms Cash-Based Interventions (CBI), Cash-Based Assistance (CBA), Cash and Voucher Programming, and Cash Transfer Programming (CTP)

**Multipurpose Cash Transfers (MPC)** are transfers (either periodic or one-off) corresponding to the amount of money required to cover, fully or partially, a household's basic and/or recovery needs. The term refers to transfers designed to address multiple needs, with the transfer value calculated accordingly.

**A sector specific cash intervention** refers to an intervention designed to achieve sector-specific objectives. Sector-specific assistance can be conditional or unconditional. Vouchers (restricted transfers) might be used to limit expenditure to items and services contributing to achieve specific sectoral objectives. Sector specific interventions delivered through cash transfers might be designed to influence how recipients spend them, which is called labelling.



## Why it is important to include cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in HNOs and HRP

The use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) has increased considerably in the past years from 10.6 per cent of international humanitarian assistance in 2016 to 19 per cent in 2020. Today, CVA is widely recognized as a more flexible and dignified modality for providing humanitarian assistance and is also the modality preferred by many recipients. CVA cuts across sectors, thus supports the aim of the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC) to cooperate, achieve collective results and improve accountability to affected populations.

In child protection, CVA can contribute to preventing risks in any of the areas under Pillar 2 of the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. CVA can also be used as a tool in integrated responses addressing certain child rights violations, such as child labor and SGBV and mitigate children's involvement in harmful coping strategies to meet the household's basic needs.

Similar to other sectors, the key contribution that CVA can make in child protection is to provide financial access to essential goods and services and to compensate to some extent certain opportunity costs, such as the opportunity cost of lost child labor or child marriage. In other words, CVA help remove economic barriers that children and their families encounter in their access to essential goods and services, such as food, shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene, education, and transport to access services that are provided free of charge. Because of this, CVA can address child protection risks when these have economic roots.

As child protection risk root causes are rarely purely economic, CVA alone is not enough, and it needs to be integrated with other interventions in child protection and other sectors in order to be effective.

From a coordination perspective, the three main forms of CVA to which the child protection sector can connect are multipurpose cash (MPC), CVA for food and CVA for education. It is still relatively rare to have CVA with explicit child protection objectives and funded by the child protection sector. Because of this, integrating CVA in the child protection sub-sections of HNOs and HRP requires coordination with other clusters and with the [Cash Working Group \(CWG\)](#) .

## Integrating CVA in HNO and HRP

**Tips for the HNO preparation:** To inform the CVA appropriateness and feasibility analyses, Child Protection AoRs should:

- Collaborate with other clusters and the CWG to investigate in needs assessments the existence and magnitude of economic barriers to accessing essential goods and services. Secondary data is often available. If not, available multi-sector needs assessments usually collect data on household income, expenditure, debts, which should be analyzed in conjunction with indicators such as child labor, early marriage and school dropouts.
- Collaborate with other clusters and the CWG to understand CVA feasibility aspects such as market functionality for relevant goods and services, acceptance of CVA by affected people, governments and donors, capacity of financial service providers to deliver humanitarian CVA, existing national social protection programmes, protection risks that may be associated with the CVA delivery modality and specific mitigation measures.



### **What information to include in the Child Protection sub-section of the HNO:**

- Explanation of how the crisis has impacted trends of CP risks and identification of needs associated with economic vulnerability

### **What information to include in the sectoral chapter of the HRP:**

Determine which of the risks associated with economic vulnerability can be mitigated by cash assistance.

In the rare cases when CVA is funded under the HRP CP sub-section and in accordance with [OCHA Guidance](#) :

- Clarify whether CVA will be used to deliver planned programmes.
- Include information on evidence used to determine use of CVA (i.e. market functionality, financial barriers encountered when accessing essential goods and services).
- State the percentage of the response delivered by using CVA, and information on the number of people targeted with CVA.
- Include outcome-based, non-CVA specific indicators for the monitoring of sector-level objectives.

In cases when CVA is delivered by other sectors and linkages with other sectors need to be established:

- Clarify that cross-referrals between relevant CP and CVA programmes are needed.
- Collaborate with other sectors and the CWG to determine possibilities for including child protection outcomes in CVA programmes .

### **Key resources:**

#### **Evidence**

[Alliance for Child Protection: Cash Transfer Programming and Child Protection in Humanitarian Action: Review and Opportunities to Strengthen Evidence](#)

[CaLP: Cash Transfer Programming in the Education and Child Protection Sectors: Literature review and Evidence maps](#)

[WRC and IRC: Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programming and Gender-based Violence Outcomes: Evidence and Future Research Priorities](#)

#### **Guidance and tools**

[UNHCR: Guidance on Promoting Child Protection Outcomes through CBI](#)

[Alliance for Child Protection: Toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluating Child Protection when using Cash and Voucher Assistance](#)

[WRC, IRC and Mercy Corps: Resources for Mainstreaming Gender-Based Violence \(GBV\) Considerations in Cash and Voucher Assistance \(CVA\) and Utilizing CVA in GBV Prevention and Response](#)

**Examples of CVA use for CP outcomes:** [Plan International CAR](#); [Save the Children](#); [UNHCR MENA](#); [UNICEF Lebanon](#)