



Save the Children

CVA

TECHNICAL
NOTE

Georgia

-February 2024-

Using new technologies to support people on the move

These technical notes have been developed for each country of the response and focuses on providing more details on key technical approaches used by response countries.

This specific technical note focuses on the findings of a pilot conducted by SC Georgia to strengthen its cash emergency preparedness plans, highlighting learnings from the use of remote registration approaches.

In 2023, Save the Children (SC) launched its first pilot Cash and Voucher (CVA) assistance project in Georgia. The assistance targeted Ukrainian refugees residing in Georgia who had fled the war in Ukraine and arrived in Georgia after February 24, 2022. 161 households and 450 individuals were ultimately selected. These were mostly Ukrainian refugees whose children were attending SC's child-friendly spaces (CFSs) established in a number of kindergartens and schools in Georgia, primarily in Tbilisi.

Program overview

Total cash distributed Total beneficiaries Delivery mechanism



\$132,221

To



450 HHs

Via



Bank transfers

Registration

July



August



September



October

July
2023



MPCA

October
2023

Post-distribution Monitoring

Sept. (after 2nd round)

Targeting methodology



Entry point of CVA Selection: Ukrainian families that are already actively participating in the child-friendly spaces ran by SC Georgia.

Selection criteria for CVA programme:

Ukrainian families who have fled the war after 24th February 2022

Exclusion criteria: those who are currently receiving any CVA from other international organisations

USING NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO REGISTER CVA BENEFICIARIES

The use of remote registration approaches has been increasingly used in contexts of displacements or in hard-to-reach areas. In Georgia, Save the Children piloted the use of an online platform to register beneficiaries of its CVA intervention, but also monitor the impact the program. Beneficiaries could register through an online survey, and access information relevant to refugees in Georgia on the same portal. The online platform and associated surveys (registration, PDM or endline) were disseminated through Telegram groups of CFS parents, with whom SC was previously working on child protection activities (Child Friendly Spaces). Applicants were then updated on the status of their application via SMS.

Overall, participants were appreciative of the platform. They particularly praised the fact that it was an easy and fast way of registering for assistance, and families living outside of the capital particularly appreciated the fact that they did not need to pay for transportation to reach the registration point. Nevertheless, when compared to standard face to face registration (2/3 of respondents had previously experienced a face-to-face registration), the vast majority of respondents did not see added benefits to using online self-registration. This illustrates the conclusions of the “Cash on the Move” report, which recommends the use of mixed methods (online-face to face) to register beneficiaries of cash assistance. As experienced in other countries of the Ukraine response as well, while for some groups (ex: living in remote locations, with high digital skills) online-registrations are the most practical and appropriate way to apply for assistance; for others (ex: the elderly) face to face is by far preferred. In Ukraine, for instance, fears of scams led many people to refuse to register through the links shared via SMS by Save the Children to apply to CVA (the support of local authorities was required to reassure communities on the authenticity of these SMSs). Conversely, many praised the discretion of online application methods, which avoided social pressure or potential judgement from neighbors, family members or other members of the community.



IMPACT OF THE ASSISTANCE ON CHILD OUTCOMES

Household expenditures:

Rent (31%) and food (25%) account for the biggest share of monthly household budget, followed by Medical costs (10%). Reportedly, for an average family/household of 3, total monthly household expenses are estimated to be 2924 GEL, on average, while the monthly assistance was 768 GEL (as determined by the Cash Working Group) for a household of 3. While elaborating on the effect, most of the respondents mentioned that cash assistance was an opportunity to spend more on children, which includes buying food, clothes, hygiene products, school supplies, paying for medical services and necessary medicines. One participant specified: *"It helped my child to continue sensory therapy for autism"* (Female, 29). The assistance helped some of respondents to cover rent fees and one person revealed their family was able to buy medical insurance for the child.

Most commonly reported spendings of CVA (in GEL)

	GEL
Rent (or shelter)	915
Food	731
Medical costs (doctors' visits and medicine)	287
Clothing and shoes	256
Hygiene products (soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc.)	136
Utilities	125
School fees, school supplies, books, school uniforms, and other education expenses	121
Other expenses (not listed above)	112
Debt repayment	98
Communication (phone, internet, or other communication)	77
Transportation (petrol, public transportation, taxi)	66
Saving	28

Effect of the assistance on households:




95% think the effect was positive and 5% think it was neutral. Nobody considered the assistance to have a negative impact. In addition, many respondents indicated that the assistance made them feel calmer, cared for and more confident about their finances. Two persons mentioned that the cash assistance saved them from a bank loan. **83% of respondents believed the assistance had a positive impact on relationships within their household** and 17% claimed neutral effect.

Impact on basic needs:

The provision of the assistance was **not sufficient** to enable households to meet their basic needs and to cope with the rise in costs of living during the assistance period (due to increased inflation and national currency depreciation). **Accommodation** (rent) is estimated to be the most **problematic need** (in terms of 'not at all' met share of responses), along with **food, health/medical expenses, utilities, hygiene and clothing items**. Education seems to be the only category that has experienced a positive change over time. This aligns with the satisfaction expressed by respondents due to buying school items at the beginning of the school year. This is the need that the cash assistance seemingly alleviated the most.

Child Labor:

Only 3% reported having children engaged in paid work at the end of the project. In the baseline, with a smaller sample size, 7% stated that a child from their household was engaged in paid work. This signifies a 50% reported reduction in the number of working children throughout the span of the CVA, all reportedly thanks to the cash assistance.

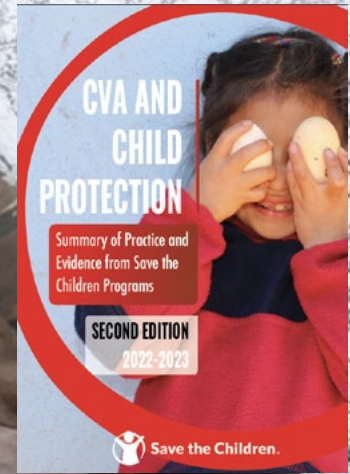
	Baseline	Endline	
% of households with children engaged in paid work in the last 30 days decreased from:	 4 HHs (7%)	  2 HHs (3%)	<i>In the endline survey, 2 respondents indicated that their children stopped working as a result of the cash assistance</i>
Average number of hours worked increased slightly from:	4,7 hours	6,5 hours	

Box 1: CVA beneficiary's perception of the impact of CVA

Valentyna found it particularly difficult to cover the expenses related to the initial preparations for the school year. She decided to utilize the financial support provided by Save the Children within the frames of the UCAN project pilot to purchase essential school supplies for her son and to cover his academic activities. This greatly improved her mental well-being, which helped Valentyna to create more supportive family environment for her son. She emphasized that the salaries in Georgia are constrained, making it difficult to cover essential expenses. She is very grateful for the financial aid



This technical factsheet needs to be read in complement of three following other documents:



The Save the Children Eastern Europe Capacity Statement (link) regroups key information, by country, on overall program design, reach and impact.

The 'Cash on the Move' (link) report provides an overall analysis and lessons learnt on the use of cash to assist populations on the move in the Ukraine response.

Save the Children's cross country research on CVA & CP, including the Georgia specific case study (link).

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