

Group Cash Transfer Thematic-Working Group: Terms of Reference 2024-2025

BACKGROUND:

The CALP Network glossary (2023) defines Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) as the direct provision of cash transfers and/or vouchers for goods or services to individuals, households, or group/community recipients. In the context of humanitarian response, CVA excludes payments to governments or other state actors, remittances, service provider stipends, microfinance and other forms of savings and loans. The terms ‘cash’ or ‘cash assistance’ should be used when referring specifically to cash transfers only (i.e., avoid using ‘cash’ or ‘cash assistance’ when referring to cash and vouchers collectively). However, limited evidence and very few guidance and standards exist on how to manage, design, implement and measure Group Cash Transfers (GCT)¹. At the same time, the international community has recognized that localized responses are often the most efficient and effective way of assisting people. GCT can take the localization process a step deeper so that decisions around needs and how to address them are taken and delivered by members of the affected communities themselves.

Over the last ten years, several agencies have shifted from piloting to implementing GCT in more than 6 different contexts, where the Local to Global Protection Initiative (L2GP) initiative has documented and supported efforts by various actors to develop approaches for enabling affected populations to lead their responses to the crises in which they find themselves. Amongst many emerging lessons, the most compelling is around the importance of **establishing mechanisms for disbursing collective grants to allow community groups (whether emergent or existing Community Based Organizations or CBOs) to rapidly design, manage, implement and learn from their interventions.**

There is strong evidence to suggest that the transfer of funds to allow full control over resource utilization by such community groups is a critical part of a wider localization approach for supporting community-led responses to crises. It not only allows rapid, very responsive, and often much more cost-effective local action, but the explicit transfer of power also seems to have a catalytic effect on promoting self-reliance and autonomous psychosocial recovery. GCT are thus seen both as an end in themselves (they fund local initiatives with immediate impacts) and a means to a (bigger) end – in that they stimulate and contribute to deeper and more extended processes of localization, recovery, and resilience.

However, although CVA distributions have received much attention over the last 10 years as a means of providing targeted relief to individual households, very little attention has been paid to localization and the scalable use of community grants to enable multiple collective responses to disasters.

In 2021 with support from DANIDA, CALP Network and Danish Church Aid (DCA) published ready to be piloted [GCT Guidance and Tools](#) which were developed with input from the former GCT working group under CALP Network’s Technical Advisory Group (TAG) including DCA, ActionAid, Oxfam, CRS, NRC, WRC, Tearfund, Christian Aid, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) and Key Aid Consulting. This resource, along

¹ Defined as “An approach to provide resources in the form of cash for selected groups to implement projects that benefit either a sub-section of the community, or the community at large. GCT is a type of response that seeks to transfer power to crisis-affected populations (typically delimited by geographical location) or community groups² to respond to their own needs and priorities.” (CALP Glossary, 2023).

with the accompanying report, [Leveraging the Potential of GCT](#), provide a strong foundation for broad funding, testing, learning, uptake, institutionalization of GCT.

PURPOSE OF THE GCTs THEMATIC-WORKING GROUP (TWG):

To facilitate the process of creating broader understanding of, advocate for increased uptake of integration into the humanitarian architecture and systematic learning on GCTs among humanitarian stakeholders as a method to center, reach and include marginalized people and maximize their agency and capacities.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

The TWG will be part of the Cash and Locally Led Response working group and will engage local and international representatives from the range of stakeholders who will be critical in realizing and moving this agenda forward, including implementing agencies, donors, and those involved in relevant research and data and information services. The following objectives will guide its work:

- Enable **greater coherence and coordination** between organizations who are engaged in these processes, especially with other initiatives like Local2Global and others
- Enable **greater coherence and coordination** on a country, regional and global level through better understanding and capacity for GCTs
- **Increase the engagement and diversity of the cash community, bringing local actors in and to the center** – GCTs have the potential to catalyze and demonstrate progress towards Grand Bargain commitments to cash and other similar frameworks
- Facilitating the knowledge sharing and uptake through **documentation of learning on GCTs**, in addition to contributing to the **knowledge and capacity through training development**
- **Addressing knowledge gaps through research** in coordination and partnership with other stakeholders within the working group and other relevant organizations
- Galvanize greater understanding of and support for **resourcing** GCT programming and learning across the humanitarian community, including non-traditional donors.

AREAS OF WORK 2024-2025 – TASK TEAMS & OBJECTIVES:

ENGAGING WITH DONORS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS This will involve engaging local NGOs to lead the discussion on GCTs and targeting existing and potential donors to GCT.

RESEARCH AND LEARNING. A global learning agenda will be developed, inclusive of prioritization by local actors. This may include studying the utility and usability of the existing guidance and tools as they are piloted, how they can be adapted for greatest adoption, the identification of complementary resources for field-practitioners and the study of GCT outcomes and impacts.

WAYS OF WORKING:

- The Group Cash Transfer Thematic Working Group will be under the Cash and Local led response working group.
- The Cash and the local-led response core team will provide oversight of the GCT group.
- It will be co-chaired by two organizations to be elected

- Meetings will be held virtually quarterly i.e every 3 months – presentations by actors as a fixed agenda item
- Ad-hoc meetings may be called when deemed necessary
- Members of the Thematic Working Group are expected to actively contribute regularly.
- Membership of local organizations will be prioritized if there is significant interest but underrepresentation of local organizations.
- This TOR will be reviewed, revised, and agreed upon by the TWG members. It will be reviewed every year.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Co-leads

- The co-leads roles are to develop meeting agendas, based on feedback of the group; lead meetings, follow up on group actions, link the GCT initiative with others relevant.
- Co-lead terms to last one year and be staggered to preserve institutional memory.

CALP

- Provide support in maintaining contact lists of participants.
- Post WG information, resources, meeting minutes (if requested) on the CALP website.

Members

- attend meetings on a regular basis, contribute to working plan initiatives and efforts, and share learning with the group.