



*These are all of the active sectors under the RMRP. Sector lead organizations only represent regional-level leadership.

**Fundraising leadership to be confirmed.

REGIONAL CASH WORKING GROUP-R4V

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

September 2020

The Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela recognized the need to create a product-oriented Regional Working Group on Cash-Based Interventions, which aims to support national / sub-regional platforms and country-level working groups under the regional platform umbrella while recognizing the leadership of country-based responses (ToR, 2019).

FAQ

1. What is the R4v?
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6. How does the RCWG link up with other Platforms?
7. Which are the next steps?



You can contact the Cash Working Group Coordination team at cbi.rwg@gmail.com

1. What is the R4V?

In April 2018 the UN Secretary-General provided direction for IOM and UNHCR to lead and coordinate the regional response to the situation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela seeking access to basic rights and services, protection, as well as self-reliance and socio-economic integration. Further to this direction, the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform was established as a forum to coordinate the response efforts across 17 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a particular focus on achieving coherency and consistency throughout the response.

At national and sub-regional levels, the Regional Platform is complemented by local coordination mechanisms. Dedicated National and Sub-regional Platforms, collaborating closely with host governments are charged with the operational coordination and implementation of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP). Such coordination platforms are in place in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru - at national levels - and in the Caribbean, Central America & Mexico, and Southern Cone - at sub-regional levels. Their configuration is based on each situational context and the operational capacities of governments and RMRP partners, taking into account existing coordination structures.

2. Is there any Cash Working Group under the Regional Coordination Platform -R4V?

Yes. The Regional Cash Working Group is co-led by the **World Food Program (WFP) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**. The overarching goal of the group is to: *support national responses through national / sub-regional platforms with Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) design, implementation, M&E phases, and all response processes related to CVA.* **You can find ToR and workplan ([here](#)), to be updated for 2021.**

3. Why is it important to have a Regional Cash Working Group?

Besides technically supporting national responses, the RCWG aims to promote the cross-fertilization of knowledge between national groups working in the Refugee and Migrant Response, for example, in terms of assessments, targeting, delivery mechanisms, payment methods, or monitoring of results, to name a few.

Moreover, the RCWG fosters the coordination of cash responses with other sectors and intersectoral issues under the R4V, in order to enhance impact and ensure efficiency. It also liaises with other platforms and actors from the humanitarian and development spheres trying to seek coherence, aligning visions, and integrating cross-cutting issues such as gender, age, and diversity.

The RCWG procures visibility of national cash working groups in regional and global forums. Finally, the RCWG aims to provide technical advice to national responses, seeking to contribute to the strengthening of national systems and ensuring sustainability while delivering timely responses.

4. How can I contact the Coordination team? How frequently do members meet? How can I subscribe to the e-mailing list?

You can contact the Coordination team at cbi.rwg@gmail.com, request to be added to the distribution list rcwg-r4v@googlegroups.com, access to working documents in RCWG-drive ([here](#)), recorded meetings ([here](#)), and published documents in r4v.info.

Who is the coordination team? They are Cash and Markets officers/advisors from **IFRC Americas**, **WFP Regional Bureau** as co-leads, **UNICEF LACRO**, as part of their role of the technical secretariat; and a **CashCap** Expert deployment, hosted by IFRC Americas, as her role to provide expert technical support to strengthen the RCWG to achieve its overarching goal and implement its workplan.

Contacts: IFRC Americas officer, Jennifer Fernandes, Regional CVA Senior Officer jennifer.fernandes@ifrc.org, Mario Medina IFRC, CVA Consultant Migration Cell, mario.medina@ifrc.org; WFP Regional CBT officer Adrian STORBECK adrian.storbeck@wfp.org; UNICEF Social Protection Specialist Gerardo Escaroz, gescaroz@unicef.org; CashCap Expert, Maria Jimena Peroni Galli, Regional Inter-Agency Cash adviser, hosted by IFRC, jimena.peroni@nrc.no.

In line with the ToRs, among many activities, they:

- facilitate the monthly regional meetings¹. You can have access to Notes for the Record ([here](#)), the meeting is in Spanish and through an online platform (link sent by invitation to all members).
- support the (Co) leadership and Secretariat roles and ensure workplan's activities respond better to the changes of needs and ways of working that the COVID-19 crisis is bringing and address the needs of regional partners and national CWG both in the short and the medium term.
- engage (and backstop, if needed) actively with the different National CWGs and CVA focal points in Subregions and with Regional Sector leads to engage and support CVA discussions/guidelines/workplan, when required, to achieve Sector outcomes and promote the exchange of tools, experiences, and key information on gender, GBV, and CVA.
- support the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Coordination (**R4V**) with relevant briefings and updates regarding the evolving situation on cash assistance responses under the Platform (twice a month).
- support the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the CVA responses for the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan 2020/21. i.e. *Provide technical input to the cash elements of the Refugee and Migrant Regional Plan review process (April-May 2020) to the COVID-19 situation ([here](#)); develop guidance and provide technical support to the Planning phase of the RMRP 2021 bit.ly/RMRP2021; cross-fertilize and learn from national focal points*, in collaboration with other learning platforms and networks.

¹ Meetings period April- December 2020. May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, August 13th, September 19th, October 8th, November 5th, December 3rd.

- Work closely with the Regional Coordination Platform team and WGs such as Information Management ([here](#)), Fundraising and Communication with Communities; and Sectors, namely Integration, WASH, GBV subsector, Protection, Shelter, Transportation, Education, Nutrition, Health, and Food Security.

5. Who is a member of the RCWG?

The group is made up of partners of the Regional and National Coordination Platforms for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela either directly implementing, supporting, interested, or planning to design Cash and Voucher Assistance. The CWG has a collective membership and way of working, meaning it relies on the CWG members' active participation to achieve its goal.

- Partners, sector leads, and national platforms co-facilitate, present, or share different initiatives in monthly meetings
- May 21st **UNHCR** and **CCD Colombia** facilitated a session on targeting methods for CVA and good practices discussions ([here](#))
- June 18th **UNICEF** presented on social protection for refugee, migrant, and displaced populations in Brazil and the **Regional Integration Sector** introduced their sector structure, priorities, strategy, outputs, and joint activities with the RCWG ([here](#)).
- July 16th **Ground Truth Solutions, Ecuadorian Red Cross, and Ven Esperanza Consortium**, Colombia facilitated discussions on Community Engagement and Accountability experiences and initiatives ([here](#))
- August 13th, **UNHCR** focused on the legal and regulatory barriers that are hampering refugees and other forcibly displaced persons' digital and financial inclusion in the five countries hosting the largest number of Venezuelans in the region, namely Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. For example, a refugee or migrant who cannot legally activate a mobile connection, open a bank account or access a mobile money wallet in his or her own name may be further marginalized and disempowered as access to information, communication, cash assistance, and transfers is severely limited ([here](#))
- September 10th. **National platforms** shared inputs on the integration of CVA into the Refugee and Migration Response Plan for the 2021 process and the **Gender focal point and the GBV Sub-sector facilitated gender considerations for CVA** ([here](#)).
- Partners actively participate in the online monthly meeting and discussions, providing inputs and feedback to the Coordination team on the Group's activities, guidelines, initiatives, and workplan.
- Partners, sector leads, and national platforms work collaboratively to achieve activities of the regional workplan (*ongoing*)
- Implementing partners under the R4V report activities and modalities of assistance through the information Management mechanisms available (*Activity info*) to provide all the data concerning assistance provided by R4V partners towards refugees, migrants, and host communities ([Dashboards](#))

- The group enables and facilitates activities involving local authorities, local NGOs, grassroots organization and bringing refugees', migrants' and host population's views, needs, and priorities into decision making (*pending*)

6. How does the group link up with other Platforms?

The Group engages and collaborates with many platforms, ensuring technical forums work collaboratively and aim for consistency and coherence to support programmatic and operational CVA responses. The Coordination team members work closely, support, and/or collaborate in dissemination in different meetings, events, and initiatives with

- The [REDLAC](#). Since 2003, the Regional Group on Risks, Emergencies and Disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean (REDLAC) has been operating as a regional coordination platform for disaster preparedness and response, organized into sector-based working groups for humanitarian action. To respond to the impact of COVID-19, REDLAC is operating through the response activities of nine sectoral and three thematic working groups, facilitating permanent dialogue among the nearly 40 participating humanitarian organizations. [ROLAC](#), in collaboration with **CashCap** and **CaLP**, facilitate that cash discussions are included in Agenda, when required ([here](#)). For any questions, please contact Amaia Lopez Castelo, OCHA Regional Office lopez20@un.org
- [CaLP Americas](#) will continue to actively engage in inter-agency (REDLAC), sector, and CVA specific meetings in the region to ensure CVA capacity needs are met and actors are aware of where they can locate key resources and learning opportunities. CaLP Americas convenes monthly meetings, inviting CWG leaders and Co-leaders ([link](#)) to facilitate knowledge and information sharing about CVA in response to COVID-19. This year CaLP activated the online [Spanish discussion group](#), supporting information sharing and peer-to-peer support among the Spanish-speaking community of practice. Discussion groups are also active in [English](#) and [French](#). It is important to highlight [CaLP's COVID-19 page](#) with the live and translated guidance and related events organized by both CaLP and partners and on-line training in development. **A lesson learned webinar and report on good practices in the response in Ecuador and Colombia took place in July** ([here](#)). For any questions, contact Jennie Trow, Regional Program Manager Jennie.Trow@calpnetwork.org
- **Regional Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Group for the Latin American and Caribbean region**. The [WASH LAC](#), <https://www.washlac.com/eng> Support Market Based Programming Initiatives in the WASH Sector. For any questions, contact Sunny Guidotti Regional WASH Coordinator email: sguidotti@unicef.org
- The **Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Table under REDLAC**, i.e. Gender and CVA Webinar ([here](#)). For any questions, contact Dana Baron Romero, Regional Gender Specialist- UN WOMEN dana.baronromero@unwomen.org
- **The Red Cross Cash Hub** i.e. Cash and COVID-19 in the RC movement ([here](#)) For any questions, contact Jennifer Fernandes, Regional CVA Senior Officer jennifer.fernandes@ifrc.org

- **CashCap** ([here](#)), CashCap, as part of NORCAP, is an inter-agency project which provides cash and market expertise to the humanitarian and development community. Up to date, CashCap is supporting with expert deployment the Colombia CWG, Regional CWG-R4V, and in-coming deployments in the Dominican Republic and Central America. For any questions or updates on **CashCap** in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC), please contact Maria Jimena Peroni Galli, Regional Inter-Agency Cash adviser, hosted by IFRC, jimena.peroni@nrc.no, and in-country CashCap Experts. You can follow deployments [here](#)
- Others: Social protection.org, Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Subgroups, Geneva Based CWG.

7. Priorities for CVA and next steps for the Working Group

The response priorities and strategies of CVA for 2020 in the Refugee and Migrant Response vary country by country, but in summary, they are described in the following key documents: Refugee and Migrant Response Plan 2020, p.16, October 2019 ([here](#)), the consultation to 39 key informants on how partners and CWGs were adapting their cash programs to the COVID-19 situation, April 2020 ([here](#)) and the RMRP 2020 Review (COVID-19), p.10, May 2020 ([here](#)).

CVA Technical Guidance for partners for the RMRP 2021 process can be found bit.ly/RMRP2021 in English and Spanish. An open survey ([here](#)) is accessible to all members in both languages to shape the 2021 planning and workplan. You can have online access to **survey results dashboards** ([here](#)), **CVA linkages with Sectors** ([here](#)), and **workplan** ([here](#))

The Group will continue working collectively, reinforcing its workplan to actively contribute to addressing the capacity needs, bottlenecks, and strategic opportunities identified by regional partners and national responses to assist refugees and migrants from Venezuela in affected Latin American and Caribbean states for 2021.

2020 Workplan

Map regularly CBI activities in the region

Map existing targeting methodologies / approaches related to the migrants and refugees response with CBI and provide support to harmonization initiatives coming from the national and sub-regional platforms

Promote exchange of information on key CBI operational and technical aspects and related processes. Including on Gender, GBV and CVA.

Explore for increased harmonization of CBI standards and approaches, particularly transfer values across actors and countries

Promote integration of refugee and migration CBI assistance into social protection systems to allow sustainability

Support appropriate and consistent in-country and regional coordination of CVA

Source. Planning, 2019 ([here](#)). To be updated for 2021. Consultation ([here](#))

Co- led by



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