



# THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CASH REPORT 2020

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CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE IN HUMANITARIAN AID

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# THE BASIS OF THE REPORT

- 80** Key informant interviews
- 34** Detailed organisational surveys
- 254** CVA practitioners surveyed
- 24** Organisations completed the CVA volume survey
- 15** Focus group discussions around the world
- 1** Extensive review of literature published since the last report





## State of the World's Cash 2020

- 1 Funding, policies, volume, and collaboration
- 2 Mainstreaming CVA - Progress: Risks and Challenges
- 3 Quality programming
- 4 Build sufficient capacity for CVA
- 5 Coordination
- 6a Evidence
- 6b Investing in innovation for CVA
- 7 Support to CVA integration with local systems
- 8 Linkages between social protection and CVA
- 9 COVID-19 and CVA

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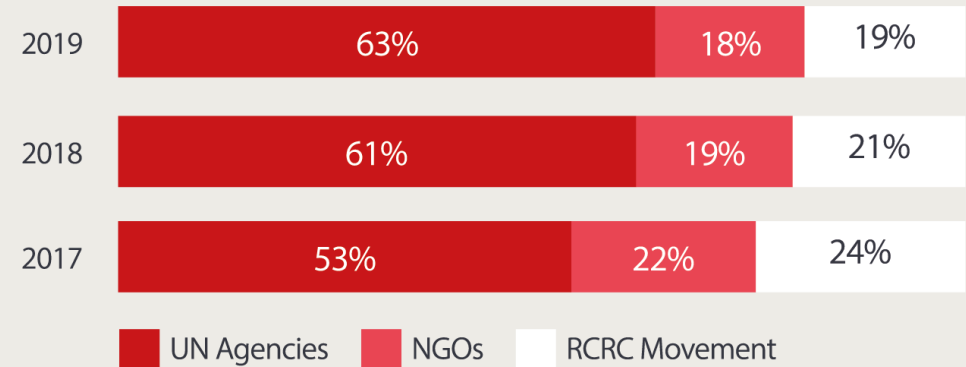
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# 1 THE RISE AND RISE OF CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

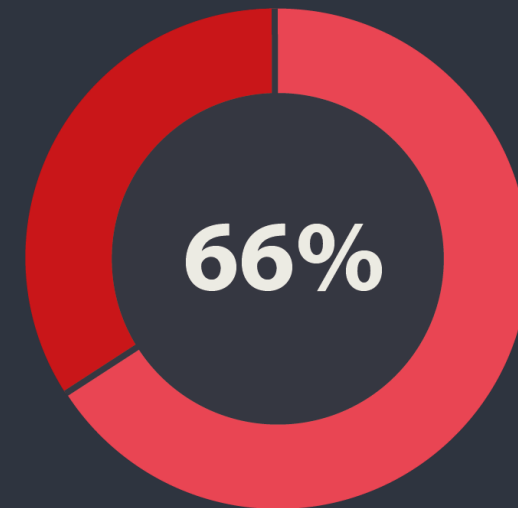
- CVA continues to grow in scale and is now a major part of almost every humanitarian response.
- Use of CVA has doubled in 4 years – reaching USD5.6Bn in 2019, roughly 17.9% of international humanitarian assistance
- Changing landscape: Increasing amounts of CVA is delivered by fewer actors overall - by the UN and its partners.

Global CVA volumes by organisation type



## 2 CASH IS A MULTIPURPOSE TOOL CHALLENGING A SECTOR-BASED SYSTEM

- There has been very limited progress on agreeing the role, scope, leadership and resourcing of cash coordination since 2017, with particular issues around multipurpose cash.



of practitioners list the coordination of  
multipurpose cash in a sector-based  
system as the greatest challenge for CVA  
coordination

# 3 SHIFTING POWER TO RECIPIENTS: IN THEORY BUT NOT YET IN PRACTICE

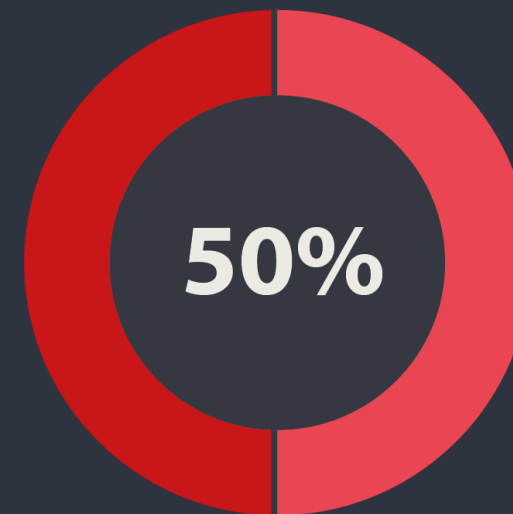
- The focus for improving CVA has shifted from delivering more cash, to delivering cash more effectively.
- Emphasis is now on recipient choice. Technological advances and digital delivery give recipients a chance to influence CVA assistance.
- **BUT** there is little evidence that this shift is taking place in practice.

62%

of practitioners think humanitarian organisations are increasingly considering recipient perspectives in designing CVA

# 4 CVA IS DRIVING A MORE DIVERSE HUMANITARIAN ECOSYSTEM

- CVA looks similar to other financial flows in crisis settings – so it can promote stronger linkages to other actors.
- COVID-19 has strengthened and accelerated links between humanitarian CVA and social protection.
- Perceptions of local actors, funding systems and systemic biases are holding back localisation of CVA.



**of practitioners think that a lack of coordination between governments and humanitarians is holding back progress**



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# COVID-19 OPPORTUNITY IN CRISIS: A CHANCE TO REDEFINE THE SYSTEM AND BUILD BACK BETTER



Accelerate efforts for new, innovative partnerships between int. actors and local civil society.



Use the momentum to address long-standing cash coordination challenges.



Accelerate the collaboration between social protection and humanitarian CVA practitioners



Capitalise on the rapid shift to remote and digital channels for registration, delivery and monitoring of CVA.



Learn from the need for better market analysis and understanding of how humanitarian response can strengthen market systems.



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