



# CASH WORKING GROUP LEADS AND CO-LEADS WORKSHOP REPORT

EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION  
MARCH 2024

## Contents

**Acknowledgements..... 3**

**Acronyms..... 4**

**Executive Summary..... 5**

**Session One: Celebrating Milestones And Looking Ahead To 2024. .... 6**

**Session Two: Increasing The Use Of CVA Within Sectors And Beyond..... 8**

**Session Three: Exploring Methodologies For Determining Transfers Values. .... 13**

**Session Four: Cash Transfer As A Vehicle To Financial Inclusion (F1)..... 16**

**Session Five: Linking CVA To Social Protection: Opportunities And Challenges ..... 20**

**Session Six: Navigating Anticipatory Cash..... 24**

**Session Seven: The Inter-Agency Standing Committee Cash Coordination Model (IASC) And Cash Advisory Group (CAG) ..... 25**

**Session Eight: Co-Coordination By Local And National Actors In CWGs..... 28**

**Session Nine: Effective Cross-Border Collaboration In Regional Crises..... 31**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the East and Southern Africa Cash Working Group (CWG) Leads and Co-leads Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

First and foremost, we would like to thank our esteemed CWG Leads and Co-Leads for their exceptional contributions and dedication of time. Their tireless efforts in fostering constructive debates and sharing their invaluable insights made the workshop a success.

We are immensely grateful to our distinguished presenters and panellists whose expertise and insights greatly enriched our workshop. We extend our sincere appreciation to Dennis Kioko from UNICEF, Oscar Llorente Pelayo from Somalia Cash Consortium (SCC), Peter Murgor from Kenya Red Cross Society, Fe Kagahastian from CashCap, Annika Sjoberg from UNHCR, Bartimaeus Bityong from Mercy Corps and Judith Mutala from World Food Programme (WFP) and all others who shared their knowledge and sparked engaging discussions.

A special thank you to CALP's team, whose hard work, meticulous planning and coordination ensured the success of the workshop. We appreciate Technical Advisers Amadou Diop (Micro-finance and Financial Inclusion) and Celine Sinitzky (Social Protection), the East and Southern Africa team led by Sapezie Ojiambo (Regional Representative), Dennis Owano (Deputy Regional Representative) and Wandia Nyaga (Administrative Assistant).

Finally, we are deeply thankful to all the participants for their valuable engagement and contributions. The successful completion of this workshop was made possible through their collective efforts and unwavering dedication.

## ACRONYMS

Acronym	Full Term	Acronym	Full term
AA	Anticipatory Action	KPI	Key Performance Indicators
BHA	Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance	MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
C2FI	Cash to Financial Inclusion	MENA	the Middle East and Northern Africa
CAG	Cash Advisory Group	MPC	Multi-Purpose Cash
CCD	Collaborative Cash Development	MPCA	Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance
CFW	Cash For Work	NAT	New Arrivals Tracker
CRS	Catholic Relief Services	NBDM	National Bureau of Disaster Management
CVA	Cash and Voucher Assistance	NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
CWG	Cash Working Group	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
DRC	Danish Refugee Council	PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
DCF	Donor Cash Forum	PSNP	Productive Safety Net Programme
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid	RSF	Rapid Support Forces
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth Development Organization	SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
FI	Financial Inclusion	SCC	Somalia Cash Consortium
FSP	Financial Service Provider	SODMA	Somalia Disaster Management Agency
GAM	Global Acute Malnutrition	SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
GSMA	Global Systems for Mobile Communications	SOWC	State of the World Cash
HEA	Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs	SP	Social Protection
HNRP	Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan	SPIAC-B	Social Protection Inter Agency Cooperation Board
HRPs	Humanitarian Response Plans	SRSP	Shock Responsive Social Protection
HCA	Humanitarian Crisis Analysis	TORs	Terms of Reference
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee	UNICEF	United Nations Children International Emergency Fund
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
IOD	Indian Ocean Dipole	UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
IOM	International Organization for Migration	VSL	Village Savings and Loan
JMMI	Joint Markets Monitoring Initiative	WFP	World Food Programme
KCWG	Kenya Cash Working Group	WHO	World Health Organization

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CALP Network convened the annual workshop for CWG Leads and Co-leads in East and Southern Africa with the primary objective of promoting peer-to-peer learning and sharing of best practices among the CWG Leads and Co-Leads to enhance cash coordination, quality and promote common approaches in the region. The workshop provided an opportunity for introspection, learning and networking with other CWG Leads and co-Leads and by providing a platform to:

- Share experiences and good practice in cash coordination.
- Discuss opportunities for more effective CVA and how cash coordination could support these.
- Build relationships and networks with other CWG leads and Co-leads and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Receive updates on the latest developments in cash coordination including new tools, guidelines, and technologies.

Workshop Highlights:

**Session One: *Celebrating Milestones and Looking ahead to 2024.***- CWG representatives discussed past achievements and future, sharing key insights in a plenary session. This collaborative effort highlighted successes and set strategic goals for 2024, fostering improved cash assistance programs.

**Session Two: *Increasing the use of CVA within sectors and beyond.***- This session featured presentations on the State of the World Cash Report 2023 on scaling up cash and prepositioning sectoral cash. This was followed by group discussions on resonance, challenges, opportunities and strategic foresight for scaling CVA.

**Session Three: *Exploring Methodologies for Determining Transfer Values.***- An introductory presentation on the standard procedure for determining transfer values was followed by a marketplace featuring CWGs from Zimbabwe and Uganda sharing their methodologies

**Session Four: *Cash Transfer as a vehicle to financial inclusion.***- This session highlighted financial inclusion in the nexus framework, discussing challenges, risks, and opportunities. This was followed presentations on regional experiences from the NGO/ INGO perspectives, covering successful interventions, challenges, and opportunities.

**Session Five: *Linking CVA to Social Protection: Opportunities and Challenges*** – This session showcased the building blocks followed by a case study that explored potential links and identified bottlenecks. The participants also shared their experiences before committing to follow up actions.

**Session Six: *Navigating Anticipatory Cash*** - Participants engaged in an exercise on the key elements of Anticipatory Action.

**Session Seven: *The Inter-Agency Cash Coordination (IASC) Model and Cash Advisory Group (CAG).***- Discussions on the transition status, followed by updates from IASC countries in the region on their progress and challenges. The role of the Cash Advisory Group (CAG) was highlighted including available resources and future plans for CWGs.

**Session Eight: *Co-Coordination by Local and National Actors.***- This session explored ways of engaging local national actors in CWG leadership.

**Session Nine: *Effective cross-border collaboration in regional crises: Sudan Case Study.***- This session covered the situational overview of the Sudan crisis and its impact on CVA and cross-border humanitarian response. Discussions also explored the benefits, challenges and opportunities of cross border coordination.

In conclusion, the CWG Leads, and Co-leads workshop facilitated invaluable discussions and collaborations, resulting in concrete action plans and agreements.

### SESSION ONE: CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024.

The workshop began with the Cash Working Group (CWG) Leads and Co-leads sharing progress made over the previous year and plans for the year ahead. Participants were asked to share key achievements and key plans per country. Points of interest were discussed by the group. The achievements and plans per countries have been captured in the table below.

Country	Achievements	Plans
<b>Madagascar</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A large face-to-face CWG meeting with the following objectives:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bring CWG members up to the same level of information and knowledge to define a methodology and roadmap for revising the MEB, defining the nutrition-sensitive social protection approach and the anticipatory action approach that will be integrated into the shock-responsive social protection guidelines</li> <li>○ Build the capacity of CWG members or bring them up to speed on these three topics</li> <li>○ Encourage the commitment of partners and set up a group of experts to ensure the successful development of these concepts over the coming months</li> <li>○ Review the CWG's coordination framework to improve the implementation of the shock-responsive social protection guideline</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Joint market analysis by the CWG: Market Functionality Index.</li> <li>▪ Update of the Shock-Responsive Social Protection manual (drought and cyclone) and revision of the MEB by indexing its value to the inflation rate</li> <li>▪ Participation in the “social transfers” thematic group to update the National Social Protection Strategy</li> <li>▪ Routine activity:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Joint planning as part of the response to the cyclone and flood and then to the drought.</li> <li>○ Systematic monitoring of actors' achievements and data consolidation 5W</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Revise the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)</li> <li>▪ Development of 2 approaches:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nutrition-sensitive social protection</li> <li>○ Anticipatory Action (AA)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>South Sudan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Developed working tools- New JMMI dashboard was released with sector data and inflation information</li> <li>▪ CVA was integrated in the HRPs, and this led to a shift in volume from 76 million in 2023 to 250 million in 2024</li> <li>▪ A local NGO is now CWG Co-lead</li> <li>▪ MEB guidelines were revised</li> <li>▪ Cash for protection guidelines were drafted and established</li> <li>▪ Cash Cap Advisor is on board to design a framework to link humanitarian cash with social protection</li> <li>▪ The CWG elections were conducted</li> <li>▪ The Financial Service Provider (FSP) taskforce was established</li> <li>▪ Communications platform was formed</li> <li>▪ Cash for Work (CFW) Guidelines were drafted</li> <li>▪ Chaired and participated in CWG meetings</li> <li>▪ Advocated for scale-up of CVA</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthen coordination</li> <li>▪ Lobby for scalability</li> <li>▪ Promote linkage between humanitarian CVA and social protection</li> <li>▪ Capacity building of CWG members</li> <li>▪ Joint Market Monitoring Initiative Process upgrade</li> <li>▪ CVA Integration in the HRPs</li> <li>▪ Establishment of State Level CWGs</li> <li>▪ Onboarding of a Local NGO as National CWG Co-lead</li> <li>▪ Revise the MEB guidance</li> <li>▪ Launch Cash for protection guidelines</li> <li>▪ Link humanitarian cash with social protection</li> <li>▪ Develop Cash for Work guidelines</li> <li>▪ CWG transition elections</li> </ul>



<b>Zimbabwe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Inflation/contingency plan was launched</li> <li>▪ Cash for Work Guidelines were drafted and established</li> <li>▪ MEB for refugees in urban areas under development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of the MEB</li> <li>▪ National CWG website established</li> <li>▪ Conduct multiple training courses and documentation</li> <li>▪ Finalize the MEB for Refugees</li> </ul>
<b>Uganda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MEB Review done</li> <li>▪ Financial Literacy Minimum Standards launched</li> <li>▪ A harmonized cash approach was drafted, finalized, and validated</li> <li>▪ Localization- complete transition to the new IASC cash coordination model</li> <li>▪ Several TORs for CWG leadership were developed:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CWG</li> <li>○ Co-chairs</li> <li>○ Technical Advisors</li> <li>○ Co-chair was successfully selected</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ CWG was marked compliant by CAG</li> <li>▪ Humanitarian Crisis Analysis (HCA) activities involved:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Access to quality financial services</li> <li>○ Linkages to self-reliance</li> <li>○ Harmonization of cash interventions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation of HCA pillars:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pillar 1-Access and quality financial services                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Thematic meetings with FSPs</li> <li>▫ Advocacy- taxes, fees, infrastructure/agents, phones</li> <li>▫ Learning visits</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Pillar 2- Linkages to Self-reliance                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Financial literacy minimum standards roll out/ BoU engagement</li> <li>▫ Support 2 new programs with LHSR Working Group</li> <li>▫ RLO mapping and outreach</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Pillar 3- Harmonization of CVA                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ MPC plans</li> <li>▫ MEB review</li> <li>▫ CVA training</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Learning visits.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reporting- Programme</li> <li>○ Assessment/research opp. identification</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Somalia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Established sub-national CWGs across Somalia and elected sub-national Co-leads from INGOs and NNGOs</li> <li>▪ Successfully established MPCA as a separate chapter in HNRP 2024- with separate funding of 70million</li> <li>▪ Endorsed harmonized vulnerability-based target tool-aligned with SoPs.</li> <li>▪ Developed a capacity building plan for 2024.</li> <li>▪ Successfully generated funding from FCDO for 5 years, for capacity building in the CWG/SN CWG giving priority to Local NGOs partners in line with humanitarian localization for humanitarian action.</li> <li>▪ Completed 2 cohorts of cash training courses – Core CVA Skills for Programme Staff with support from CALP and funded by FCDO</li> <li>▪ MEB/MPCA Transfer Values – HEA Analysis ongoing</li> <li>▪ The JMMI process has kickstarted and is ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capacity building plan 2023-2024 ongoing (cash ToT, FSP etc.)</li> <li>▪ Rolling out vulnerability targeting tools at subnational levels</li> <li>▪ MEB/MPCA reviews including HEA analysis</li> <li>▪ JMMI process to kickstart and website establishment including functional markets assessments.</li> <li>▪ Transition of the CWG to the IASC New cash coordination model (programmatic and non-programmatic)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Development of ToRs.</li> <li>○ Continuity of cash Dashboard.</li> <li>○ Rolling out of the MEB/MPCA.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Humanitarian linkages focusing on the strategic framework on the exit strategy for referral pathways (social protection)</li> <li>▪ Renew chair and co-chair members of the CWG</li> <li>▪ Finalization of the transition process between WFP and OCHA</li> </ul>
<b>Sudan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Despite the conflict, NGOs within the CWG continued distributing cash.</li> <li>▪ CVA Scale-up</li> <li>▪ Establishment of Technical Working Groups on MEB, FSP and Vulnerability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scale up MPCA in 2024</li> <li>▪ Joint assessments</li> <li>▪ Join the consortium for cash to boost reach and scale</li> <li>▪ Updating cash tools and visibility</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Harmonization and localization of CVA among actors - pushed for local partners to be involved in cash especially within HRP</li> <li>▪ Inclusion of the MPCA in the 2024 HRP</li> </ul>	
<b>Ethiopia</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Established Sub-National CWGs including the Refugee Sub CWG</li> <li>▪ Established the transition plan on nationally and localized CVA - implementation is underway</li> <li>▪ Cluster outreach done successfully</li> <li>▪ Localization of coordination through local NGOs</li> <li>▪ Advocacy with the Cash Donor Forum</li> <li>▪ Regular CWG meetings at national and sub-national levels</li> <li>▪ Conducted capacity building trainings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finalize governance transition.</li> <li>▪ MEB development</li> <li>▪ Strengthening of current systems</li> <li>▪ Develop intersectoral targeting approaches</li> <li>▪ Improve the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP/SP interlink</li> </ul>

## SESSION TWO: INCREASING THE USE OF CVA WITHIN SECTORS AND BEYOND

This session included a presentation from CALP and Somalia Cash Consortium (SCC). CALP presented some of the findings of the State of the World's Cash (SOWC) Report 2023 on CVA volume and growth. SCC (invited to the workshop as a guest presenter) shared examples of projects where they have used cash in sectoral responses as well as prepositioned and used cash for anticipatory action. Key points were as follows.

### **Presentation one: Findings from the scaling CVA and State of the World Cash Report 2023 (CALP)**

- The volume of cash assistance has increased over the past two years, but its proportion relative to other forms of humanitarian aid has plateaued. CVA could potentially constitute 30% of humanitarian assistance if deployed in all suitable situations, and up to 50% if all organizations with commitments fulfil them.
- Constraints on CVA implementation identified in this study include:
  - Contextual and operational limitations – such as market functionality. However, in some cases delays in transitioning back to cash after contextual limitations have lifted have been observed.
  - Funding decisions – in some cases decisions on whether to use cash or in-kind assistance are made at source by donors e.g. in Title II programmes
  - Program design choices by implementing organizations – The greatest opportunities do more cash still lie within design choices of organizations. The two main ones highlighted include 1) in prepositioning of emergency supplies and 2) Within sectoral responses.
- The research showed that there is no one action that if taken could unlock the potential of CVA and recommended a multipronged approach guided by the highlighted issues

### *Related Resources*

State of the World’s Cash Report 2023 <https://www.calpnetwork.org/collection/the-state-of-the-worlds-cash-2023-report/> and Conversation Toolkit <https://www.calpnetwork.org/the-state-of-the-worlds-cash-2023-conversation-toolkit/>



CALP thematic webpage on sector-specific CVA  
<https://www.calpnetwork.org/themes/sector-specific-cva/>

### **Plenary Discussion:**

The following observations were made by the participants:

- Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) is not only delivering CVA; it is important to incorporate market-based approaches and programming, especially in situations where cash may not be the immediate solution. Actors need to prioritize strengthening and building market systems and supply chains during program design.
- Rapid Market Assessments often hastily recommend cash interventions without thoroughly assessing market functionality and operability. Markets serve as a prerequisite for any cash programming, not just in terms of commodity availability but also considering infrastructure, accessibility, and supply chains. Neglecting these factors could lead to artificial inflation, exacerbating problems for vulnerable populations.
- On the other hand, some participants argued that "Market is a myth for Cash". For instance, injecting three million into the market in Reng, South Sudan, revitalized the market significantly, surpassing even Juba in terms of the number of traders and commodities. There's a critical responsibility to monitor how cash interventions impact supply and demand chains, as they can either strength, build or disrupt economies and communities. South Sudan's monthly market assessments through the Joint Markets Monitoring Initiative (JMIMI) process in 70% of markets provides valuable data supporting this.
- Achieving complementarity in modalities is essential rather than adopting a "Cash or nothing approach" to ensure interventions are as people-centred as possible across various contexts. Market analysis can guide which modality or combination is most viable.
- NGOs often secure funding based on their mandates. Building a case around Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) interventions has proven effective in acquiring more funding from donors.
- Coordination is crucial, especially with the increasing use of cash by players outside CWGs, such as in nutrition and education sectors. Despite efficient coordination in places like Madagascar, where 40-60% of transfers are cash-based, efforts are needed to consolidate players operating outside CWGs.
- In Sudan, cash usage remains below 5% in 2024 due to a focus on short-term solutions by clusters rather than addressing underlying causes of crises sustainably.
- Discussions around markets, inflation, and fund diversion should not hinder cash programming but to continue in parallel of the response to improve its quality.

### **Presentation Two: Prepositioning Cash or Scaled up Sectoral Cash by Somalia Cash Consortium (SCC)**

- SCC has been operational since 2018, targeting vulnerable populations displaced by acute crises in both accessible and hard-to-reach areas, or those exposed to high levels of food insecurity and epidemic outbreaks. SCC aims to provide life MPCA while integrating other essential services and commodities.
- Context in Somalia: Somalia has seen political and security improvements yet continues to face climate-related challenges such as droughts and floods. Humanitarian access remains challenging, particularly in hard-to-reach areas, raising fears of aid diversion.
- The SCC has been able to preposition cash and/or use cash for sectoral objectives in the following projects.
  - CVA in Health and Nutrition:

- In 2023, SCC partnered with Caafimaad and Trocaire to address challenges in Gedo, Somalia, caused by drought, conflict, and floods, that caused a significant influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate in Doolow for IDPs exceeded WHO thresholds. Targeted areas included Doolow, Luuq, and Belet Hawo, focusing on families with malnourished children.
- Needs assessments and referrals from Stabilization Centers informed the selection process.
- SCC's MPCA program, funded by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), supported 779 severely malnourished children, and resulted in improved food security, with 47% of households classified as marginally food secure, compared to 4% at baseline.
  - o CVA in Anticipatory Action (e.g., El Nino Preparedness):
- Anticipating above-average rainfall during the 2023 Deyr season due to projected El Nino and positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), SCC, with partners Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Save the Children International (SCI), funded by ECHO, implemented MPCA in Belet Weyne district.
- Targeting vulnerable households in flood-prone areas pre-identified by Somalia Disaster Management Agency (SODMA), the program provided three rounds of cash assistance to support their relocation to safer areas.
- Beneficiary households were selected through random sampling, covering urban (60%), agropastoral (33%), and pastoral (7%) regions.
  - o Integration of CVA and Community Case Management (CCM):  
In November 2023, a pilot program was conducted in Baidoa involving 304 households, providing three rounds of MPCA.
- Utilizing the updated New Arrivals Tracker (NAT) 2.5/3.0 tool, the pilot aimed to streamline processes and improve service delivery based on vulnerability.
- Improvements included phone verification, disability assessment, verification of malnutrition referrals, identification of minority clans, understanding IDPs' intentions, and incorporating food consumption and coping assessments.

### Plenary Discussion:

The following comments were made, and questions raised by participants.

- From the SCC Case Study, CWGs can appreciate their sector specific response and rapid response using cash. SCC has done well to promote the use of MPCA, food security indicators and assessing household vulnerability levels. However, it seems that for CVA in health and nutrition, the SCC is doing referrals and linking that to CVA instead of actual CVA for nutrition outcomes. An example of CVA programming in health and nutrition would be the use of vouchers targeting lactating mothers or providing the target group with conditional cash grants.
- It is interesting to see SCC used MPCA for AA. Implementing CVA in AA entails using cash for preparedness to action the early warnings that will reduce the impact of the crisis so the move by SCC is one to watch out for and see if it is feasible in other contexts.
- This is because the emphasis was on ensuring the livelihoods of IDPs in the near term, rather than addressing issues in the broader context. There are, however, ongoing discussions to develop a long-term framework.

- *Question: How were the frequency and amounts of the cash transfers determined?*  
*Response:*
  - There were two groups: one that got the cash before the flooding, and the other after the flooding.
  - Distributions of 60 euros were done for 3 monthly cycles to ensure that people moved from places at risk of flooding.
  - Distribution was done 2 months before the forecast(impact) and during the flooding.
  - Qualitative and quantitative analysis were then done to determine the impact of the cash transfers.
- *Question: What is the plan to avoid the cycle of repeated assistance by graduating those who are most vulnerable and working with similar initiatives to help with this transition?*  
*Response:*
  - Ending the cycle is quite an uphill cycle. In South Sudan, the referral pathways system for malnourished is no longer being implemented due to the negative effect of families starving their children to qualify for the program.
  - Constant monitoring to observe these effects helps to minimize such incidences and if done effectively can eliminate them all together.
- *Question: What are the strategies to target households that are vulnerable but are not in need?*  
*Response:*
  - This is beyond the SCC and totally dependent on the humanitarian system in Somalia.
  - The main issue in East Africa is to build resilience to crisis using AA.
  - In protracted crisis areas, the SCC is mainly focused on referral systems to humanitarian organizations with the ability to support more households. It is an ambitious plan to save and improve the lives of households, but donor requirements must be met so sometimes these conflicts with organization programming.
- *Comments on the MPC Methodology*
  - There has been a misuse of MPC by most organizations/sectors in a bid to get funding.
  - In South Sudan, there are different rates for different sectors depending on the issues they are seeking to address.
  - There's a need for more discussions on tailor making the MEB to suit different needs that specific sector interventions are trying to achieve.
  - Donors' trends also showing a direction into using MPC in different sectors.

**Break Out Groups:**

	Question	Response
1	<b>Do the State of the World Cash Report 2023 findings resonate with what we see in the region? What are the differences between the East Africa region and Southern Africa region?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cash interventions have remained the same in most countries but for some like South Sudan, Cash assistance has skyrocketed due to an increase in funding because of the crisis.</li> <li>○ Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs) differ between East and Southern regions, potentially leading to variations in implementation, methodologies, and duration.</li> </ul>
2	<b>What are the Challenges and Opportunities of Increasing CVA within sectors and beyond?</b>	<p><b>Opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cluster coordination which provides technical support to integrate cash into various interventions and sectors.</li> <li>▪ Evidence-based advocacy to demonstrate how the use of cash can help organizations achieve their objectives.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Capacity building to enhance the skills and knowledge necessary for effective implementation of cash interventions.</li> <li>▪ Private sector engagement aimed at diversifying the pool of actors and donors by involving non-traditional actors working in different sectors.</li> <li>▪ Government engagement/ localized and nationalized CVA interventions to ensure sustainability and effectiveness.</li> <li>▪ Guidelines for context specific CVA by developing guidelines tailored to specific contexts to ensure appropriate and effective implementation of cash interventions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Political interference and varying donor interests pose challenges, as they differ from one donor to another. Establishing a common fund pool is necessary to coordinate multiple interventions effectively.</li> <li>▪ Transitioning for organizations reliant on in-kind prepositioning remains challenging.</li> <li>▪ Discrepancies arise from different interpretations of key terms, such as distinguishing between cash for various sectors and Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA).</li> <li>▪ Variations in mandates among sectors and organizations further complicate matters.</li> <li>▪ Donor restrictions and control add to the challenges of implementing cash interventions.</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>What is the role of CWGs?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Inclusiveness: Ensuring the participation of all actors, including national, local, and international stakeholders, in CVA initiatives.</li> <li>▪ Capacity building: Providing training and support to all actors involved in CVA to enhance their skills and knowledge.</li> <li>▪ Sensitization: Raising awareness about the policies, guidelines, and definitions of CVA, utilizing resources such as the CALP Glossary with scientific explanations.</li> <li>▪ Promoting implementation of evidence-based approaches grounded in thorough data collection and sharing.</li> <li>▪ Sharing lessons learned from CVA implementations through coordination platforms and forums.</li> <li>▪ Harmonizing interventions across sectors or locations to ensure consistency and effectiveness.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>What is the strategic foresight on scaling CVA?</b></p>	<p><b>What the future holds for CWGs and scaling up CVA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Advocacy-encouraging more organizations to consider cash interventions where feasible.</li> <li>▪ Capacity building-enhancing the skills and knowledge of stakeholders involved in cash programming.</li> <li>▪ Harmonized targeting vulnerability criteria- establishing a consistent criterion for identifying and targeting vulnerable populations.</li> <li>▪ Limited resources for Cash Working Groups (CWGs)- developing strategic approaches to maximize resources.</li> <li>▪ Generating evidence on the effectiveness of cash for sectoral responses and prepositioning cash.</li> <li>▪ Funding- ensuring sector-specific funding allocation.</li> <li>▪ Conducting cluster outreach to develop response toolkits.</li> <li>▪ Sectoral organization of clusters- organizing clusters and transfer responsibilities to sectors, as demonstrated in Palestine where the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) for</li> </ul>

		<p>MPCA included food, WASH, health, shelter, and education sectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Harmonization of terms -ensuring consistency in terminology and key definitions.</li> <li>▪ Clarifying distinctions between cash for food and Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA).</li> <li>▪ Recognizing MPCA as basic needs assistance that can be supplemented with other sectoral responses.</li> </ul>
--	--	--

### SESSION THREE: EXPLORING METHODOLOGIES FOR DETERMINING TRANSFERS VALUES.

The session commenced with a presentation of the recommended approaches to determining cash transfer values as contained in CALP's guidelines on calculating the minimum expenditure basket (link below – *See page 62 on Using an MEB process to identify the gap and transfer value*). Three CWGs that have in place guidance for determination of transfer values then shared and discussed the methodologies adopted in their countries with participants in breakout groups/ marketplace format. Participants were encouraged to discuss key insights and areas of ambiguity and both within the smaller groups and in plenary.

The key points were as follows:

#### Plenary Discussion:

##### Key discussion points on the standard guidance for determining transfer values:

- CALP should provide detailed explanations on how SP values are calculated. This would help non-technical partners understand the process of determining MEBs and transfer values. Social protection assistance relies on contextual factors that are different from the humanitarian context. CALP can conduct a literature review of case studies to serve as advocacy references.
- Revising transfer value rates with donors becomes challenging after funding has been disbursed. While organizations are urged to utilize current inflation rates rather than those drafted in the proposal writing stage, revising rates with donors presents challenges.
- In South Sudan in 2023, the MEB was revised from the Minimum Survival MEB Basket to MEB. Previously, the basket consisted of 80% food items and 20% non-food items. Currently, cash distribution formula allocates 50% to food and the remainder to sectors such as energy, health, and education. A 10% consideration of inflation, which fluctuates, is also included. There are ongoing efforts by the CWG focusing to build capacities and processes and educate members to navigate inflationary impacts on transfer values.
- In South Sudan negotiations with major donors (such as BHA, FCDO, and ECHO) took place to encourage them to allow flexibility in adjusting rates to cover inflation gaps between proposed funding and implementation realities.
  - Evidence backing these adjustments is provided through JMMI process and recommendations from state-level CWGs.
  - Aid donors allow a 10% contingency rate within grants to enable adjustment of budgets.
- Organizations like Save the Children allocate contingency budgets to cover costs such as currency conversion and inflation. Proper planning during budgeting, rather than reducing beneficiary numbers, is essential. More flexibility from donors is necessary.

- In Madagascar, after MEB calculations, the MEB thematic group, along with the Ministry of Social Protection, wrote a letter used as evidence by CWG members to inform donors about planning changes.
- In Syria, cash actors increased MPCA net values during the planning stage to accommodate inflation or volatility. For example, if the MPCA value is 100 USD, net values are set at 120 USD. Flexibility from donors like BHA and ECHO made this possible, ensuring all beneficiaries receive assistance without creating additional vulnerabilities.
- Advocacy discussions with donors show agreement on adjusting values when factors like context and interference by local governments necessitate change.

*Key resources:*

*Calculating the Minimum Expenditure Basket: A Guide to Best Practice:*  
<https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/calculating-the-minimum-expenditure-basket-a-guide-to-best-practice>

*Operational Guidance: Transfer Values: How much is Enough? Balancing Social Protection and Humanitarian Considerations:*  
<https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/transfer-values-how-much-is-enough-balancing-social-protection-and-humanitarian-considerations/>

**Discussions on Uganda and Zimbabwe methodologies for determining Transfer Values  
 Overview of the Methodologies**

Uganda	Zimbabwe
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) calculation process started in 2019 with consultations with sector leads, market data collections, and household surveys. Itemized components with readily available data were included, plus expenditure-based data required household surveys and reliance on existing studies to provide additional components. Initially, the MEB consisted of 11 components.</li> <li>▪ In 2020, with support from REACH, the CWG changed the methodology of market price data collection to actual purchase of items from local markets monthly for a year. This resulted in a more accurate MEB value, which was adopted as the current reference value.</li> <li>▪ In 2021, a market price monitoring system was introduced alongside data collection, utilizing WFP reference in most market locations. An interactive dashboard was created, updated monthly, to monitor price changes, aiding the CWG in determining whether transfer values are still appropriate. Changes below 15% do not warrant revising transfer values.</li> <li>▪ In 2022, prices of itemized components significantly decreased, leading to a decrease in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A hybrid approach was utilized, incorporating:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Expenditure information from Post Distribution Monitoring (PDMs), market assessments, and monitoring.</li> <li>- Food consumption approach, utilizing data from sources like WFP nutrition gap assessments to ensure the basket includes nutritious and quality items.</li> <li>- Incorporation of a 10% inflation rate into the analysis.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The process involved:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing the threshold, either the MEB or the cost of debt analysis.</li> <li>- Calculating the gap between the MEB and household economic capacity.</li> <li>- Transitioning from the gap to transfer values, considering factors such as frequency, mechanism, assistance by other partners, and alignment with other stakeholders.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Donors expressed concerns about the size of the basket being too high, and the gap analysis was deemed outdated as it relied on obsolete data from 2012.</li> <li>▪ Analysis included urban, rural, and refugee contexts, with cohorts within acceptable food scores utilized to determine the minimum</li> </ul>



<p>the value of the MEB, so the 2021 MEB value was retained.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Uganda Consortium, funded by ECHO, utilized the 2021 reference values for CVA implementation but limited time and budget constraints have prevented further MEB reviews since then. However, the CWG took advantage of individual profiling of refugees by organizations and conducted a light review to update the MEB, resulting in a 55% increase mainly attributed to household expenditure patterns.</li> <li>▪ The CWG plans to conduct a comprehensive review in 2024, focusing on the components of the MEB. However, donors express concern regarding the significant 55% increase in the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and are apprehensive about conducting a comprehensive review.</li> </ul>	<p>basket. The hybrid analysis identified gaps in items not included in the basket.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For refugees, a further survival expenditure analysis was conducted, considering government rations. Food cash transfers of \$15 were provided.</li> <li>▪ All sectors, including food security, WASH, shelter, health, and education, were considered in the analysis.</li> </ul>
--	---

### Commonalities and Differences between Uganda and Zimbabwe

Commonalities	Differences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both countries use market values as the base for calculating the MEB.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uganda uses purchasing prices to monitor, while Zimbabwe uses market prices. The difference lies in the fact that when using purchasing prices, traders are more likely to provide the actual price of commodities, whereas market prices can fluctuate.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both countries revise documentation from time to time, although timelines may differ.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Zimbabwe considers only food items based on the number of calories per person per day, while Uganda considers both food and non-food commodities at the household level.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both countries have structures in place to collect data on a regular basis.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There are region-specific MEBs in Zimbabwe, whereas Uganda employs national-level MEBs.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Both countries face the common challenge of managing stakeholders from various sectors and clusters to influence them.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All countries utilize a hybrid approach to calculate the MEB, combining expenditure and rights-based methodologies.</li> </ul>	

### Key takeaways:

- Stakeholder Engagement- Involvement of stakeholders, particularly donors, is crucial for the success of processes like calculating the MEB, ensuring alignment with objectives and funding requirements.

- Regional Benchmarking Forums- Establishing regional benchmarking forums between CWGs can facilitate knowledge exchange, promote best practices, and foster collaboration among countries facing similar challenges.
- Robust Market Monitoring: A strong system of market monitoring is essential. The system should be characterized by predictability and consistency, to gather reliable data for MEB calculations and maintain transparency in the process.
- Harmonized Data Review: Harmonizing data review processes at the country level ensures consistency and reliability in data interpretation, contributing to more accurate MEB calculations and decision-making.
- Balanced Review Frequency: Striking a balance between reviewing MEB values too frequently or too infrequently is crucial to ensure that they accurately reflect changing economic conditions without causing unnecessary disruptions to assistance programs.
- Hybrid Approach: Adopting a hybrid approach to calculating the MEB, which combines expenditure and rights-based methodologies, enhances accuracy and comprehensiveness in assessing minimum expenditure requirements.
- Technical Support from CALP: Technical support from CALP, through idea generation and document review, can enhance the quality and effectiveness of MEB calculations. CALP recommends dedicated support, potentially through the engagement of consultants, to provide focused assistance throughout the process.

## SESSION FOUR: CASH TRANSFER AS A VEHICLE TO FINANCIAL INCLUSION (FI)

This session included a presentation from CALP on the connections between CVA and FI, and a panel discussion in which participants from Mercy Corps and World Food Programme (WFP) shared their experiences in the region.

### ***Presentation One: Unpacking the connection between CVA and Financial Inclusion (CALP)***

The following key points were made:

- FI entails ensuring universal access to crucial financial services such as payments, savings, credit, and insurance imperative for poverty alleviation, resilience building for all beneficiaries. Prudent to note is that FI must be approached responsibly to avoid destabilizing informal financial structures.
- It is crucial to ensure that financial services are not only available but also actively utilized to distinguish between access and usage. To achieve this, financial service providers and humanitarian organizations should prioritize fostering community and individual engagement with these services. Research highlights the significance of electronic payments and the integration of financial services with social programs.
- FI within the Nexus Framework encompasses economic empowerment by providing access to resources for education, healthcare, and businesses. It also involves utilizing financial services as a tool in strategies aimed at reducing poverty. Additionally, it fosters resilience against economic shocks, and supports sustainable development by facilitating participation in the economy, particularly for marginalized groups.
- Digital FI in humanitarian assistance involves promoting access to and use of formal financial services by recipients. Ensuring digital financial inclusion faces a challenge due to limited access to technology, particularly mobile phones, among a significant portion of vulnerable populations, which raises concerns about excluding them from assistance.

- Future direction for FI in humanitarian aid involves tackling obstacles such as insufficient infrastructure, prohibitive costs, low digital literacy, and apprehensions regarding data privacy and security.
- Various organizations, including WFP, International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), World Vision, and Mercy Corps, collaborate with Global Systems for Mobile Communications (GSMA) to advance FI through initiatives focusing on digital and financial literacy, navigating regulatory challenges, and harnessing digital financial services (DFS).
- One notable initiative is the C2FI (Cash to FI) initiative, which aims to enhance FI within CVA programs. As part of this initiative, the C2FI matrix tool has been developed to assess and map the FI potential of CVA programs.

### ***Plenary Discussion***

- The successful use of M-Pesa in Kenya, Hawala in Somalia, Tums in West Africa, to transfer humanitarian aid shows that there is potential in digital financial inclusion if well implemented. Integrating financial inclusion aspects into CVA programs isn't merely a logistical requirement; it presents a strategic chance to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian aid. The initial engagement with formal financial service providers (FSPs) marks a crucial juncture for beneficiaries, shaping their confidence in financial institutions.
- Factors to contemplate when collaborating with existing formal financial service providers (FSPs) encompass concerns regarding data protection, adherence to humanitarian standards, and the documentation process for beneficiaries.
- In Uganda, refugees encountered obstacles due to inadequate documentation for registering for digital payments. The CWG advocated for special considerations for such groups, urging FSPs to relax stringent requirements for obtaining bank accounts and SIM cards.
- UNHCR is actively working to improve access to digital cash transfers, advocating for the recognition of refugee documentation, and fostering economic inclusion and self-reliance among refugees.
- Strategic partnerships play a pivotal role in driving the digitization of humanitarian cash transfers. Emphasis is placed on adopting a holistic approach, conducting evidence-based impact assessments, and recognizing the indispensable role of digital financial services.
- Creating an enabling environment for FI involves establishing supportive regulatory frameworks, demonstrating leadership, and fostering market development. This is essential for promoting financial inclusion effectively and sustainably.
- Strategies for enhancing FI include:
  - Designing people-centered financial products tailored to the needs of CVA recipients is crucial.
  - Linking cash transfers with financial education and introducing customized financial products can enhance financial literacy and inclusion.
  - Interagency collaboration and incentivizing FSPs to serve low-income populations are vital.
  - A gender-focused approach empowers women and promotes greater financial resilience within households.
- Important to remember that FI is a means not an end game!

Key resources:

Sarwar, Moizza B., Stephanie Diepeveen, and Diego Benitez Moreno. 2023. "Cash Transfers and Digital Financial Inclusion: Regional Evidence from Asia Pacific with a Focus on Bangladesh, Cambodia, and Nepal." Report, ODI, February <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cash-transfers-and-digital-financial-inclusion-regional-evidence-from-the-asia-pacific-region-with-a-focus-on-bangladesh-cambodia-and-nepal/>

Chegade, Nadine, Peter McConaghy, and Chrissy Martin Meier. 2020. "Humanitarian Cash Transfers and Financial Inclusion: Lessons from Jordan and Lebanon." CGAP, Washington, April <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/974621587749884009/pdf/Humanitarian-Cash-Transfers-and-Financial-Inclusion-Lessons-from-Jordan-and-Lebanon.pdf>

Warmington, Mike, and Jenny Casswell. 2021. "Pathways from CVA to Long Term Financial Inclusion: A Framework for Success." November. Mercy Corps <https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/pathways-from-cva-to-long-term-financial-inclusion/>

**Panel Discussion:**

The panel discussion featured representatives from WFP and Mercy Corps discussing their respective initiatives on financial inclusion. Key discussion points were as follows:

<b>Financial Inclusion Initiatives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>World Food Programme (WFP):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The organization is shifting its approach from providing in-kind aid to implementing more cash-based transfers, as per a policy implemented in July 2023. This policy places digital financial inclusion at the forefront, aiming to bolster the resilience and economic empowerment of beneficiaries.</li> <li>- The implementation adopts a people-centered approach, aiming to comprehensively understand the communities it serves. This includes delving into factors influencing their financial behaviour, cultural norms, beliefs, and preferences.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mercy Corps:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The policy document, released in 2023, focuses on making a significant impact in cash transfer programming. Its central aim is to provide cash at scale while simultaneously maximizing its impact.</li> <li>- The primary targets are populations lacking access to financial services, including rural women, youth, individuals in transit, and displaced persons. This focus stems from low literacy rates among women, high levels of unemployment among youth, and barriers faced by those in transit due to document limitations.</li> <li>- In most locations, emergency cash transfers serve as the initial step. Following this, Village Savings and Loan (VSL) groups are established and trained to implement programming. Efforts are made to identify relevant government bodies to facilitate their registration, thereby increasing their opportunities to access credit and loans.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Innovative Methodology to enhance Financial Inclusion in CVA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>WFP:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ability of organizations to deliver aid through digital payments represents a significant innovation. Traditionally focused on in-kind aid, WFP's transition to cash-based aid through mobile money and bank</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<p>accounts has been facilitated by such innovations. Moreover, innovations have enabled aid delivery in challenging contexts, including hard-to-reach areas and remote locations with limited infrastructure and connectivity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In ideal contexts like Ukraine, beneficiaries have the opportunity for self-registration, allowing them to choose how they prefer to receive assistance. This marks a substantial advancement in empowering beneficiaries with choice.</li> <li>- Addressing issues related to low financial literacy levels, WFP has supplemented cash transfers with training programs in countries such as Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda. Additionally, platforms and resources like <i>Hey Sisters, Can I See Your Mobile Money?</i> are available to beneficiaries, allowing them to educate themselves on financial and digital literacy at their convenience.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How to engage with local FSPs and ensure they are meeting the needs of Beneficiaries.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mercy Corps:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In Nigeria and Ethiopia an assessment of the FSPs were conducted to map out their capacity. One of the requirements was that they must be registered with the relevant government agencies. They were engaged directly or through larger FSPs to subcontract them to provide aid to beneficiaries.</li> <li>- The local FSPs were also capacity built to ensure continuous improvement in the efficiency of delivering aid. This included providing equipment to make them more technology savvy, training on record keeping, planning etc.</li> <li>- Refresher courses are conducted monthly before disbursement of funds. In these trainings, reviews of the previous distribution cycles are conducted, loopholes identified, and solutions are brainstormed. This also, seen a growth not just in the local economies but also with the FSPs with some of them opening additional branches.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>How can organizations improve the sharing of best practices and approaches in supporting financial literacy?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>WFP:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overcoming information sharing hurdles is a significant challenge. Online platforms like "Hey Sister, Can You Show Me Your Money" offer freely accessible resources that can be accessed and tailored to address country-specific contexts.</li> <li>- Additionally, WFP country offices facilitate robust coordination through working groups, where stakeholders freely exchange information and learn from each other, drawing on collective strength. For instance, in Uganda, challenges regarding refugee access to digital services were addressed through the collaborative efforts of the Cash Working Group (CWG) with support from WFP, resulting in the Central Bank being persuaded to adopt a more flexible approach to registration requirements. Presently, there are refugee agents representing Financial Service Providers (FSPs).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Mercy Corps:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Information sharing occurs through various avenues. In Ukraine, Cash Working Groups (CWGs) document and disseminate information about cash transfer initiatives, facilitating referrals and ensuring consistency in transfer values.</li> <li>- Consortiums provide another channel, where common registration platforms are adopted to prevent duplication of assistance, enabling the sharing of strategies and information among members.</li> <li>- Additionally, assessments of financial service providers include insights into the methodologies and service providers used by other organizations, with reports shared among partners. Efforts are underway in Syria to establish unified platforms for partners to collaborate on strategy and methodology.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>What strategic objectives should be prioritized to leverage financial inclusion in the coming years?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Mercy Corps:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leveraging digital technologies to streamline access to aid for beneficiaries.</li> <li>- Expanding the array of assistance mechanisms through banks, mobile money, and cryptocurrency.</li> <li>- Offering financial literacy education to beneficiaries to ensure effective utilization of assistance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>WFP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Following their policy directives, WFP endeavours to increase its advocacy efforts aimed at influencing regulatory frameworks to become more accommodating and inclusive. This entails close collaboration with governments and other key stakeholders to enact policies that promote inclusivity.</li> <li>- Initiatives aimed at fostering self-reliance and resilience through programs promoting digital literacy and cash-plus services.</li> <li>- Resolving interoperability challenges, particularly ensuring smooth transitions at the conclusion of programs so that another service provider can seamlessly take over without disruptions to transfers.</li> <li>- Continuous learning and adaptation as needed to refine program effectiveness.</li> </ul> <p>Enhancing community engagement to gain deeper insights into their needs and the impact of cash assistance on their lives.</p> </li> </ul>

## SESSION FIVE: LINKING CVA TO SOCIAL PROTECTION: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The purpose of the session was to create awareness of the diverse ways in which CVA can be linked to SP and to share a systematic approach to identifying opportunities for linking. Participants were introduced to the concept of *'the building blocks of linking humanitarian assistance with SP'*. This was followed by a presentation from the Kenya CWG on how they have used this approach to formulate a plan of action for their work in linking humanitarian CVA to SP. Other participants also shared ongoing efforts towards linking CVA to SP in different countries and how building blocks concept might apply. The need for a context-specific approach was discussed, with participants exchanging their experiences and strategies for tackling diverse challenges.

### **Presentation 1: Building Blocks: A systematic approach to linking Humanitarian CVA with SP**

The following key points were made:

#### **Why link?**

- As the lines between humanitarian and developmental needs blur, it becomes imperative for humanitarian assistance to integrate with SP systems.
- In fragile environments where SP frameworks are absent, humanitarian and development entities must collaborate to provide CVA while simultaneously establishing foundations for national SP systems.
- This integration is pursued under various titles with shared goals, such as Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP), Adaptive Social Protection (ASP), and Linking Humanitarian Action & Social Protection (HA-SP).



**Entry Points to SP/building blocks:**

- Policy:
  - This involves harmonizing and integrating policies, strategy, and regulatory frameworks across different sectors to ensure consistency and synergy in implementation.
  - Assessing the presence and strength of existing policies is essential.
  - Humanitarian actors can then work alongside the government to identify opportunities for collaboration within these policy frameworks and reinforce connections to achieve shared goals.
- Program Design:
  - This entails harmonizing and integrating programme design features and elements on both sides, including program objectives, targeting methods and transfer modalities to enhance coordination across programs.
  - Key considerations include targeting and registering beneficiaries in a single registry, determining the frequency, duration, and amount of transfer values, and designing coordinated programs aligned with SP initiatives to ensure comprehensive coverage.
- Administration
  - This involves harmonizing and integrating administrative elements such as monitoring and evaluation systems, accountability mechanisms and information systems to enhance the effectiveness of program management.

**To enhance shock responsiveness and align with future government adoption:**

- Implement design tweaks such as adding potential recipient lists and relaxing ID requirements for inclusivity.
- Adapt current humanitarian responses to align with the government's vision, ensuring scalability and sustainability.
- Explore complementarity with government efforts by developing common platforms for coordination.
- Coordinate with government and development actors to identify synergies and avoid duplication.
- Provide technical assistance alongside humanitarian and development partners to strengthen core administrative systems and build capacity for effective response and long-term resilience.
- Understanding context is crucial for effective humanitarian and development interventions. Factors such as funding availability, political acceptance, the status of social protection programs, complementarity with government agencies, and adherence to the "do no harm" principle influence strategies, engagement, and outcomes.

**Ways for CWGs to engage with Government:**

- Assess and enhance existing initiatives based on their effectiveness in achieving desired outcomes, with a clear focus on linking objectives such as increasing coverage, adequacy, and comprehensiveness of social protection systems. Collaboration with SP entities should aim to improve the timeliness, cost-effectiveness, predictability, accountability, sustainability, and inclusivity of programs.
- Address discrepancies in objectives by fostering compromise. While the government may prioritize quantity over quality, humanitarian actors prioritize meeting essential needs. Bridging this gap requires sharing information, such as MEB data, to help the government understand calculation methods and adjust priorities accordingly.

- Enhance shock responsiveness by acknowledging the challenge of predictability within the SP framework. SP systems typically address predictable crises, whereas humanitarian assistance focuses on urgent and essential needs, often unpredictable. The objective is to make SP systems more adaptable to crises, enabling them to scale up or down as needed.

**Other considerations:**

- Linking humanitarian CVA to SP is context-dependent and influenced by crisis type, existing SP system sophistication, capacity, objectives, timeframe, and resources.
- Options for linkage include coordinating outcomes (e.g., drought preparedness), aligning system designs (e.g., similar tools), and sharing functions (e.g., single registries).
- Progress is gradual; focus on achievable goals ("low-hanging fruits") rather than instant fixes.
- Identify entry points and incrementally work towards deeper linkage between CVA and SP.

**Presentation 2: Kenya CWG Case Study on Linking Humanitarian Work to Social Protection.**

Key points included:

- In 2022, the KCWG established a workstream to help link humanitarian work to social protection and improve targeting and data protection. This was followed by training from CALP on linking CVA to SP, and a CALP facilitated workshop to identify operational linkages with shock responsive SP using the building blocks.
- The harmonized targeting tool is an example of how humanitarian actors have built on a working government system. For instance, during COVID 19, the Government registry came in handy for humanitarian actors to target and reach vulnerable people without necessarily going to where they are.
- KCWG is co-chaired by the Director of Social Protection Secretariat and the CEO of the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA). This is enabling the agenda of the humanitarian actors and those of the government to be adopted. This has made it easy to work with government because they are on the table.
- The opportunities now are in enhancing the data registry, targeting tools, triggers, and thresholds.
- This collaboration with government has been successful attributed to:
  - The existing CVA/SP system.
  - Political acceptance of linking SP to humanitarian work through advocacy.
  - Strong intent to strengthen the state system by demonstrating how it's a win-win situation for both government and humanitarian actors.
  - Recipients' preference for cash support.

**Discussion: Other Country Experiences**

**Ethiopia:**

- In Ethiopia, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs are members of the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Working Group (WG). Also, most CWG members are in the DRM WG.
- The National CWG is jointly led by two government departments: the DRM and the Ministry of Women and Social Affairs. This partnership also includes donor agencies, humanitarian actors, local actors and representatives from the Safety Net working group.
- Engagement primarily centres on data sharing and coordinating efforts. Additionally, the CWG is involved in advocacy efforts. These efforts led to the organization of a conference

aimed at exploring connections between safety nets and access to social protection services.

- The conference delved into strategies for integrating humanitarian assistance with social services. The conference also addressed the widespread issue of the lack of national IDs in Ethiopia, which hampers access to social services. To tackle this challenge, the World Bank allocated \$30 million to support the national ID program.
- What is important is to start gradually and progressively build momentum, while remaining mindful of the overarching objectives.

#### **Zimbabwe:**

- The CWG has assisted the government in developing its own Multi-Purpose Identification Systems (MIAs) and social registries, although this is still in progress.
- Additionally, the CWG is aiding the government in expanding its programs to become more responsive to shocks. Several pilot projects have been initiated by the working group, focusing on capacity building on skills and systems to facilitate social protection payments.
- A catalogue has been compiled outlining the services accessible to the government through the CWG.
- The development of manuals on cash utilization and a shock-responsive roadmap for the entire country is also in progress.

#### **South Sudan:**

- There is a humanitarian project in South Sudan that is targeting pregnant and lactating mothers to promote behaviour change and prevent malnutrition in the long term, concurrently government efforts to establish a database are underway. Depending on its scale, objectives, and duration, this program can serve as an illustration of linking CVA to SP.
- CVA addresses the immediate acute needs of the women, alleviating current suffering, while social protection programme focuses on addressing their long-term developmental requirements.
- There is need for shared terminologies between humanitarian actors and development actors including government actors. Humanitarian actors should remain flexible in interpreting terminologies while seeking to align with government initiatives.

#### **Madagascar:**

- Drought in South Madagascar, multiple cyclones have been a menace affecting a large part of the population. The government has established mechanisms to work with humanitarian actors to work with them in different sectors such as health, food security, education, and risk. The government is at the apex of these initiatives with representatives in the clusters.
- The National Bureau of Disaster Management (NBDM) oversees all 8 clusters. The prime minister's office oversees the NBDM. The Bureau is a subsidiary of the Ministry of Interior. Proper coordination in terms of monthly meetings within these clusters is ongoing. The Bureau also has a national data registry that is utilized in targeting.
- Different capacities and objectives of partners are evident, but harmonization is happening where it's needed.
- The primary donors for SP initiatives include the World Bank, WFP, and UNICEF.

- A national agency oversees the implementation of regular SP programs, ensuring financial stability and facilitating shock responses in collaboration with humanitarian organizations during crises like cyclones, droughts, and floods.
- Coordination efforts have generally been effective. However, challenges persist, particularly related to adherence to guidelines.
- The CWG is helping the Ministry of Social Protection pilot interventions by developing guidelines and tools to improve effectiveness of the interventions. Operationalization is doing well but coordination and consolidating what is happening is a challenge. The CWG has identified measures to be used in different contexts such as mobilizing funding, but this is still limited.

*Other comments and Key Resources*

*The Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) Working Group is working on linking SP to humanitarian protection. CALP is a member of the Group. CWG members can reach out for documentation, guidance, or collaboration on where they are in the building blocks.*

*Isabelle Pelly. 2021. Building Blocks: entry points for humanitarians when linking Cash and Voucher Assistance with nascent Social Protection systems*<https://socialprotection.org/discover/blog/building-blocks-entry-points-humanitarians-when-linking-cash-and-voucher-assistance>

*The State of the World’s Cash 2023. Chapter 6: Linkages with Social Protection*<https://www.calpnetwork.org/web-read/the-state-of-the-worlds-cash-2023-chapter-6-linkages-with-social-protection/>

*Social Protection Inter-Agency Cooperation Board (SPIAC-B) Working Group on Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection.2023. Common Principles for Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/common-principles-for-linking-humanitarian-assistance-and-social-protection/>

*Gabrielle Smith. 2021. Toolbox – Linking Humanitarian CVA and Social Protection*<https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/social-protection-toolbox/>

## SESSION SIX: NAVIGATING ANTICIPATORY CASH

In this session, participants discussed some key elements of anticipatory cash in plenary facilitates the following questions.

*Answers are bolded.*

Exercise:

<p>Question 1: Which factors are considered when selecting beneficiaries for Anticipatory Cash Transfers? (Select all that apply)</p> <p><b>A. Geographic location prone to specific hazards</b></p> <p>B. Previous receipt of humanitarian aid</p> <p><b>C. Vulnerability and risk exposure to anticipated crises</b></p> <p><b>D. Household income levels</b></p>	<p>Question 2: What makes Anticipatory Cash Transfers particularly effective in reducing the impact of sudden-onset disasters?</p> <p>A. They allow for immediate reconstruction of infrastructure</p> <p>B. They provide psychological support to affected individuals</p> <p>C. They enable households to make pre-emptive actions to protect assets and livelihoods</p> <p>D. They are always distributed in the form of physical cash</p>	<p>Question 3: The effectiveness of Anticipatory Cash Transfer programs is often measured by: (Select all that apply)</p> <p>A. The speed of recovery of affected populations</p> <p>B. The reduction in the need for emergency response</p> <p><b>C. The number of beneficiaries who invest in long-term assets</b></p> <p>D. The ability to prevent disasters from occurring</p>
---	---	--

<p>Question 4: How do humanitarian organizations typically determine the amount of cash to distribute in Anticipatory Cash Transfer programs?</p> <p><b>A. Based on the local cost of living</b></p> <p>B. A fixed amount for all crises</p> <p><b>C. The number of household members</b></p> <p><b>D. Predicted severity of the anticipated crisis</b></p>	<p>Question 5: Which of the following are common approaches to implementing anticipatory action?</p> <p><b>A. Providing advance notice of upcoming events</b></p> <p><b>B. Establishing contingency plans for various scenarios</b></p> <p>C. Building capacity within communities to respond effectively</p> <p><b>D. Developing partnerships between governments, NGOs, and private sector actors</b></p>	<p>Question 6: Who typically receives humanitarian cash transfers under anticipatory action frameworks?</p> <p>A. Individuals who have been directly impacted by a specific event</p> <p><b>B. Communities identified as highly vulnerable to future shocks</b></p> <p>C. Refugees and internally displaced persons</p> <p>D. People living in conflict zones</p>
---	---	---

## SESSION SEVEN: THE INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE CASH COORDINATION MODEL (IASC) AND CASH ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)

This session included a presentation from a representative of the CAG on the IASC cash coordination model and plans of the CAG. The session was aimed at sharing progress and successful strategies and brainstorming on challenges as regards transitioning to the IASC Cash Coordination model. It was also intended to raise awareness on the activities of the CAG and how CWGs can benefit from the resource.

### **Presentation: Cash Coordination Overview**

#### **A. The IASC Cash Coordination Model:**

- In 2022, the Grand Bargain provided recommendations to the IASC on a new model for cash coordination, to address the long-standing gap in predictable and timely leadership. The IASC endorsed a new model, which confirmed that the CWG is accountable to the Inter-Cluster/Sectoral Coordination group and created the global Cash Advisory Group to support coordination. More details on the model are available on the [IASC website](#).
- The sustainable arrangement agreed upon involves appointing a non-programmatic cash chair (with UNHCR responsible in refugee settings) alongside a local partner serving as a co-chair.
- Feedback from CWGs on the transition process and model has so far revealed following issues:
  - Limited resources and financial capacity are impeding CWG activities.
  - There is a lack of clarity regarding the roles and responsibilities of various bodies, including CALP, CashCap, and CAG.
  - Inadequate communication and engagement exist regarding the CAG structure, coordination model, involvement of the private sector and government, and coordination structure.
  - Training is crucial for leads and co-leads involved in coordination, CWG members regarding coordination, tools, interventions related to CVA, and preparedness and, Standards and guidelines are necessary for staff capacity building and conducting country/context-specific analyses.

#### **B. The Cash Advisory Group (CAG)**

- The global Cash Advisory Group is led by OCHA and UNHCR and includes representatives from 1 INGO, 1 Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) Network representative, 2 local NGOs, 3 UN agencies, 2 from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and CALP.
- The CAG currently comprises three task teams, each with a specific focus:

- Local Leadership Initiative: This team is dedicated to strengthening CWG engagement with local actors, by collating best practice, providing guidance, developing diagnostic tools to measure progress, and creating action plans.
  - Coordination Resourcing: This team focuses on engaging with the Donor Cash Forum to secure funding support for CWGs.
  - HRP Guidance development: This team is responsible for collecting evidence to draft guidance, which will be endorsed by both CAG and the HPC Steering Committee.
  - The Next Steps for the CAG include:
    - Revising and updating the CAG Workplan to incorporate feedback from the CWGs
    - Ensuring continuous engagement with CAG task teams to incorporate their insights and suggestions.
    - Enhancing communication both internally within the CAG and externally with stakeholders to ensure effective dissemination of information and feedback mechanisms.
- C. Progress made transitioning to the IASC Cash Coordination Model in the Region**
- In Sudan, OCHA took over from WFP earlier than planned. However, the lack of a dedicated staff team has complicated the transition process and impacted the consistency of cash coordination.
  - In South Sudan: New TORs developed and CWG Strategy for 2024/25 is under development, as per new IASC Cash Coordination model consisting of 4 leads; OCHA Non-Programmatic Co Chair IOM Programmatic Co chair, INGO CRS Programmatic Co chair, and a local partner ADA as Trainee Programmatic Co chair. Elections were done and CRS (INGO), IOM (UN Agency), ADA (local) were voted in, and new structure started working from March 2024. Leadership of the state level CWGs will remain the same.
  - Somalia and Ethiopia are still in the initial stages of the transition.
  - Uganda confirmed to have the IASC Cash Coordination Model in place with UNHCR and Uganda RedCross as co-chairs
  - There's a pledge to shift all refugee settings countries to be co-led by local actors, with approximately 83% already having a local chair.

#### Key Resources

Cash Advisory Group Website, including CAG ToRs and adaptable templates for CWG ToRs and CWG Leads ToRs <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/global-cash-advisory-group>

Draft Global Cash Advisory Group, Cash Working Group Terms of Reference/ IASC <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/global-cash-advisory-group/draft-global-cash-advisory-group-cash-working-group-terms-reference>

Draft Cash Working Group (CWG) Co-Chair Terms of Reference (ToR)/IASC <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/global-cash-advisory-group/draft-cash-working-group-cwg-co-chair-terms-reference-tor>

Cash Working Group (CWG) Programmatic Chair Election Guidance/IASC <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/global-cash-advisory-group/cash-working-group-cwg-programmatic-co-chair-election-guidance>

#### Summary of Plenary Discussion (including feedback from the CAG)

Question: *How can cash working groups benefit from the Cash Assistance Group (CAG) as a resource, and is it possible for individual cash working groups to seek support from the CAG? If so, what types of assistance can they request, and what are the methods for reaching out?*

Response:



- The CAG primarily engages in a standard setting.
  - For instance, resources such as the CWG ToRs, Co-Chair ToRs, and MPC HRP guidance are available to support for CWGs. These resources and others are available to benefit from [here](#).
  - The CAG is currently developing a capacity-building strategy focused on cash coordination.
  - During its recent retreat in February, the CAG acknowledged the need to improve both internal and external communication, leading to the formulation of a comprehensive communication strategy that includes developing newsletters and strengthening connections with CWGs.
- Advocacy, global monitoring, and liaison:
  - In collaboration with CWGs, the CAG has developed a set of crucial key performance indicators (KPIs) to foster a comprehensive understanding of accountable, predictable, effective, and efficient cash coordination practices.
  - These indicators serve as consistent benchmarks for monitoring progress across different contexts, which can be adapted and used by CWGs.
  - Among the 27 indicators devised, the CAG will initially pilot the monitoring of up to 5 at the global level, while encouraging CWGs to utilize the framework for assessing their own progress.
  - These KPIs will be integrated into a diagnostic tool and an action plan, facilitating effective self-monitoring processes for CWGs.
- Resourcing and prioritization:
  - The CAG is currently working on a resource plan in partnership with the Donor Cash Forum.
  - However, the accountability for resourcing lies with the Chairs, who are responsible for identifying any gaps in resources, such as OCHA in IASC/mixed settings and UNHCR in refugee settings.

*Question: CWG leads, and co-leads are frustrated as they must independently determine the course of action for their respective countries, is there clarity lacking regarding the transition process? To whom should challenges related to the transition be directed, whether at the country or global level?*

Response:

- The responsibility for providing direct technical support and advice should first go to the lead agencies (i.e. OCHA or UNHCR). The CAG is identifying an appropriate email contact for CWG leads to directly communicate with it. In the meantime, if adequate support from lead agencies is not available, then CWG leads may contact CALP and/or CashCap colleagues.
- It is essential for the accountable body (UNHCR in refugee settings; OCHA in other IASC contexts) to oversee these settings to help while relying on the standards and tools set/ provided by the CAG. Additionally, agencies or organizations co-chairing should play a supportive role in this process.
- The CAG's role primarily involves proposing recommendations, guidance, and tools, with in-country issues being managed by the lead agency.
- CAG may also be a forum for resolving common challenges on cash coordination and elevating these as relevant.
- By aligning with the recommendations established in collaboration with CWGs, plans have been put in place for transitioning in refugee settings, outlining the necessary support needed to facilitate this transition effectively.

*Question: How does the new cash coordination model bring benefits to cash coordination, CVA, and CWG leads/co-leads beyond governance, emphasizing that it should encompass more than just the governance aspect of CWGs?*

Response:

In refugee settings, there has been notable improvement in various aspects of cash coordination, particularly through heightened leadership by local actors, currently standing at 86%. However, there remains a significant need for further progress. Nonetheless, this is where Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), incorporating guidance, become crucial.

*Question: Does the proposed structure of the new cash coordination model extend to sub-national levels? There are concerns among leads about ensuring that governance at the sub-national level CWGs isn't dominated by larger organizations like UNHCR, but rather presents an opportunity to genuinely involve local organizations in CWG leadership.*

Response:

It is indeed crucial to consider the inclusion of sub-national levels in our discussions, even though it has not been a primary focus due to prioritization and capacity constraints. The 2022 cash coordination model does not include any specific recommendations on sub-national coordination. Supporting local leadership is paramount, provided there is willingness and capacity among local actors. However, acknowledging the potential risk of capacity limitations, it may be necessary not to discount the involvement of larger programmatic agencies, as they could potentially play a significant role in sub-national co-chairmanship if local capacity is insufficient.

*Question: How does the new cash coordination model aim to tackle the issue of insufficient resourcing for CWGs?*

Response:

The resource plan within the Donor Cash Forum is a key opportunity to identify pressing resource gaps in this regard. The responsibility falls on the CAG chairs, who, in conjunction with country co-leads, are tasked with identifying any resource deficiencies and supporting countries in securing the necessary resources to cultivate skilled human resources and expertise at the country level. This includes investing in capacity building to ensure the required competencies are met. One potential strategy identified in UNHCR's experience is to involve a multi-functional team (including colleagues from management, IM, registration, etc.) in cash coordination, rather than relying solely on a single cash officer, as is often the case unfortunately. This multi-functional team could be drawn from various agencies to enhance effectiveness and collaboration.

**Comment:** The transition within IASC is proceeding slowly, primarily due to the need to involve multiple actors with diverse interests and turnover of staff within OCHA.

## SESSION EIGHT: CO-COORDINATION BY LOCAL AND NATIONAL ACTORS IN CWGS.

This session was aimed at sharing of good practices on how best to integrate local organizations in the CWG leadership considering their unique position, expertise and needs. The session included a discussion in plenary as well as a panel discussion with some of the participants moderated by the Global Cluster Coordination's localization specialist.

Key discussion points were as follows:

*Question: What are things CWGs need to stop doing to promote co-coordination by local and national actors?*

*Response:*

- Assessing the capacity of local partners to take up coordination roles.
- Stop gatekeeping opportunities within the cash sector.
- Start involving local and national partners in the decision-making process especially regarding funding.

*Question: What are the main challenges that local actors are facing in scaling up CVA?*

*Response:*

- Donor restrictions on direct funding.
- Limited organizations process and systems.
- Limited staff capacity.
- Inadequate administrative costs to local organizations.
- Limited resources and time for coordination.
- Ineffective ways of working between international and local organizations.
- International organizations reluctant to give space to local organizations.

*Question: Is the global humanitarian architecture ready for these transitions? Is there commitment to move funding towards local actors?*

*Response:*

In Somalia:

- Mapping of local partners' capacity began in 2023 to ensure that subnational working groups are well set up. 7 subnational WGs were set up.
- Local NGOs and INGO (UN not present) are co-leading these working groups.
- Capacity building plan 2023-2024 was set up to support the localize the humanitarian responses especially in hard-to-reach areas where local partners are already operational.
- The approach now is to advocate for funding for cash coordination through a full-time staff, 75% of funding will go to local partners so the CWG is encouraging them to get involved so they will receive these funds.
- The CWG has secured funding for capacity building CWGs at subnational level.

*Question: What is the process of selecting the national actor in the country?*

*Response:*

Uganda's Perspective:

- The country fully transitioned in 2023 September with Red Cross coming on board as national co-chair. Communication was made to CWG members. UNHCR circulated draft TORs and requirements for the national-co chair – experience in CVA implementation, registration with government, country wide coverage, funding sufficiency and organization capacity.
- Red cross and Organization for Hunger fighters applied, and voting was done by 20 members of the CWG. Red Cross won the elections and took the position.

*Question: Regarding the localization, is it mainly driven by the fact that international actors do not have access to certain areas in Somalia or what are the driving factors?*

*Response:*

- Localization in Somalia is being driven by the country's transition into the new cash coordination model (programmatic -1 UN chair, 1 INGO, 1 Local actor). The non-programmatic lead is OCHA, WFP at national level and Local actors co-chairing all the 7 subnational level WGs. Subnational level WG Co-Chairs and co-leads were elected in 2023.

- The CWG has secured funding for capacity building of CWGs at subnational level and 2 cohorts have already completed the training. Transition was categorized as 3, 6 or 18 months and Somalia falls in the 18 months transition period.
- Mapping of potential programmatic chairs has been done. Calls for interested organisations has been done. Elections will be conducted within 2024.
- The Humanitarian Financing Unit within OCHA is giving 75% of funding to local actors to support their operational needs. Advocating for donors to do the same.

*Question: How do power/influence dynamics within CWGs affect the ability of local actors to contribute meaningfully to decision making processes?*

*Response:*

Ethiopia's Perspective:

- The country is in the semi-equatorial line meaning a diverse topographically so there are 4 different food baskets.
- CashCap engagement focused on area-based coordination by decentralizing decision making to the local areas.
- Sub national CWGs are in the lead. These sub-national CWGs are led by 2 key ministries – Bureau of National Disaster Management and the Bureau of Woman and Social Affairs. In Ethiopia, the national CWG reports to the subnational CWGs. The subnational CWGs hold regular meetings, determine the allocations, transfer values, intersectoral baskets, connecting subnational clusters. This coordination model was formed organically over a period of time. The international concept of boardroom meetings did not work in the context.
- Capacity/ Funding: There is freedom in the mandate to include the non-programmatic local actors in the funding decisions. The importance is that local government/ actors are more effective and stronger in their coordination and implementation. The assumption that only INGOs have the knowledge or skills in the humanitarian response systems is misleading. Local actors mostly have a better understanding of the context in terms of what will work and what won't.
- Other key factors include Interagency coordination/collaboration, time and dedicated capacity for coordination.

*Question: In addition to allocating funding to local actors, what other strategies can be used to promote co-coordination by local and national actors?*

*Response:*

South Sudan's Perspective:

- Capacity building on the potential of cash to boost markets, create jobs etc. Most local actors insist on in-kind aid because they have not seen evidence of what cash can do for local economies. So, gathering this evidence and building their capacity to implement cash programs helps to promote them.
- Designing programmes with a localization model - to include and benefit multiple actors at the same time.

*Key resources:*

[State of the World's Cash Chapter 3 on Locally-Led CVA https://www.calpnetwork.org/web-read/the-state-of-the-worlds-cash-2023-chapter-3-locally-led-response/](https://www.calpnetwork.org/web-read/the-state-of-the-worlds-cash-2023-chapter-3-locally-led-response/)

*Locally-Led Responses to Cash and Voucher Assistance in the Middle East and North Africa: Barriers, progress and opportunities https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/locally-led-*

[responses-to-cash-and-voucher-assistance-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa-barriers-progress-and-opportunities/](#)

## SESSION NINE: EFFECTIVE CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION IN REGIONAL CRISES

In this session, the possible advantages of cross-country collaboration among CWGs responding to the same crisis and how this could be achieved were discussed. The Sudan crisis served as an example of such a crisis with impact on several countries in the region. An overview of the crisis was provided by the Sudan CWG with input from Ethiopia and South Sudan CWGs. Participants discussed both in plenary and in breakout groups the need and opportunities for collaboration by CWGs in the affected countries.

*The Sudan Crises Overview:*

The crisis in Sudan, sparked by clashes between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023, has led to a severe humanitarian emergency, affecting millions. This conflict has caused widespread displacement, increasing the number of people needing humanitarian assistance from 15.8 million to 24.7 million. The crisis is exacerbated by political instability, economic collapse, and escalating food insecurity. Neighbouring countries, especially Chad, have received over 553,000 refugees, where UNHCR and partners manage registrations and relocations despite service provision challenges. Other countries such as South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda and Egypt have also received significant influx of refugees and returnees. Within Sudan, the ongoing conflict disrupts economic activities and essential services, particularly affecting financial service providers and hindering the effectiveness of aid like the Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA). Critical regions like Khartoum and South Kordofan face shortages of food, medical supplies, and basic commodities due to disrupted supply routes, exacerbating the humanitarian situation and making access to necessary services increasingly difficult for displaced populations.

*Effect of the Sudan crisis in South Sudan:*

- The impact on South Sudan was significant prior to the crisis onset in April 2023, as approximately 60-70% of the supply chain relied on Sudan, which abruptly ceased. Traders swiftly redirected their sourcing to Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda, resulting in prices soaring by over 100%, causing rampant inflation. However, within three months of transitioning to alternative supply routes, prices began to decline. Nearly one year into the crisis, stability was gradually restored, with inflation returning to neutral levels. In border regions like Reng, there's a gradual resumption of supplies from Sudan, contributing to fair pricing conditions.
- Collaboration between Sudan and South Sudan CWGs is crucial for understanding cross-market functionality and supply chains. Establishing a sub-county working group in Reng can facilitate coordination and information-sharing, enhancing

*Effect of the Sudan crisis in Ethiopia:*

- The Refugee Returnee Cross-Border Working Group (CWG) has been established to address the specific CVA needs of returnees and refugees. The country has received a relatively low number of refugees from Sudan, totalling up to 80,000, in comparison to countries like Egypt, Uganda, and South Sudan. However, reports indicate an increase in the number of returnees to Ethiopia, highlighting the importance of continued coordination and support for both refugees and returnees in the country.
- The situation remains dire in areas where refugees and returnees traditionally cross borders, such as Benishangul Gumuz. This region is characterized by marginalization, difficult accessibility, and a high severity of people in need. Additionally, areas like Metema in the Amhara region are facing civil conflict, compounded by challenges such as limited internet access and an unstable presence of humanitarian actors.

<p>response efforts and addressing humanitarian needs across borders.</p>	<p>These conditions exacerbate the already precarious situation for refugees, returnees, and local populations, emphasizing the urgent need for coordinated humanitarian action and support in these areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Refugee Returnee Service conducted rapid assessments in these areas and provided one-off payments (MPC) to enable households to relocate to other regions. Targeting efforts were directed towards these populations, but the lack of proper documentation, such as IDs, posed a significant challenge.</li> <li>▪ Overall, the total number of refugees and returnees in the entire country is just under a million people. To address their needs effectively, a Refugee Returnee Cash Working Group, led by UNHCR and the Refugee Returnee Service have been collaborating to identify and implement the most appropriate responses to support refugees and returnees in Ethiopia.</li> </ul>
---	---

**Discussion**

*Question: In an active conflict zone like Sudan, where cash transportation poses heightened risks, how can CWGs ensure that the utilization of cash does not amplify existing dangers?*

*Response:*

In South Sudan, the coordination efforts across borders by organizations involve establishing distribution channels for providing cash assistance for food, typically covering up to a week's worth of supplies for refugees, returnees, and IDPs. The assumption is that these individuals will have been relocated either to camps or back to their original homes within the week. They are given vouchers for transportation to Malakal, where they receive cash for purchasing food and tickets to their preferred destination. Additionally, households facing security risks receive cash assistance for protection. For those unwilling to return to their original homes, they are provided with MPCA to aid their survival in Reng. Ongoing efforts are being made to involve focal points from UNHCR in monitoring population movements. In South Sudan, refugee data registration is currently in progress, with WFP registering individuals eligible for food assistance using biometric technology, and IOM handling the registration of returnees. Advocacy efforts directed towards UNHCR and WFP regarding data sharing have yielded positive results, contingent upon organizations having established data protection policies. While local organizations may lack the capacity to implement such policies, international organizations such as Save the Children, Plan International, and World Vision have been receiving data. Data sharing practices are also being implemented to prevent duplications in efforts.

**Notes from Breakout Group discussions**

Benefits/Opportunities of Cross border/cross-country collaboration:

- Varying capacities among different CWGs across the region emphasizes the importance of leveraging established tools and practices from capable CWGs particularly for emerging countries in responding to crises.
- The dissemination and exchange of tools and practices among relevant stakeholders.
- Regarding opportunities, advocacy stands out as a significant avenue for progress when effective cross-country collaboration is done. For instance, advocating for essential financial services, particularly at border points, to support implementation of cash-based interventions.

Barriers/Challenges:

- Access to databases for refugees and returnees.
- Challenges in coordinating between states due to numerous actors involved.
- Language and cultural barriers.
- Variances in policy environments across different countries.

Solutions:

- Collaboration with UN entities and the hierarchy of humanitarian architecture
- Efficient coordination involving non-state actors across all levels.
- Creation of Regional Humanitarian Plans could help to address crises affecting multiple countries.
- It requires CWGs addressing crises going beyond handling issues unique to own borders. Instead, it involves coordinating strategies to respond to regional crises, such as cyclones.
- International coordination is valuable for learning, exchanging best practices, and ensuring effective operational collaboration. This not only improves fundraising and advocacy efforts but also ensures assistance reaches those in need regardless of borders.
- The regional cash working group serves as an effective mechanism for achieving better coordination. However, its success relies on all of us being willing to dedicate time and remain open-minded to collaboration and improvement.

## Comments from the CashCap Regional Expert for East Africa.

- The role has a regional focus, specifically addressing the Sudan Crisis, which has had widespread regional impacts.
- It will be based in Nairobi, an important hub that hosts numerous donors and international agencies, offering significant opportunities for outreach and advocacy.
- A key aspect of the role involves establishing a regional platform to unite the Cash Working Groups (CWGs), facilitating regular meetings and promoting data sharing.



