



CARE'S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE COORDINATION

TIP SHEET





Why is CARE's meaningful participation in Cash and Voucher Assistance Coordination important?

In recent years, the use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) has grown extensively both globally and within CARE. According to the **State of the Cash Report 2020**, globally 5.6 billion USD in CVA was programmed in 2019, constituting 17.9% of total international humanitarian assistance. Based on the **CARE annual CVA mapping of fiscal year (FY) 2019**, CARE used CVA in 37 countries of presence – a 27% increase from FY18. The number of projects with CVA increased by 49%. CVA is no longer an innovation; rather it is a critical means of delivering assistance in a people-centered way. Therefore, the effective coordination of CVA is progressively becoming a central part of ensuring a quality humanitarian response.

CARE has extensive experience in CVA coordination at response/country, regional, and global levels. In FY19, 86% of countries of presence indicated their involvement in CVA coordination. At the time, eight countries of presence held leadership positions (chair or co-chair), including Yemen, Jordan, Somalia/Somaliland, Turkey, Zimbabwe, Mali, Ecuador, and Peru. At a global level, CARE is a member of the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) Steering Group in North America. CARE was an active member of the Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) Network and co-chairs the gender and cash sub-workstream of the Grand Bargain's Cash Workstream.

Who is this Tip Sheet for?

The primary audience for this Tip Sheet is all CARE program staff implementing CVA, especially at the field/response and country office levels. It provides guidance on how CARE can participate in Cash Working Groups (CWG) or other fora where CVA is discussed (e.g. Cluster or sectoral groups) and, in particular, how CARE can promote gender sensitivity in CVA. The Tip Sheet also provides actions and resources for teams intending to increase the scale of CVA and deepen their coordination efforts.



New to CWG Coordination? Here is What to Expect

WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF THE CVA FOCAL POINT/CARE REPRESENTATIVE IN THE COORDINATION FORUMS?

REPRESENT CARE'S CVA EXTERNALLY:

- Present and discuss CARE's programming with CVA (i.e. know reach, geographies, and intended outcomes of CVA);
- Contribute to CWG and the sub-workstream workplans;
- Advocate with other partners to improve the enabling environment for CVA;
- Determine if an advocacy strategy is needed and collaborate with other implementing agencies to strengthen advocacy on critical issues of gender-sensitive CVA.

INFORM AND ENGAGE CARE TEAMS ON ISSUES IMPACTING CVA:

- Update CARE management and sector leads on trends, innovations, government policies and regulations, and opportunities on CVA at the response level;
- Seek input, updates, results, and learning on programming with CVA from relevant staff (e.g. sectors, security) to inform CARE's agency-level contribution;
- Contribute to interagency assessments (feasibility, markets, etc.); if CARE is doing its own feasibility assessment, inform, engage, and involve other partners and the local authorities and government;
- Be a source of information for CARE on trends in response and funding related to CVA;
- Contribute to the CVA aspects of the Humanitarian Response Planning Process, reflecting CARE's priorities of gender analysis and sensitivity;
- Foster technically coherent CVA within CARE (i.e. sharing of good practices and lessons learned, joint assessment and cash feasibility study, provision of CVA to cover multiple objectives, joint monitoring, and development and use of common guidelines and tools).

REPORT:

- Report CARE's CVA interventions in the relevant reporting system of the Clusters and CWG (e.g. 3Ws/4Ws/2Ws);
- Ensure that multipurpose cash transfers are reported separately to the CWG or the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); this will reduce any double counting in cases where the response has multiple objectives.

WHAT WOULD YOU COORDINATE DURING DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CVA?

- Demonstrate that the CVA is technically coherent with other programs – i.e. sharing of good practices and lessons learned, joint assessment and cash feasibility study, provision of CVA to cover multiple objectives, joint monitoring, and development and use of common guidelines and tools.
- Contribute to any interagency market assessments; if undertaking CARE's own market assessment, inform, engage, and involve other partners and the local authorities and government.
- Conduct partner presence assessment in the affected area to inform the design process: Who are the other partners implementing in the geographical target areas? What response are the partners doing? Identify the gap areas to avoid duplication.
- Demonstrate that the CVA program is operationally coordinated with other programs to maximize efficiencies across agencies (e.g. harmonization of cash delivery instruments and negotiation of the services fees with payment agents).
- Clarify CARE's practice regarding coordination and partnerships with the private sector and other actors in the response. This includes ensuring consideration innovations and technology work for all genders.
- Utilize learnings, tools, and harmonized products as recommended by the CWG. This includes the use of the recommended transfer rates by the CWG.
- Map and identify existing governmental social protection policies and regulations. Identify advocacy positions and coordinate with partners on needs and roles to improve the enabling environment for programming with CVA, including developing and operationalizing an advocacy strategy.

MULTIPURPOSE AND SECTORAL CVA: WHAT DO WE NEED TO COORDINATE?

- Ensure robust inter-sectoral consultations to understand the critical needs and how to meet those needs most effectively with multipurpose cash or standalone sector response.
- Participate in the Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment. Work closely with relevant stakeholders, including interagency groups, government, and local partners to carry out, cross-reference, or share market assessments.
- Depending on the country context and the objective of the project, use any other outcome indicators that are considered necessary for the sectoral responses.
- The sectoral technical leads should participate in the CWG when the respective sectors are being discussed. Sector leads should also present our CVA work in the cluster meetings.
- Use the **multipurpose cash (MPC) outcome indicators** developed by the Grand Bargain Cash Work stream.



Already Involved in the CWG? What Does It Take to be a Lead and Co-Lead?

- **Dedicated time, support, and structure:** CARE's senior management must be supportive and give direction to the incumbent. To be effective, the CARE staff must allocate the time commitments for the coordination alongside their other duties. The incumbent should have the coordination duties included in their job description and performance appraisal.
- **Organization and knowledge of local coordination architecture:** CARE's representative should possess administrative skills, a strong understanding of the humanitarian coordination structure and processes, advocacy and engagement skills, and technical cash expertise. It may also require a certain level of seniority/grade to effectively engage with, steer, and influence senior decision makers in the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). The incumbent should uphold CARE's values, including protection of sexual harassment exploitation and abuse (PSHEA).
- **Capacity and interest in networking:** The lead or co-lead is volunteering as leadership to enhance coordination for the community of practice for the delivery of quality and safe CVA. The incumbent should share and seek advice with the CARE senior management, sector leads, and all relevant staff on key discussions and learnings. Externally, the coordinator will need to consult the government and informed representatives on the working groups' activities. Leading by example, the coordinator should encourage CARE's technical sector leads to present or take part in the CWG (e.g. sector task force, sub-work streams).

EXAMPLE FROM THE FIELD: CARE Somalia leads the regional CWG. In 2017, CARE coordinated an interagency evaluation on large scale CVA response to the 2016-2017 drought. The experience has solidified relations with government officials as well as private sector actors.



Already Actively Involved in CWG But Need to Do More on Gender and CVA?

By participating in or co-leading such forums, CARE will ensure that not only are we well-informed, but also able to contribute to its **Playbook** aspiration to be the go-to organization on gender and CVA across development and humanitarian work. CARE should be present and active in coordination forums to ensure that projects with CVA are designed with and for women and girls, addressing recipients' needs, challenges, and opportunities.

WHAT ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENSURE GENDER SENSITIVITY IS ADDRESSED IN A CWG?

- Lead and work with others in gender analysis, pre-crisis market analysis, and financial service mapping and capability analysis.
- Promote gender-sensitive CVA in the broader humanitarian response and national context during all stages of the CVA program cycle.
- Share CARE's research, studies, and best practices on gender sensitivity and CVA with partners, peers, private sector, governments, and communities (e.g. through presentations, sharing on listservs).
- Take leadership roles that promote gender sensitivity in the coordination forums. This can include supporting the creation of sub-workstreams on gender and CVA in the CWG to increase momentum towards achieving our agenda together with others. Encourage CARE's Gender and/or Protection Advisor to present or attend the CWG meetings.
- Work with others, including donors, to develop policies that address the different needs of men, boys, women, and girls.
- Advocate with others for funding with donors to increase the evidence base on gender and CVA.

HOW CAN CARE REPRESENT GENDER-SENSITIVE CVA IN OTHER RELEVANT FORA?

- Be the gender focal point in consortia where CVA is used; offer short trainings, presentations, or other events on gender and CVA;
- Ensure that gender sensitivity is discussed and addressed in global networks (CaLP, CCD, SEEP, Market in Crisis, and CashCap);
- Work with governments through existing social protection systems (e.g. technical support on gender analysis, gendered market analysis, and participation in Social Protection working groups);
- Ensure that advocacy on CVA references the importance of its gender sensitivity and the results of the Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA).

EXAMPLE FROM THE FIELD: CARE Ethiopia actively participates in different CWGs in country. The cash focal point gave a presentation at the national CWG on CVA and Gender at a regular meeting, sharing their experience as well as global tools. CARE Ethiopia also leads the agenda on gender at the Ethiopia CCD Network steering committee.

TOOLS AND RESOURCES:

- [CARE shares Cash and Voucher Assistance webpage](#)
- [CaLP Cash Coordination Tip Sheet](#)
- [Operational guidance and toolkit for multipurpose cash grants](#)
- [Working with cash-based safety nets in humanitarian contexts: Guidance note for humanitarian practitioners](#)
- [UNOCHA cash and voucher assistance](#)
- [Gender-based violence area of responsibility coordinator Tip Sheet](#)

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