



Presentation for the UNHCR Online weekly consultations on Cash assistance in the COVID-19 response, June 24th 2020

CVA and COVID19 tipsheet - part 1: the Shield

- The CVA tipsheet serves as guidance to help field teams think through different ways:

1) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through ongoing CVA

2) inform the adaptation of CVA in the context of COVID-19

3) promote sensitivity to evolving markets dynamics.

- Inspired by the “Shield & Sword strategy” developed to tackle previous outbreaks.
- Drafted by ICRC and reviewed by Movement cash specialists.

- Circulated within the Movement and with CaLP.

- **Interesting use of the tipsheet:**

*Nigeria

*Burkina Faso



TIPSHEET: Cash and Voucher Assistance and COVID-19 (v1 – March 21st, 2020)

This tipsheet serves as guidance to help field teams think through different ways:

- 1) to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 through ongoing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA);
- 2) inform the adaptation of CVA in the context of COVID-19;
- 3) promote sensitivity to evolving markets dynamics.

This tipsheet is inspired by the “Shield & Sword strategy” developed to tackle previous outbreaks such as cholera. The primary objective is the SHIELD: measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The next version of this tipsheet will expand more on how CVA can contribute to early measures to address the impact of COVID-19 (eg: for healthcare, loss of lives & livelihoods).

This tipsheet focuses specifically on CVA and is meant to complement other reference guidance: it is general, but we will work with you to tailor advice to your specific context and needs. Please remember that not only EcoSec handle cash or use CVA so please share this tip sheet widely inside your Delegation. This tipsheet identifies some of the main identified risks involved with CVA that should be considered before adapting or stopping an ongoing or planned intervention. Such difficult decisions should always factor in our humanitarian mandate to assist affected people (eg: if you decide not to distribute cash, vouchers or inputs for the upcoming planting season in many countries, the effects of a failed or poor agriculture campaign should be considered).

If you have any questions or need support, please reach out to Alexandre Gachoud, EcoSec Cash & Markets Specialist based in Geneva, or to your Regional Cash & Markets Specialists Glenn Hughson (Nairobi) or Tanjona Andriamarolaza (Dakar). If other Protection or Assistance departments have questions on using CVA in their responses, please reach out to Jo Burton, Institutional Cash & Markets Specialist.

1. Adapting ongoing cash & voucher interventions

1.1 Design and Objective

➤ Focus on the core aspects of your planned intervention and do them well. Aspects of your interventions (eg: transfer of a cash grant or part of a MEI grant; more focus on the “cash” aspect rather than the “work” one in cash-for-work interventions) that can reduce the exposure and vulnerability of conflict affected people should be prioritized over the next 2 months, if the seasonal calendar allows for this (eg: planting season).

➤ Recognize that physical currency can play a role in the chain of virus transmission and assess the risks. Make sure all staff regularly wash their hands with soap and clean water (or with hand-sanitizers) when handling paper money, cards and vouchers. Ask our financial service providers (FSP) to use new banknotes or disinfect the ones they are using in our cash distributions. Consider using a different delivery mechanism such as mobile money or banking cards. Consider also switching to paper vouchers (eg: for a one-off distribution) or electronic ones (if Red Rose has already been deployed). Laminating paper vouchers means they can be disinfected before handing over to affected households. However, laminated vouchers can also present potential risks as bacteria might remain between the paper and plastic layers unless thoroughly disinfected.

➤ If your programme relies on voucher fairs, assess the risks involved: consider extending the period of the fair or switching to a simpler modality (eg: cash transfers using mobile money) to avoid large gatherings.

➤ Keep communication channels open: make sure you have working telephone numbers for your focal point at the National Society, key informants, community gate keepers and service providers so you can contact them even if physical meetings are not possible. Mobile data restrictions in some sites hosting displaced population camps present a challenge to host communities, displaced people and aid agencies: staying informed and life-saving health interventions require rapid and effective communication.





Libya: SME support, online purchases & cash for PPE

- Helping small businesses stay afloat with a top-up cash grants.
- Cash assistance to collective centres hosting displaced families with pre-paid cards for online purchases with home deliveries (restricted list of food and hygiene items)
- Cash assistance to Health facilities to procure PPE locally (restricted to a set list of PPE)



Venezuela: support to community canteens

- Financial assistance and hygiene support to community canteens in violence-prone areas of Caracas.



Market Place Setup Guide

Guidance for National Societies on advocating for COVID-19 sensitive strategies to support markets to recover and function

