



Save the Children

CVA

TECHNICAL
NOTE

Romania

-February 2024-

CVA as part of integrated assistance hubs

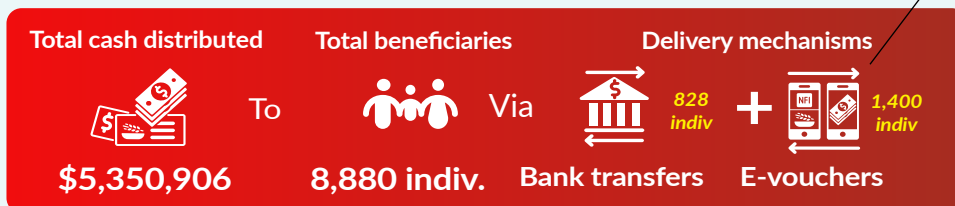
These technical notes have been developed for each country of the Ukraine response and focuses on providing more details on key technical approaches used by response countries.

This technical note focuses on illustrating how CVA has been used as a response modality within integrated assistance hubs models, and more particularly on to support Education, Child Protection and social cohesion outcomes.

While this model was used across the response in Romania, this technical note uses data specific to a project funded by the NMFA.

Program overview

Unconditional
-
Unrestricted



One off, one voucher per individual

3 monthly cash transfers - \$120/monthly/person

April 2022



10,000 indiv.

September 2023

Ongoing

Background

Since the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine, over 5.325.735 Ukrainians have transited Romania. At the end of July 2023, there were 95.035 Ukrainian refugees registered in Romania. From having a blanket accommodation policy for all Ukrainians, the accommodation support programme, effective May 2023, was made available only to those who were meeting several criteria related to vulnerability, labour market and educational integration. This led to a constant movement of people from place to place, including people returning to Ukraine due to financial reasons. Even though in 2022 there was a low enrolment rate (2,577 students), in March 2023, that number had increased to 4,008, due mainly to the changing in the accommodation programme. In addition, there was a high demand for basic needs (food, clothing, and cash).

According to an assessment conducted by [IMPACT and Save the Children](#), an important concern raised by children and caregivers mention their overall well-being, specifically the lack of social connections and the experience of loneliness. This finding highlights the significance of addressing social isolation and promoting social engagement as essential components of comprehensive support systems. Save the Children Romania continued to deliver assistance to facilitate access to basic humanitarian support but emphasizing facilitation of community integration, promotion of self-reliance, and planning for durable (medium or long term) solutions for their families. To that end, Save the Children created counselling centres in the cities with the highest number of Ukrainian refugees, to support persons to access education, medical care, jobs and emotional counselling services.

The integrated Hub model



SC developed social services in 4 counselling centres (Bucharest, Galati, Tulcea, Maramures counties) and educational programs in 8 schools (Bucharest, Galati, Tulcea, Maramures and Constanta areas). In all locations social cohesion activities, as well as psychosocial support, were carried out to facilitate integration.

Overall, through the support of NMFA, SC reached 2.265 children and 1.511 adults with support activities that aimed to reduce long term vulnerability.

Under the educational component, the after-schools programs included activities to support children's learning and reduce the educational gaps, homework support, reading classes and Romanian language courses. The activities were carried out in partnership with local schools to promote community integration and help children and families adapt to school requirements and environment, as well as build connection with host community children. Support for enrolment was provided both through information and orientation, and through financial assistance for procurement of basic school supplies and clothing. Based on case management, Save the Children has provided educational vouchers to ensure that the most marginalized children have access to education by overcoming the financial gaps thus decreasing the inequalities between Romanian children and Ukrainian children.



Child protection activities were provided in 4 counselling hubs set up by Save the Children Romania under the Ukraine Response. In these centres, the team consists of social workers, cultural mediators, psychologists, and educational facilitators. For refugee families, SC provide social assistance, information, accompaniment and translation, essential products, and financial support. SC also facilitate access to medical services, enrol children in schools, and support adults in finding employment while providing financial assistance to meet specific needs of the households. Save the Children's psychologists offered individual and group psychological counselling.



Under the case management process, it was possible to respond individually to the identified needs of the children. Interventions included also access to medical service, so that children improve their health as well as physical and cognitive development. Through the mobile teams, social assessments and interventions were carried out in communities that were unable to travel to Counselling Hubs.

CVA for Education design patterns



One of the financial assistance options made available in the hubs was CVA for Education.

The delivery mechanism chosen was a digital voucher of a value of 400 RON, that could be used for the purchase of the following items and services (non-exhaustive list):

- School supplies
- Clothing
- Footwear
- Gadgets
- Educational materials
- Medications
- Other specific needs, including food and hygiene products

It should be noted that this digital voucher could be used in an extensive network of shops, un-restricted, and therefore shared similarities with pre-paid cards (except it could not be used to withdraw cash). 92% of participants reported that the voucher was easy to use and 76% were satisfied with the range of purchasing options for educational products.

A family situation evaluation was conducted in the hubs, considering the below eligibility criteria:

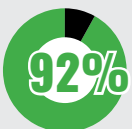
- Families residing in Romania for a minimum of 2 months;
- Preschool, primary, or high school children enrolled in an educational institution in Romania. For this criterion, a certificate verifying their enrollment in the Romanian educational system will be required;
- Children enrolled in Save the Children programs, with an attendance rate of 80-90% in the last 3 months;
- Families or single individuals with 2 or more children living in Romania;
- Families with an elderly adult (grandparent) responsible for one or more children, with supporting documents proving legal guardianship;
- Families where a child or one of the parents/legal guardians has disabilities or a chronic illness requiring constant supervision;
- Families where adults are attending Romanian language courses, regardless of the organizing institution.

Note: Criteria 1 and 2 are mandatory. A beneficiary can receive this financial support only if they meet at least 3 criteria, including the first 2.

Impact of the integrated assistance package on Education outcomes



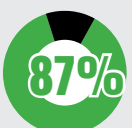
reported that the CVA improved their children's access to education opportunities



reported that the CVA provided access to education that otherwise would have been challenging or impossible to attain

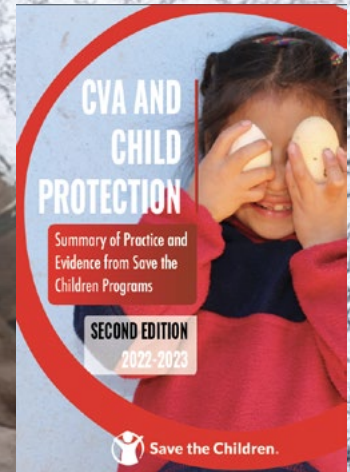


reported that the CVA covered essential education costs adequately



of beneficiaries that received both case management and CVA considered that the combination of the two has likely further contributed to improving educational outcomes.

This technical factsheet needs to be read in complement of three following other documents:



The Save the Children Eastern Europe Capacity Statement ([link](#)) regroups key information, by country, on overall program design, reach and impact.

The 'Cash on the Move' ([link](#)) report provides an overall analysis and lessons learnt on the use of cash to assist populations on the move in the Ukraine response.

Save the Children's cross country research on CVA & CP, including the Romania specific case study ([link](#)).



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