

CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE FOR PROTECTION

Taking Stock of Cash and Voucher Assistance to Achieve Protection Outcomes in the Protection Sector in Humanitarian Settings

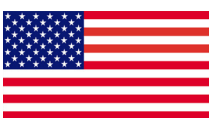


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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) Task Team on Cash for Protection (TT C4P) was established in 2017 with the aim of increasing knowledge about the use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) in the protection sector and increasing the effectiveness and quality of programmes using CVA to achieve protection outcomes. The Task Team hosts open membership; **it currently comprises over 40 participants across more than 30 organizations**¹ representing a diversity of organizations, countries and experiences on both protection and CVA. Since 2020, the task team has been harnessing the capacity and expertise of partners by showcasing their work in task team meetings. In 2020 the TT C4P has developed a first **stocktaking paper on the use of CVA to achieve protection outcomes in humanitarian settings**. From 2022, the activities in the task team's terms of reference (TOR) have been focused on supporting objectives reflected within the wider GPC workplan, but also support the [GPC Strategic Framework](#). The TT C4P work plan is centred around strengthening coordination on cash for protection; mapping, generating and disseminating evidence on cash for protection to address critical gaps; and supporting capacity building on cash for protection.

In 2023, the TT C4P realised that promoting a joint understanding of what “cash for protection” was required to uphold the key approaches into program design to scale the use of the modality. A workshop in Rome was convened with actors from the United Nations, International organisations and the Donors' community to review the key guidance, policies, and experiences on “cash for protection”². The workshop advised for the activation of a time bound working group to establish a foundational knowledge of Cash for Protection (C4P) policies and approaches to guide future initiatives, particularly on targeting and transfer value determination. The recommendations also highlighted that greater collaboration was needed between each Area of Responsibility (AoR) and across key stakeholders to create a common agreement on the minimum requirements and key approaches for Cash for Protection. Once these constraints are addressed, it is expected that the C4P will be used in quality, evidence informed, and efficient ways to achieve protection outcomes. As reported by the 2023 *State of the World's Cash* report, “Cash for protection activities has increased across global emergencies”³ from 5% in 2021 to 10 % in 2022. The setback is most likely linked to the lack of understanding, guidance, common definitions and approaches on C4P, as well as lack of clarity around C4P reporting globally.

¹ Members include ActionAid, ADRA, AISVIP, CARE, Caritas Switzerland, Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), Child Fund, Concern Worldwide, DanChurchAid, DRC, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (DG ECHO), Habitat for Humanity, HELPAGE, Hope Revival, ICRC, International Rescue Committee, INTERSOS, IOM, Key Aid Consulting, Mercy Corps, Mercy without Limits, Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, Plan International, Relief International, Save the Children, UN OCHA, UN Women, UNFPA, UNHCR, USAID BHA, War Child Canada, War Child UK, WFP, Women's Refugee Commission, World Vision International and Independent consultants. Membership is open on a rolling basis.

² See the [Report on the Cash for Protection Workshop, Rome, Italy \(29 – 30 May 2023\)](#) - World | ReliefWeb

³ State of the World Cash report, 2023, Chapter 8- CVA Design, [The State of the World's Cash 2023 - The CALP Network](#)



This paper supersedes the stocktaking paper published in 2020 that provided information on the practice and understanding on CVA for protection outcomes within the protection sector amongst humanitarian stakeholders, including implementing agencies (UN, INGO, NGO, and CBO), donors and host governments. It provides an updated landscape on the current practice and highlights the gaps in the use of CVA for protection. It also provides information on the steps taken by the TT C4P to improve the opportunities for the effective use of CVA within the protection sector, and on the focus of the TT C4P and the activities it will focus on until 2024.

While CVA for sectoral or multisectoral outcomes may also contribute to protection outcomes, this paper limits its scope to the protection sector's experience with CVA in stand-alone protection programming.

1.2 Defining the Scope of Cash for Protection

1.2.1 PROTECTION

The Global Protection Cluster adopts the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) definition of protection, which states that protection is *"all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e. human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee laws)."*⁴ The GPC mandate stipulates that all people affected or threatened by disaster or armed conflict have their rights fully respected and their protection assured by relevant and timely actions through all phases of the crisis and beyond. Protection encompasses all efforts pursued by all actors to ensure that the rights of affected persons and the obligations of duty bearers under international law are understood, respected, protected and fulfilled without discrimination. Protection activities seek to keep people safe, **addressing immediate protection concerns** as well as working towards the **prevention or reduction of protection risks**. A protection risk is an actual or potential exposure of the affected population to **violence, coercion, or deliberate deprivation**. Under this understanding, protection activities may involve **preventive actions** to alleviate the worst effects of all forms of abuse and discrimination. This includes **remedial actions** to help people recover from abuse, and actions to create an environment conducive to full respect for the rights of individuals and groups. A protection response may also involve advocacy efforts and assistance programmes designed to promote the rights, safety and dignity of persons of concern, including legal assistance, community outreach, case management and creation of safe spaces for individuals at risk.

With the endorsement of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action (2016),⁵ which emphasizes **collective responsibility and contribution to protection outcomes by all actors in humanitarian action**, the principals of the IASC confirmed the responsibility of humanitarian actors to place protection at the centre of all efforts, including preparedness and life-saving activities, throughout

⁴ IASC (2016) *Protection in humanitarian action Policy*

⁵ IASC (2016) *Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action*



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the duration of a crisis and beyond. As a result, all humanitarian actors – regardless of their functions – should ensure that “the protection of all persons affected and at-risk informs humanitarian decision-making and response, including engagement with States and non-State parties to conflict” by **designing and delivering a humanitarian response that is principled, timely, and holistic, contributing to longer-term recovery.**

In practice, all humanitarian actors must therefore commit to: (i) addressing **protection issues as per their mandate and sector-specific responsibilities**; (ii) engaging collectively with the inter-sector coordination groups, task forces and working groups to **achieve meaningful protection outcomes** that reduce risks and vulnerabilities and enhance capacities; (iii) mobilizing other actors within and beyond the humanitarian system, as appropriate, to **contribute to collective protection outcomes**; and (iv) evaluating commitments and **progress towards placing protection at the centre of the humanitarian response.** It should be noted that the IASC Policy places additional responsibilities on the humanitarian coordinator (HC), humanitarian country teams (HCTs), Clusters and the Protection Cluster on operationalising the centrality of protection.⁶

The GPC has four distinct Areas of Responsibility (AoR), namely **child protection; gender-based violence (GBV); mine action; and housing, land and property (HLP).** In each thematic, the parameters and application of cash and protection are mainstreamed within that technical guidance. However, these AoR should not be interpreted as limiting protection to particular recurrent risks and threats, such as GBV, child abuse, explosive weapons, or eviction, nor concerning only certain demographic groups, such as children or women. Instead, we must understand protection as **all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual.**⁷

1.2.2 CASH AND VOUCHER ASSISTANCE

Different terminologies have been used to refer to the use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in humanitarian emergencies. Common examples are “cash transfer programming” (CTP), “cash-based assistance” (CBA) and “cash-based interventions” (CBI). This paper will use **Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) as the collective term.**⁸ CVA refers to **the direct provision of cash transfers and/or vouchers for goods or services to individuals, households, or group/community recipients.** In the context of humanitarian response, CVA excludes payments to governments or other state actors, remittances, service provider stipends, microfinance and other forms of savings and loans.⁹ CVA has been growing exponentially in the humanitarian sector in the last decade as the interventions are considered a rights-based approach and because the modality is flexible and can easily complement other approaches.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ IASC definition of protection “... all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e. International Human Rights Law (IHRL), International Humanitarian Law, International Refugee law (IRL)).”

⁸ CALP (2023) *Glossary of Terminology for Cash and Voucher Assistance.*

⁹ The terms ‘cash’ or ‘cash assistance’ should be used when referring specifically to cash transfers only (i.e., avoid using ‘cash’ or ‘cash assistance’ when referring to cash and vouchers collectively). CALP (2023) *Glossary of Terminology for Cash and Voucher Assistance.*



1.2.3 CASH FOR PROTECTION

Practitioners have long recognised that CVA – along with in-kind, services and case management – is well positioned to address multisectoral needs and may contribute to protection outcomes¹⁰. In past years, while CVA was a well-established tool for food security and basic needs, **the use of CVA in the protection sector (the focus of this paper) has been more limited compared to its use in other sectors.**¹¹ This was in part due to confusion at programme design and planning stage on whether CVA is designed with protection as a core outcome, but also to limited and complex monitoring, preventing evidence generation (and subsequent demystification of risks associated to the use of CVA in protection programming) and knowledge of impactful programmatic design. In recent years, and including in response to COVID-19 pandemic situation, investments in use of CVA in protection programming and research have increased producing evidence and a larger understanding of cash for protection concepts, definitions, eligibility criteria, calculation of amounts and tools to monitor and measure impact of CVA in protection programming. The scope of protection programmes can range from delivering emergency/protection services to affected populations, to technical support to governments, engagement with communities or delivery of in-kind aid. Since protection is broad and complex, and CVA is flexible and adaptable, the modality is seen as having the potential to contribute to protection outcomes.

While “protection cash” or “cash for protection” as well as “the use of cash and voucher assistance to achieve protection outcomes” have all been used by humanitarian practitioners, there is still a lack of common understanding in the use and application of these concepts and practices. In some cases, the confusion surrounds the use of CVA within the “protection continuum”, while in other cases, the issue is linked to what protection activities *can* and *cannot* be implemented with CVA for protection outcomes. Existing guidance¹² highlights how CVA can be differentiated and used in any of the three spheres of the protection continuum (see Figure 1).

FIGURE 1: THE PROTECTION CONTINUUM



¹⁰ A protection outcome is defined as the reduction of overall risks to affected populations by decreasing threats, reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing capacities. IASC (2016) Protection in humanitarian action Policy.

¹¹ ODI (2016) Cash transfers: what does the evidence say? and also CaLP (2018) The State of the World’s Cash Report.

¹² UNHCR (2015) Guide for Protection in Cash-based Interventions. This GPC-endorsed Guidance has been developed to identify and analyse protection risks, identify mitigation measures (particularly community-based), monitor risks and the effectiveness of risk mitigation measures, and maximise the protection benefits of CVA. The guide established that CVA Programmes should incorporate protective design, implementation and monitoring elements so that the programme does not increase, but rather helps to mitigate risks for beneficiaries or persons of concern.



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1. Protection mainstreaming is the process of incorporating protection principles (namely meaningful access and non-discrimination, safety, dignity and do no harm, accountability, and participation and empowerment) across all stages of the programme cycle in humanitarian programmes using CVA, intended to meet one or multiple basic needs objectives or sector-specific outcomes, such as food security, livelihoods, education, WASH, shelter and health.

EXAMPLE:

An example when it comes to targeting methodologies is to ensure multipurpose cash transfers meet basic needs and do not expose beneficiaries to protection risks (such as bribery and extortion). Also, it is recommended to use community sensitisation, in particular, working with community leaders to ensure that communities understand targeting methodologies, thereby mitigating tensions and associated risks at the community level.

DEFINITION:

Cash for protection is a term used to describe the use of CVA to contribute to the achievement of protection outcomes.

2. Protection integration is the design of humanitarian programmes, including CVA and other modalities, to support both protection and non-protection assistance objectives. In this sphere of the protection continuum, programming includes sector-specific responses beyond the protection sector to achieve protection outcomes, and risk mitigation amongst the affected population. Protection integration requires all humanitarian actors to commit, wherever feasible and appropriate, to protection objectives in the design of their activities. It can support the system-wide commitment to the centrality of protection because it relies on different actors to collaborate as part of a multisector humanitarian response.

EXAMPLES OF CVA IN SECTORAL ACTIVITIES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO PROTECTION OUTCOMES:

shelter (CVA to pay rent); education (CVA for uniforms or textbooks). All these interventions contribute to protection objectives by, for example, preventing negative coping mechanisms including sex work/transactional sex, exploitative/hazardous labour and child labour.

3. Stand-alone protection programmes have specific protection objectives. They aim to prevent and respond to protection concerns such as violence, exploitation, deliberate deprivation or discrimination and to support beneficiaries to enjoy their rights. Humanitarian actors with protection expertise play a key role in ensuring the implementation of specialised protection activities and services that aim to meet specific protection objectives.

EXAMPLE OF STAND-ALONE PROTECTION APPLICATION:

Use of CVA to support programmes that implement protection activities. Activities range from prevention to reduction of protection risks. Legal case management with cash assistance is often provided alongside those stand-alone activities, as financial barriers prevent access to civil documentation, a main element to benefit from full protection assistance.

This paper focuses exclusively on the third aspect of the continuum, that is, **cash for stand-alone protection**.



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The **objective of Cash for Protection is to respond to urgent and immediate consequences of violence, coercion, deprivation and abuse.** It aims to address or reduce the impact of serious harm because of a protection threat. In Cash for Protection CVA is used as one of several modalities for a protection response. It can be both a responsive and remedial action, meaning that it is aimed at contributing to preventing, reducing or mitigating exposure to protection risks, or limiting the effects of violations on victims.¹³

¹³ Protection Cluster, UNHCR (2023), *Cash for Protection Guidelines for Protection Partners*

2 Cash for Protection: Current Evidence, Practice and Gaps

2.1 Risks Related to CVA

CVA modalities are not inherently riskier than other modalities. Like all modalities, there are risks that are context-specific and particular to age, gender and diversity.¹⁴ A considerable amount of work has been undertaken on exploring potential risks that beneficiary populations may face as a result of using CVA (i.e. whether the introduction or delivery method of CVA creates protection risks).¹⁵ In response to this, a number of tools¹⁶ have been developed to support humanitarian practitioners to mitigate risks and inclusion in cash assistance by systematically identifying risks that beneficiary populations may face as a result of receiving CVA in humanitarian settings.^{17,18} While further discussion on risks associated with CVA is pending, the purpose of this paper is to explore the use of CVA to achieve protection outcomes in humanitarian settings and, as such, the remaining sections of this paper are dedicated to this endeavour.

2.2 Cash for Protection

A foundational literature review was undertaken in 2015 that summarised the research and identified gaps.¹⁹ Since then, a number of papers on CVA and protection have recently been published and document the models and results of using CVA as a modality to achieve child protection,^{20,21,22,23,24} GBV,^{25,26,27,28} HLP,²⁹ mine action,^{30,31} gender³² and mental health and

¹⁴ For more information, see *CaLP (2018) Cash and Voucher Assistance and Risk*.

¹⁵ See, for example, *UNHCR (2015) Guide for Protection in Cash-based Interventions and UNHCR (2015) Protection Risks and Benefits Analysis Tool*.

¹⁶ The GPC recommends using the *Protection Risks and Benefits Analysis Tool Decision Tree* to identify and assign context-specific weights/importance to protection risks and benefits in terms of safety and dignity, access, data protection, market impacts, people with specific needs and risks, social relations, fraud and diversion, and durable solutions/early recovery.

¹⁷ *IRC (2019) Safer Cash Toolkit* and *WRC, IRC and Mercy Corps (2018) Toolkit for Optimizing CBI for Protection from GBV*.

¹⁸ *GBV AoR and UNFPA (2022) GBV Risk Mitigation in CVA Toolkit* and *UNFPA (2023) Indicators for GBV Risk Mitigation in Cash Assistance with Supporting Guidance*.

¹⁹ *UNHCR (2015) Protection Outcomes in Cash-Based Interventions: A Literature Review*.

²⁰ *LSE (2019) Cash Transfer Programming in the Education and Child Protection Sectors: Literature review and Evidence maps*.

²¹ *Child protection and cash-based interventions tip-sheet*.

²² *UNHCR (2019) Protection Impacts of Cash Assistance with a focus on Child Protection (Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon)*.

²³ *Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2019) Cash transfer programming and child protection in humanitarian action: review and opportunities to strengthen the evidence*.

²⁴ *Save the Children (2022), CVA and Child Protection: Summary of practice and evidence from Save the Children programmes*

²⁵ *UNICEF (2018) A mixed-method review of cash transfers and intimate partner violence in low and middle-income countries*

²⁶ *UNHCR (2019) Cash assistance and the prevention, mitigation and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) - Findings from Lebanon, Ecuador and Morocco*.

²⁷ *WRC, CARE (2022) Technical Resources: Evidence on the Use of Cash and Voucher Assistance to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Settings*.

²⁸ *Recent evidence base on CVA and GBV has been produced by UNFPA: Cash Assistance for GBV Survivors Receiving Case Management in Indonesia (2023) and Cash within GBV case management for women and adolescent girls in Colombia (2023); From Risk to Choice: Cash within GBV Case Management in Jordan (2022); Philippines Case Study: Cash for Protection for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Women at Risk of GBV (2022); Women and Girls Choose: Cash Assistance in GBV Case Management Saves Lives (2021); Lebanon Case Study: Integrating Cash Assistance into GBV Case Management(2021); Somalia CVA Case Study: Cash and Voucher Assistance and Gender-Based Violence Risk Mitigation (2021).*

²⁹ *GPC (2017) Housing, Land and Property (HLP) and Cash Based Interventions Tip Sheet*.

³⁰ *GPC (2017) Mine Action and Cash Based Interventions Tip Sheet*

³¹ *GPC - TT C4P (2020) Cash and Voucher Assistance for Achieving Protection Outcomes in Mine Action*

³² *UNHCR (2019) Cash Assistance and Gender - Key Considerations and Learning*.



psychosocial support (MHPSS) outcomes.³³ The TT C4P is in the process of updating the tip sheets on CVA and Child Protection, HLP and Mine Action, consolidating information over latest evidence and guidance.

In 2023, the Ukraine Regional Response C4PTT in collaboration with the Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) Network for the Ukraine Response has produced a learning report to gather and analyse C4P programmatic experience and lessons learned from the Ukraine crisis response to support the work of agencies engaging in C4P as part of the response while contributing to the global bank of operational learning and guidance on C4P.³⁴

An increasing number of humanitarian actors have used CVA as modality within the protection sector by pairing CVA with case management, protection monitoring and other services to achieve protection outcomes. It is important to use these learnings to build greater evidence and design features to use CVA successfully in different contexts to address multiple protection concerns and risks and meet protection outcomes.

CVA, when used in protection programming — **along with in-kind assistance, case management and/or other services** — **has the potential to contribute to protection outcomes**. For example, using cash in a GBV response when legal services or health services are not available free of charge can facilitate survivors' recovery by allowing access to these services.³⁵ CVA alone cannot achieve meaningful long-term protection outcomes. A holistic assistance approach that encompasses complementarity, such as between case management and CVA, has been highlighted as crucial to achieve protection outcomes. The challenge is to access sufficient resources, including longer-term funding opportunities and experienced staff to support quality protection programming.

The provision of cash for protection is driven by a **causal link between a clearly identified protection concern and the analysis of how the cash assistance provided will contribute to producing a protection outcome** by preventing, reducing or mitigating the risks identified. Cash for protection is not intended to address socio-economic vulnerabilities.³⁶ However, evidence demonstrated that the lines between Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) (but also coverage of other sectoral needs, such as health) and C4P are sometimes still blurry³⁷. As raised in the learning report on Cash and Protection in the Ukraine Regional Response, some actors advocate for a more holistic interpretation and operationalization of C4P, opposing a restrictive, sectoral definition, while others adopt a very rigid definition of C4P at operational stage and recognize the need for consistency and harmonization.³⁸

³³ *Islamic Relief Worldwide (2016) Learning Brief: Gender Study – Conditional Cash Project for Vulnerable Syrian and Jordanian Children in Irbid, Jordan and Save the Children (2015) Impact of Multipurpose Cash Assistance on outcomes for Children in Lebanon.*

³⁴ *GPC TTC4P Regional Ukraine Response and CDD (2023) Cash and Protection in the Ukraine Response Learning Report*

³⁵ *See UNFPA (2023) UNFPA Guidance: How to Design and Set Up Cash Assistance in GBV Case Management.*

³⁶ *Cash for Protection definitions: Working Document | Global Protection Cluster*

³⁷ *GPC TTC4P Regional Ukraine Response and CDD (2023) Cash and Protection in the Ukraine Response Learning Report*

³⁸ *GPC TTC4P Regional Ukraine Response and CDD (2023) Cash and Protection in the Ukraine Response Learning Report*



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While the evidence on the use of CVA in protection programming is growing, gaps remain in determining what complementary services are necessary to reach longer-term protection outcomes. Learning is still needed to understand the breadth of using CVA in the protection sector in a strategic and coordinated manner.

Future research should also map and analyse findings from development settings (e.g. literature on social safety nets) on cash for protection outcomes across areas of responsibility and for populations at risk and be tested in humanitarian settings.

2.3 Understanding the use of CVA to achieve protection outcomes in the protection sector

Efforts have been made to delineate criteria to support the decision to use CVA for protection outcomes in contexts where CVA has been deemed feasible. For example, for the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), cash transfers are one of **several modalities of response that can be used in humanitarian protection programming**.³⁹ There is common agreement among donors and practitioners that the entry point for the design of any humanitarian protection action is a contextualised Protection Risk Analysis which identifies a specific protection risk to be addressed.

CVA can be used in protection programmes to address a range of household and individual protection needs to meet context-specific protection outcomes.

Unconditional as well as conditional cash transfers might also be used to support durable solutions for displaced people, assisting voluntary return with financial support to cover transportation, reintegration and basic needs. In some contexts, CVA is used to enable access to legal assistance and other auxiliary costs. For instance, cash might cover legal and administration fees and transportation costs to attend court hearings.⁴⁰

Complementary programmes which combine CVA with one or more types of modalities and/or activities are another area where attention is needed. Types of complementary support can consist of (i) components that are provided as integral elements of CVA intervention, such as through the provision of additional benefits or in-kind transfers, information or behaviour change communication (BCC), or psychosocial support, and (ii) components that are external to the intervention but offer explicit linkages into services provided by other sectors, such as through direct provision of access to services or facilitating linkages to services. **Better defining how the different modalities and/or activities complement each other to reach protection outcomes will help to promote this approach**, while avoiding uses that do not necessarily aim directly at achieving protection outcomes.

³⁹ "Cash Based Intervention (CBI) can be considered as an assistance tool when: 1) the protection analysis clearly identifies which threats are addressed by the action and how CBI is the most appropriate modality alongside the other components of the programme; 2) the logical causality and the process leading to the protection outcome through the chosen CBI modality is clearly and explicitly identified, 3) the CBI is framed in a range of protection activities and processes." *Directorate-General (DG) for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) (2016), Improving protection outcomes to reduce risks for people in humanitarian crises For guidance on cash transfer see Directorate-General (DG) for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) (2022), Cash Transfer policy "Annex 3 - Enhancing sectoral outcomes through cash and voucher assistance"*.

⁴⁰ <http://www.cashlearning.org/sector-specific-cash-transfer-programming/protection-1>.



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The use of CVA for achieving protection outcomes may also be used to advance impact on topics such as **complementary protection programmes, gender dynamics and resilience**. These areas merit future research.

2.3.1 GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

In recent years, there has been an increase in evidence aimed at defining GBV outcomes that can be achieved through the use of CVA⁴¹, as well as the limitations. Broadly, when a lack of financial resources and economic opportunities is a contributing factor to GBV, or lack of resources is the result of a GBV incident (for example, temporary loss of a survivor's livelihood income due to trauma incurred), CVA may be an appropriate modality to respond to and mitigate the risks of GBV.⁴²

⁴¹ See for example UNFPA: *Lebanon Case Study: Integrating Cash Assistance into GBV Case Management (2022)*; *Women and Girls Choose: Cash Assistance in GBV Case Management Saves Lives(2022)*; *Vouchers for Essential Items and GBV Prevention and Response: Palestine(2021)*

⁴² IRC and WRC (2018) *Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programming and Gender-based Violence Outcomes: Evidence and Future Research Priorities* <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/genderandcptrc.pdf>.

SOURCES FROM TABLE OVERLEAF:

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ WRC, CARE (2022) *Integrated Cash and Gender-Based Violence Programming for IPV Survivors in Guayaquil, Ecuador* <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Integrated-Cash-Gender-Based-Violence-Programming-Survivors-Ecuador-English-Summary.pdf>.

⁴⁶ WRC, CARE (2022) *The Impact of Integrating Cash Assistance into Gender-Based Violence Response in Northwest Syria* <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/No-one-has-power-over-me-Snapshot.pdf>.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ IRC and WRC (2018) *Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programming and Gender-based Violence Outcomes: Evidence and Future Research Priorities* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/humanitarian-cash-transfer-programming-and-gender-based-violence-outcomes-evidence-and-future-research-priorities/>.

⁵¹ La Viña, Celine Salcedo *Beyond Title: How to Secure Land Tenure for Women* - World Resources Institute 2020 at <https://www.wri.org/insights/beyond-title-how-secure-land-tenure-women>

⁵² Notably, one evaluation found that “the inclusion of individuals with diverse SOGIESC in the study enhanced program criteria to be more inclusive, and provided findings for this routinely underserved population to help address evidence gaps on tailoring cash integrated GBV case management for trans GBV survivors.” WRC, CARE (2022) *The Effectiveness of Cash Assistance Integrated Into Gender-Based Violence Case Management for Forced Migrants, Refugees, and Host Nationals in Norte de Santander, Colombia* <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Effectiveness-Cash-Assistance-Integrated-Gender-Based-Violence-Summary.pdf>.

⁵³ CALP Network (2022) *CVA & GBV Outcomes MENA Series – Webinars, Workshops, and the Way Forward*.

⁵⁴ See for example *Save the Children (2021) Money Matters: A toolkit for caseworkers to support adult and adolescents clients with basic money management*.

⁵⁵ IRC and WRC (2018) *Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programming and Gender-based Violence Outcomes: Evidence and Future Research Priorities* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/humanitarian-cash-transfer-programming-and-gender-based-violence-outcomes-evidence-and-future-research-priorities/>.



GBV OUTCOMES

REDUCTION IN RISK OR EXPOSURE TO GBV:⁴³

- Improved distribution of household decision-making power
- Reduction of intimate partner violence
- Reduction of risk or exposure to sexual harassment, exploitation or abuse
- Contributes to reduction or prevention of forced and early marriage (when associated to complementary protection activities)
- Increased asset ownership or control over resources^{44,45,46}

ACCESS TO SERVICES:⁴⁷

- Gender-based violence survivor access to response and recovery services
- Access to reproductive health services
- Access to psychological/mental health services
- Avoidance of risky coping strategies⁴⁸
- Reduction of reliance on or improved safety of sex work⁴⁹

LIMITATIONS

- CVA alone cannot overcome gender-based norms and systems, such as community-wide perceptions of violence and family planning, the inability to inherit or own property, the guardianship of children upon divorce, or address the absence of existing support services.
- Some evidence suggests that cash had less impact on GBV perpetrated by non-partner aggressors, notably those in positions of authority with particular reference to risk faced by those without required legal documents.⁵⁰
 - Poor identification and understanding of gender specific barriers to the exercise of HLP rights.⁵¹
- Persistence of poor practice (poor coordination between cash and GBV practitioners, failure to integrate cash and GBV programming and a failure to conduct ongoing gender and protection analysis) undercuts the potential of CVA contributing to GBV outcomes.
- Some cash and GBV practitioners currently operate in silos, which inhibits coordination. As a result, programming is not integrated and ongoing gender and protection analysis across the programme cycle is absent.

EVIDENCE GAPS

1. The impact of CVA for the most excluded and marginalized groups of GBV survivors and individuals at risk, including women with disabilities, older women, married and unmarried adolescent girls, and persons with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities.^{52,53}
2. How different forms of CVA (for example, conditional and unconditional as well as restricted and unrestricted transfers) and delivering mechanisms (ATM card, mobile money, cash in hand/cash in envelopes) influence prevention and recovery.
3. What activities paired with CVA are most effective — gender discussion groups, links to sustainable livelihoods, financial literacy training,⁵⁴ etc., to enhance women's protection.
4. The long-term impacts once the short humanitarian programme cycle wraps up and displaced individuals continue to recover from shocks and may have to respond to new ones.⁵⁵



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Key Findings: The majority of evidence relates to the impact of CVA on risk or exposure to GBV outcomes; less evidence is available on the impact of CVA supporting access to life-saving services and mitigating harmful coping strategies amongst vulnerable groups. Evidence on the impact of CVA supporting increased household decision-making power was the most common (52%), followed by reduced intimate partner violence (23%), increased asset ownership and control of resources (9%) and reduced early and forced marriage (6%).^{56,57} Receiving cash prevented some participants from returning to or engaging with their abusers in moments of economic instability, even when their abusers tried to take advantage of their financial vulnerability.⁵⁸ Engagement in sex work, access to GBV response and recovery services, and exposure to sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse were represented in only two studies.⁵⁹

The majority of studies referenced **unrestricted, unconditional cash as the preferred cash modality**, followed by complementary programming⁶⁰ and conditional cash transfers.⁶¹ Findings show that MPCs have mixed results on the prevention, mitigation and response to GBV. Although prevention of resorting to negative coping mechanisms is a general outcome of MPC, that is also not sustainable if not linked to longer term multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approaches. In programmes that aim to achieve protection outcomes, evidence shows that it is crucial to have a good understanding of gender dynamics in communities and the determinants of the specific GBV risks to reduce with the CVA assistance. At the conception of the intervention, it is vital to determine first if GBV is rooted in economic stress and if CVA can make a positive difference — and to develop a robust theory of change and causal logic. Overall, the deciding factor for achieving a positive outcome was pairing MPCs with cash plus programming — complementary activities, such as case management,^{62,63,64} gender discussion groups and psychosocial support delivered as part of programming to support individuals at risk of GBV and survivors.⁶⁵ In recent guidance, UNFPA recommends the use of **unrestricted and unconditional cash assistance** rather than vouchers whenever possible in order to ensure greater agency and empowerment of the GBV survivors.⁶⁶

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ WRC and CARE (2022) *Integrating Cash Assistance into Gender-Based Violence Case Management: Learnings from Colombia, Ecuador and Northwest Syria* <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Cash-Voucher-Gender-Based-Violence-Colombia-Ecuador-Syria-Snapshot.pdf>.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ IRC and WRC (2018) *Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programming and Gender-based Violence Outcomes: Evidence and Future Research Priorities* <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/genderandctpwrcirc.pdf>.

⁶⁰ Complementary programming or Cash plus refers to the combination of different modalities and/or activities to achieve objectives. See CaLP (2019) *Glossary for CaLP Terminology for Cash and Voucher Assistance*, <http://www.cashlearning.org/resources/glossary#CVA>.

⁶¹ For more information on these types of CVA modalities see CaLP (2019) *Glossary for CaLP Terminology for Cash and Voucher Assistance*, <http://www.cashlearning.org/resources/glossary#CVA>.

⁶² WRC, CARE (2022) *Integrating Cash Assistance into Gender-Based Violence Case Management: Learnings from Colombia, Ecuador and Northwest Syria* <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Cash-Voucher-Gender-Based-Violence-Colombia-Ecuador-Syria-Snapshot.pdf>.

⁶³ CALP Network (2022) *CVA & GBV Outcomes MENA Series – Webinars, Workshops, and the Way Forward* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cva-gbv-outcomes-mena-series-webinars-workshops-and-the-way-forward/>.

⁶⁴ UNFPA (2023) *UNFPA Guidance: How to Design and Set Up Cash Assistance in GBV Case Management and relevant case studies: From Risk to Choice: Cash within GBV Case Management in Jordan (2022); Philippines Case Study: Cash for Protection for Survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Women at Risk of GBV (2022)*

⁶⁵ IRC and WRC (2018) *Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programming and Gender-based Violence Outcomes: Evidence and Future Research Priorities* <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/genderandctpwrcirc.pdf>.

⁶⁶ UNFPA (2023) (UNFPA): *How to design and set up cash assistance in GBV case management*



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Poor targeting practices were identified in many of the studies based on assumptions that gender-based targeting (for example, targeting female heads of household) would yield positive and protective results. Gender-based targeting that is based on assumptions (for example, that women will spend CVA to enhance family well-being) rather than consulting crisis-affected communities about who should be targeted within the household with insights on the potential risks and benefits may cause harm and reinforce gender inequality.⁶⁷ Consultations with men and women (held separately) and a thorough gender and risk analysis are needed to inform targeting approaches.⁶⁸

In some cases, the amount of the cash transfer was insufficient to address survivors' protection needs.⁶⁹ Without sufficient assistance to meet their basic needs and in the absence of strong livelihoods support, many participants spent the cash transfer on meeting basic needs, obtaining medical care or medicines, or paying off debts, rather than using it for expenditures that would more directly reduce GBV and increase protection.⁷⁰ CVA for GBV outcomes needs to complement MPCA to make sure that recipients' basic needs are covered, as well as their protection needs. CVA for GBV outcomes and MPCA are not mutually exclusive but are both necessary and complementary. When CVA for GBV and MPCA are not harmonised in the triage of survivors, the assistance often covers basic needs only, leaving protection needs unfulfilled. Getting it right requires strong coordination, adequate funding and a robust programme design.⁷¹ Similarly, stronger referrals and integration/collaboration between GBV programming and livelihoods programming are needed and livelihoods programme design should address and mitigate GBV risks as well as be gender-responsive at minimum and, ideally, gender-transformative.

Positive spillover effects of CVA on GBV included improved psychosocial well-being, such as reduced anxiety and increased morale; increased confidence to report GBV; increased ability to participate in social activities and community practices; improved community relations; and access to education. There is also some evidence that CVA may reduce GBV risks even though it was not specifically designed to do so; however, the risk reduction is usually short term. There is also some evidence that combining CVA with appropriate protection services may result in a more sustainable protection impact that goes beyond the duration of the cash transfer.

Negative spillover effects of CVA on GBV within the limited number of studies included the double burden that befell women who were targeted by CVA and experienced an increase to their already taxing workload because of changes in gender roles; deterioration in community relations due to jealousy from those not targeted by an intervention and

⁶⁷ The question of targeting practices and vulnerability criteria in CVA are explored further in section 2.4 of this paper.

⁶⁸ IRC and WRC (2018) *Humanitarian Cash Transfer Programming and Gender-based Violence Outcomes: Evidence and Future Research Priorities* <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/genderandctpwrcirc.pdf>.

⁶⁹ WRC, CARE (2022) *Integrating Cash Assistance into Gender-Based Violence Case Management: Learnings from Colombia, Ecuador and Northwest Syria*. <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Cash-Voucher-Gender-Based-Violence-Colombia-Ecuador-Syria-Snapshot.pdf>.

⁷⁰ *Ibid.*

⁷¹ CALP Network (2022) *CVA & GBV Outcomes MENA Series – Webinars, Workshops, and the Way Forward* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cva-gbv-outcomes-mena-series-webinars-workshops-and-the-way-forward/>.



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allegations of corruption in the selection process; and reports of unsettled marital dynamics (such as divorce, second marriages or abandonment, although many reports were anecdotal).⁷²

2.3.2 CHILD PROTECTION

Interagency efforts have been made to define how CVA supports child protection outcomes. The London School of Economics has developed a review highlighting an evidence map for CVA in child protection and key gaps, as well as recommendations for future research.⁷³ If supported by context-specific analysis, the review suggests that CVA can help to reduce negative coping strategies, such as child labour, child marriage and school dropouts. CVA does not have to target children directly to yield positive effects on children; in fact, child-protection outcomes can be generated through several mainstreaming sectoral approaches. Indeed, one review focusing on CVA impacts on adolescents found that they benefited from CVA programming as indirect beneficiaries where CVA is transferred to an adult in the household.⁷⁴ Because of perceived risks, the possibility of including children and adolescents as direct recipients of CVA has been considered controversial. Subsequently, there are currently few settings where direct transfers to children/adolescents have been employed. This exclusion of children and adolescents from programs that are prioritizing cash and voucher assistance may be harmful, limiting actors' ability to reach some of those who are most at risk.⁷⁵ There is need to evidence generation on the highly controversial topic of children as direct recipients of cash transfer programs.

Gender-sensitive approaches within child protection and CVA interventions were found to be lacking in some cases.⁷⁶ The number of well-designed studies that report on the impact of CVA on child protection outcomes is still small and there is insufficient evidence to draw solid conclusions on the relationship between cash and child protection outcomes.⁷⁷

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ CaLP (2018) *Cash Programming in the Education and Child Protection Sectors* <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/calp-education-and-child-protection.pdf>.

⁷⁴ Plan International and WRC (2020) *Cash and Voucher Assistance for Adolescents: An evidence review of how cash and voucher assistance can achieve outcomes for adolescents in humanitarian settings* <https://plan-international.org/publications/cash-and-voucher-assistance-for-adolescents/>.

⁷⁵ *The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2022), Designing cash and voucher assistance to achieve child protection outcomes in humanitarian settings*

⁷⁶ *The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2020) Child Labour Case Study: Conditional cash programming to address child labour and promote education in Turkey* <https://alliancecpha.org/en/child-protection-online-library/child-labour-case-study-conditional-cash-programming-address-child>.

⁷⁷ *Report on the Cash for Protection Workshop, Rome, Italy (29 – 30 May 2023) - World | ReliefWeb*.



CHILD PROTECTION OUTCOMES	LIMITATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced child labour • Reduced risk of child marriage • Reduced exposure to violence • Support to alternative care • Improved access to CP services • Family reunification • Community reintegration • Reduced parental neglect • Improved school attendance and retention • Improved safety and well-being in the family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply-side limitations appear to be crucial and require a multifaceted and coordinated approach. • Lack of physical security and safety concerns can be a significant barrier that CVA alone would not address. • Lack of intersectional approach means that children with disabilities are often overlooked and underserved.⁷⁸
EVIDENCE GAPS	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comparative research and robust evaluations across a broader range of CVA modalities, interventions and contexts. 2. Greater emphasis on monitoring child protection outcomes of C4P. 3. Comparative evaluation of conditionality. 4. Comprehensive programming, particularly the interaction of CVA modalities with interventions aimed at reducing nonfinancial drivers to child protection risks. 5. How CVA can be leveraged to achieve child protection outcomes for those with disabilities. Awareness of the limitations of CVA to child protection outcomes can better inform interventions in these sectors. 	

Key Findings: The child protection sector is increasingly using cash transfer programming as a tool to achieve child protection outcomes. Evidence proves that when integrated into case management, CVA can be a powerful tool to reduce some child protection risks.⁷⁹

With regards to **unaccompanied and separated children (UASC)**, CVA is associated with a decrease in children being separated from their parents and an increase in child-care by parents, close family members/siblings⁸⁰ and foster carers.⁸¹ Evidence also shows that conditional CVA allows mothers to avoid migrating for work and increases the time they spend caring for their children, including breastfeeding their infants. Also, if conditional on

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Save the Children (2022). *CVA and Child Protection: Summary of practice and evidence from Save the Children programmes*

⁸⁰ CaLP (2018) *Cash Transfer Programming in the Education and Child Protection Sectors* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cash-transfer-programming-in-the-education-and-child-protection-sectors-literature-review-and-evidence-maps>.

⁸¹ Plan International (2020) *Cash transfer and child protection - An integrated approach to address the needs of separated adolescents in the Central African Republic*. United Kingdom: Plan and Women's Refugee Commission <https://plan-international.org/uploads/2021/12/cash-transfer-and-child-protection-web.pdf>.



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increased schooling for girls, CVA can increase the time mothers spend caring for their younger children, relieving adolescent girls of this task.⁸² There remains concern around the transfer of cash to children directly, not only for UASC but also for child-headed households and married or pregnant adolescents. One review found, while documenting successful programmes that direct cash assistance to adolescents is likely more widespread than currently acknowledged due to lack of documenting the age of recipients.⁸³ Collecting age-related data, improving risk identification methods and generating additional evidence on how and when to safely distribute cash directly to children will be an important step towards ensuring that vulnerable children are not excluded from this type of humanitarian assistance.⁸⁴

Based on the interventions studied,⁸⁵ there appeared to be potential for CVA to be effective in preventing child labour in the short term in as far as CVA helps to keep children in school and reduces exposure to risk and violence that result from a lack of income. **Evidence of long-term impacts on child labour and practices that may result in risk and violence is lacking.** Conditional cash transfers are an effective way to tackle child labour, but the amount of the transfer has to offset the cost of not relying on child labour. Regardless of the kind of CVA assistance provided, reductions in child labour (often accompanied by increases in school attendance) are unlikely to be maintained beyond the duration of the intervention if implemented as a stand-alone activity. For sustainability reasons it is therefore recommended to integrate CVA with non-CVA activities to strengthen targeted households' livelihoods and economic situation. Case studies in Turkey found significant success in close collaboration between and participation of education actors, child protection case management, child-friendly spaces and working directly with parents, and noted that increased participation of the livelihoods sector in support of the whole household would have further strengthened their intervention.⁸⁶

Similarly, there is limited evidence of whether CVA prevents the occurrence of **child marriages** as a result of mitigating financial needs. Recent studies in the Philippines highlight that child marriage is a complex issue (underpinned by different drivers, including gender inequality, patriarchal power dynamics, poverty, etc.), but investing in education can be a deterrent for families to marry a child. Education is also a mediator of child marriage as data imply that girls in school are less likely to marry than girls out of school. Once a girl drops out of school, usually due to her parents' inability to pay school fees, she is forced into marriage as the only alternative to education⁸⁷. As Cash for education is growing; more rigorous studies must be done to explore the potential for these programming to contribute to protection outcomes and to explore how cash can be used in that paradigm to have a direct impact on reducing the occurrence of child marriage.

⁸² CaLP (2018) Cash Programming in the Education and Child Protection Sectors <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/calp-education-and-child-protection.pdf>.

⁸³ Plan International and WRC (2020) Cash and Voucher Assistance for Adolescents: An evidence review of how cash and voucher assistance can achieve outcomes for adolescents in humanitarian settings <https://plan-international.org/publications/cash-and-voucher-assistance-for-adolescents/>.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ CaLP (2018) Cash Programming in the Education and Child Protection Sectors <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/calp-education-and-child-protection.pdf>.

⁸⁶ The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2020) Child Labour Case Study: Conditional cash programming to address child labour and promote education in Turkey <https://alliancecpa.org/en/child-protection-online-library/child-labour-case-study-conditional-cash-programming-address-child>.

⁸⁷ Plan International, WRC and Our Voices. Our Future: Understanding Risks and Adaptive Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Child Marriage in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). Our Voices. Our Future: Understanding Risks and Adaptive Capacities to Prevent and Respond to Child Marriage in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) - Philippines | ReliefWeb.



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Evidence⁸⁸ appears to indicate that **CVA may be more likely to result in positive child protection outcomes if it includes some flexibility in its design**; for instance, if the delivery mechanism and amount and frequency of cash transfers can be adjusted, the programme has the ability to absorb beneficiaries previously not included and is responsive to life circumstances, such as expansion of families by inclusion of new births, unexpected illness, disability, etc. **Clear monitoring procedures and systematic monitoring and learning throughout the life of the programme** allow capturing intended and unintended consequences for children, both in programmes designed to achieve child protection outcomes and in programmes aimed at improving nutrition, food security or livelihood of households in general.

2.3.3 HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY (HLP)

Interagency efforts have also been made to understand potential HLP outcomes that can be achieved through the use of CVA.^{89,90,91} One review of the literature with regard to the **outcomes of CVA programming in HLP rights**⁹² found:

- Increased Security of Tenure
- Increased occupancy rates of rehabilitated shelter units (although this depends on a variety of factors not just security of tenure)
- Possession of tenure records (written or verbal)
- Decrease in threats of eviction,
- Decreased incidences of eviction
- Improved perceptions of tenure security,
- Decrease in number of disputes,
- Resolution of disputes between tenants and their landlords

Evidence gaps: Overall, the report found that more evidence is needed about HLP outcomes that arise following the use of CVA, with care taken to understand the sustainability of the intervention, differentiating the outcomes as they related to gender, age and disability, the effectiveness of community engagement in the use of CVA in HLP interventions and when the various kinds of CVA are provided and under what circumstances.

Key Findings: Evidence shows that market-based programming might assist in the de facto integration of displaced persons with the host population. Fostering economic connections, including through CVA, across different economic classes may increase displaced persons' access to social and economic capital. **Combining CVA with other types of programming and appropriate services may result in a more sustainable protection impact** that goes beyond the duration of cash assistance. When considering CVA, **the feasibility and capacity of relevant market systems, including housing, rental availability and**

⁸⁸ CaLP (2018) *Cash Programming in the Education and Child Protection Sectors* <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/calp-education-and-child-protection.pdf>.

⁸⁹ UNHCR (2015) *Protection Outcomes in Cash-Based Interventions: A Literature Review* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/protection-outcomes-in-cash-based-interventions-a-literature-review>.

⁹⁰ GPC (2017) *Housing, Land and Property (HLP) and Cash Based Interventions Tip Sheet*.

⁹¹ War Child Canada (2020) *Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) & Housing, Land and Property Rights: Evidence & Future Research Priorities in Humanitarian Settings* https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/warchild_cashreport_04.pdf.

⁹² *Ibid.*



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markets for construction materials, need to be assessed continually throughout the response. MPCA (assistance that can be spent on anything) will always be spent on a household's most urgent unmet needs (usually the majority is spent on food).⁹³

Evidence shows the importance to identify and address the gender specific barriers faced by women for protection of their HLP rights. Examples are higher levels of illiteracy and language barriers among women; women reduced access to civil documentation, particularly identity documents; informal and customary marriages that go unacknowledged by statutory laws and institutions, leaving women out of existing property rights framework; customary law specific gender exclusions, etc. These barriers are easily identifiable by consulting with the targeted women and should be addressed together with the HLP issues in focus.

2.3.4 MINE ACTION

The literature review on mine action conducted by the GPC⁹⁴ and the related tip sheet have been helpful in highlighting the potential impacts of CVA on mine action outcomes.⁹⁵ However, the **evidence is still marginal. The TT C4P will be undertaking periodic evidence mapping on this area** and this position paper will be updated periodically to capture new learnings. A specific marketplace on Mine Action was held during the TTC4P Global Workshop in 2023, attracting questions surrounding the entry point for MA in CVA interventions. It appeared that CVA interventions were still not commonly known in the MA sector as the participants saw little relevance in its use, not least given the focus on Clearance and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), which seemingly provide fewer opportunities for CVA than certain other pillars. However, participants shared experiences in using CVA effectively in places such as Syria and Mali, where cash was used as part of victim assistance (VA) projects, mainly providing cash for the victims to access necessary medical support, prosthetics and livelihoods. Cash interventions in the context of VA was well understood by the participants as it showed strong relevance with other sectors through case management, GBV and CP etc.⁹⁶

Mine action includes demining (nontechnical and technical survey), marking and fencing, clearance and land release, mine risk education (MRE), victim assistance (consisting of emergency and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation, psychosocial support and socioeconomic inclusion) and stockpile destruction. When selecting a CVA delivery mechanism, considerations must be given regarding access for persons with disabilities, including land mine survivors with mobility, sight or hearing impairments, as well as survivors suffering from mental health issues. Physical and mental impairments are not the only challenges that a person with a disability faces to receive assistance, therefore a careful assessment of the delivery mechanism is needed. Barriers are usually context and area specific, therefore partners are recommended to engage with community members and the targeted populations to identify the different barriers and the best way to mitigate them through an inclusive CVA delivery. Mine clearance capacity often cannot meet

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ UNHCR (2015) *Protection Outcomes in Cash-Based Interventions: A Literature Review* <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/erc-protection-and-cash-literature-review-jan2015.pdf>.

⁹⁵ GPC (2020) *Cash and Voucher Assistance for Achieving Protection Outcomes in Mine Action*.

⁹⁶ *Report on the Cash for Protection Workshop, Rome, Italy (29 – 30 May 2023) - World | ReliefWeb*.



demand, leaving communities affected by mines/explosive remnants of war (ERW) to cope with explosive hazard risk that threatens their livelihoods and, subsequently, their lives and limbs. For those people who have an accident with a mine/ERW and survive, generating income tends to be a priority. Once communities have been cleared of mines/ERW, subsequent support is often required to restore the environment and the lives of people affected by the crisis. Applying a human-centred approach helps to shift attention to people, their livelihoods, their choices and preferences from the focus on mine clearance only.

Key Findings: The evidence shows that **intentional mine/ERW risk-taking behaviour is often motivated by livelihood pressures**. Economic necessity and lack of alternative income opportunities may lead to collection of unexploded ERW, which subsequently are neutralised by the villagers themselves and then sold as scrap metal with extracted explosives used, for example, for fishing. This puts them at risk of a mine/ERW accident. Prohibiting scrap metal collection might have a counter-effect, that is, force the trade underground and likely increase the risks to people who are already vulnerable in the face of serious livelihood challenges. Ultimately it is clear that **CVA may facilitate alternative mine/ERW safe livelihood strategies, thereby reducing mine/ERW risk-taking behaviour.**⁹⁷

Resources: Key resources for evidence-based cash for protection can be accessed via CALP's Programme Quality Toolbox⁹⁸ and the GPC and AoRs.⁹⁹ As evidence grows and new resources are developed and existing resources are strengthened, it is essential that these key repositories stay current and are widely accessed.

2.4 Targeting and Profiles of People at Risk

There is common agreement that the decision to intervene through C4P should take into consideration an appropriate analysis of threats, vulnerabilities and capacities (protective factors). The protection risk analysis is based on the protection risk equation framework¹⁰⁰ and constitutes the foundation for the identification of the main protection risks (through an analysis of main threats, vulnerabilities and capacities) faced by different gender, age and diversity groups in a specific context. Protection risk is defined as the actual or potential exposure of the affected population to violence, coercion, or deliberate deprivation (Global Protection Cluster). The analysis should then inform the response. Identifying (through either qualitative or quantitative data) that financial barriers contribute to increasing/worsening incidents/ drivers of protection risks is a key component in the design of a cash for protection intervention.¹⁰¹

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

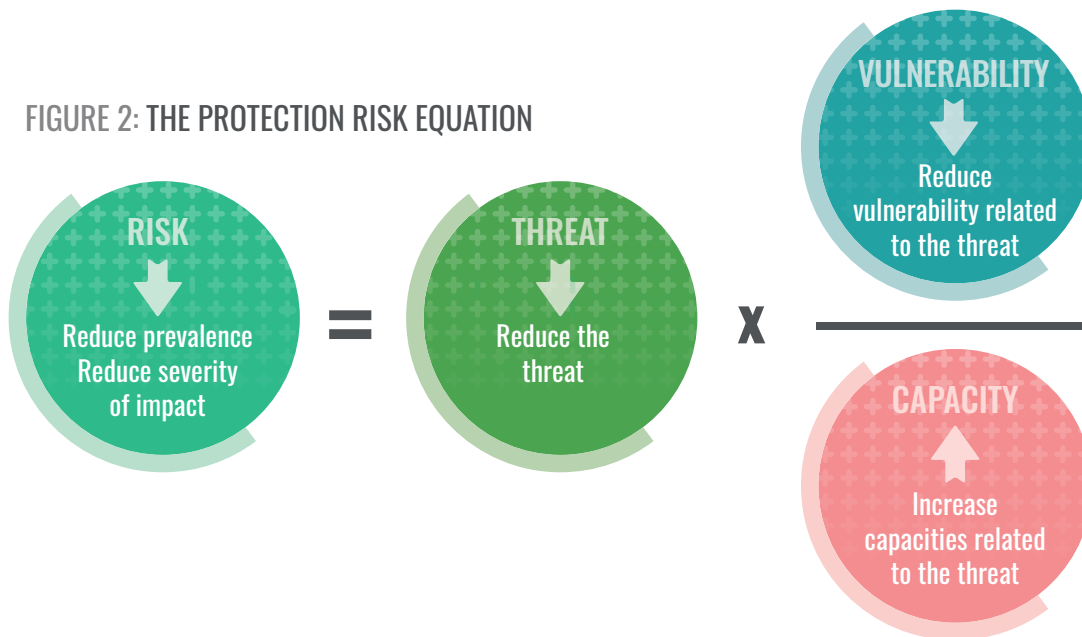
⁹⁸ <http://www.cashlearning.org/resources/--pqtoolboxcashlearning--->

⁹⁹ <http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/>.

¹⁰⁰ The protection risk equation is a non-mathematical representation of the three factors that contribute to risk. A protection risk arises when the threat and the vulnerability (of an individual or a community) are greater than the capacity to prevent, respond, and recover from that specific threat.

¹⁰¹ *Cash for Protection definitions: Working Document | Global Protection Cluster*

FIGURE 2: THE PROTECTION RISK EQUATION



People with context-specific protection risks, such as the increased risk of recruitment of children into armed groups and of early marriage for girls, are not necessarily economically vulnerable. In fact, economic vulnerability and marginalization may be part of the root causes of protection risks. **People are, or become, more vulnerable due to an intersecting combination of physical, social, environmental, cultural and political factors, and vulnerability is not a fixed category.** The concept of intersectionality¹⁰² is important to consider when exploring vulnerability as we must examine how interlocking systems of oppression mean that women and girls experience violence and discrimination differently based on their race, class, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity and religion. Not everyone with the same characteristics will experience the same level of vulnerability. For example, persons with disabilities are often considered as a priority group in a CVA programme or considered as “highly dependent” and “weighted” accordingly in dependency ratios, without considering that they many also have capacities or contribute to economic growth, and without identifying and addressing the barriers that they may face when accessing CVA. One review of literature and programming found that most programmatic reports for humanitarian CVA did not consistently disaggregate by age¹⁰³ making it difficult for the sector to know how people of different ages are impacted by CVA programming.

Protection-sensitive vulnerability targeting attempts to capture the above and simultaneously avoid resorting to the use of standardized vulnerability groups. Using outcomes derived from a protection risk analysis, CVA may be designed in a way that takes into account the protection concerns of individuals and groups based on:

¹⁰² Crenshaw, K. (1989) Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics, <https://chicagounbound.uchicago.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1052&context=uclf>.

¹⁰³ Plan International and WRC (2020) Cash and Voucher Assistance for Adolescents: An evidence review of how cash and voucher assistance can achieve outcomes for adolescents in humanitarian settings <https://plan-international.org/publications/cash-and-voucher-assistance-for-adolescents/>.



- risk of exposure to harm, exploitation, harassment, deprivation and abuse, in relation to identified threats;
- inability to meet basic needs;
- physical, information or attitudinal barriers that may prevent access to service on an equal basis with other individuals or groups;
- limited access to basic services and livelihood/income opportunities and associated risks;
- ability of the person or the population to cope with the consequences of this harm; and
- individuals with specific needs.

Programs including CVA are often designed to enable people to meet their basic needs and access essential services that are inaccessible to them. This may, or may not, include persons requiring specific measures to have equitable access to services and at high risk of deprivation, such as (but not strictly limited to) single parents with multiple dependents, unaccompanied minors, persons with disabilities, older persons, survivors of violence and other categories of people deemed at heightened protection risk.¹⁰⁴

The evidence gathered in Ukraine Regional Response shows that some organisations decided to use categorical targeting within their C4P programming, targeting specific categories of people that they consider “at-risk”.¹⁰⁵ Targeting persons with specific needs equitably with CVA **does not automatically contribute to achieving protection outcomes.**

There is widespread agreement that referrals between CVA and Protection sector and targeting on socio-economic vulnerability alone fall outside the umbrella of Cash for Protection.¹⁰⁶ For instance, providing CVA to a person with a chronic disease and mobility limitations to access prescribed medicines would not be considered an example of cash for protection since the outcome is health related. However, the assistance may be considered as a way of protecting the right to access a service as this service provision falls under the responsibility of the “duty bearer” (i.e. the health service provider). The responsibility of a protection actor may be that of identifying resources that may address this situation, including through referrals to CVA interventions focusing on health outcomes.

¹⁰⁴ UNFPA: *Cash Assistance for Female Sex Workers during the COVID-19 pandemic: Indonesia(2021) and Linking the Rapid Response Mechanism to the Provision of Cash Assistance and Women’s Protection: UNFPA Yemen Case Study (2021).*

¹⁰⁵ *GPC TTC4P Regional Ukraine Response and CDD (2023) Cash and Protection in the Ukraine Response Learning Report.*

¹⁰⁶ *Report on the Cash for Protection Workshop, Rome, Italy (29 – 30 May 2023) - World | ReliefWeb.*



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EVIDENCE GAPS

It is critical to **pay attention to the protection risks faced by specific groups**. Some practitioners have also started to recognize the limits of resorting to one-size-fits-all conceptualisations of vulnerability. However, the following critical gaps remain and require further study:

- Understanding of how multiple and intersecting factors of discrimination that these groups may face when accessing humanitarian assistance, and that may place them in situations of risk, and how these factors can be considered when “weighing” demographics into CVA criteria.
- The level of guidance and evidence around vulnerability-based targeting in CVA varies. Overall, it is recognized that targeting should be based on protection and vulnerability analyses, and that these practices should be based on the inclusion of beneficiaries across the project cycle. However, there is no consensus on an agreed definition of who are the vulnerable and/or who are the most vulnerable since vulnerability changes over time and is context dependent. The factors that contribute to heightened vulnerability to certain risks and how CVA can support risk mitigation require further study.
- Additional efforts are required to understand where the provision of support (through CVA or other means) is actually addressing a situation of discrimination, intended or unintended, which would be then considered a protection issue.
- The use of CVA to address specific requirements and facilitate equal access without discrimination, or to address situations of deliberate deprivation and discrimination.



3 CVA and Protection Coordination

A critical aspect of the effective use of CVA to achieve protection outcomes is ensuring that CVA is adequately integrated within the protection sector and that protection is adequately mainstreamed in the delivery of CVA across all sectors, including the protection sector. Irrespective of which sector CVA is being leveraged, steps must be taken to assess protection risks and benefits, mitigate protection risks and monitor the risks and benefits.¹⁰⁷ The following section of the paper explores specific aspects of coordination which heavily influence the effective delivery of CVA for protection.

3.1 CVA and Protection Communities of Practice

Breaking down silos is essential to enhancing the collective impact of actors using CVA and implementing protection programming. Humanitarian actors (including those leveraging CVA within and across sectors) and protection actors (including those focused on specific areas of responsibility within the protection cluster, for example, child protection, GBV, HLP and mine action) are currently operating in a largely siloed fashion across communities of practice and within agencies/organisations; this leads to lost opportunities for integrated protection programming. The protection sector should therefore proactively reach out to other sectors, and to Cash Working Groups where they exist, to initiate and maintain ongoing dialogue through local, national and international fora. **Lessons learned from integrating CVA in protection programming and in all sectors to achieve protection outcomes needs to be captured, published and disseminated. Overcoming notions that all humanitarian actors are not protection actors, but that all have a responsibility in protection,** is essential to overcoming *siloing* and ensuring the centrality of protection. Co-leads of Cash Working Groups should also be encouraged to participate in the protection cluster/sector meetings to strengthen coordination, and coordination of cash for protection should be systematic as stipulated in the IASC guidance.¹⁰⁸

In order to break down these silos, it is also essential that humanitarian actors, including CVA practitioners, understand basic protection principles, standards, programming approaches and outcomes; how CVA can be integrated into integrated programming and in stand-alone protection programs.¹⁰⁹ Likewise, protection practitioners must understand basic CVA terminology and programming approaches, including when CVA is an appropriate assistance modality in protection programmes; gain awareness and knowledge on the questions and decisions required to design and implement processes involving CVA; and understand the use of mixed-modality and complementary approaches within CVA.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/erc-guide-for-protection-in-cash-based-interventions-web.pdf> and GBV AoR and UNFPA (2022) GBV Risk Mitigation in CVA Toolkit

¹⁰⁸ IASC Cash Coordination Model | IASC ([WWW.interagencystandingcommittee.org](http://www.interagencystandingcommittee.org)).

¹⁰⁹ See UNHCR (2015) Guide for Protection in Cash-based Interventions <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/media/guide-protection-cash-based-interventions> and WRC, IRC and Mercy Corps (2018) Toolkit for Optimizing CBI for Protection from GBV: [http://www.cashlearning.org/resources/library/1170-toolkit-for-optimizing-cash-based-interventions-for-protection-from-gender-based-violence-and-gbv-aor-and-unfpa-\(2022\)-gbv-risk-mitigation-in-cva-toolkit](http://www.cashlearning.org/resources/library/1170-toolkit-for-optimizing-cash-based-interventions-for-protection-from-gender-based-violence-and-gbv-aor-and-unfpa-(2022)-gbv-risk-mitigation-in-cva-toolkit) and UNFPA (2023) UNFPA Guidance: How to Design and Set Up Cash Assistance in GBV Case Management.

¹¹⁰ CaLP (2018) Cash Transfer Programming in the Education and Child Protection Sectors: Literature review and Evidence maps <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/calp-education-and-child-protection.pdf>.



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A key lesson learnt and recommendation from the Ukraine regional response is that a C4P task force (preferably sitting under the national Protection Cluster and supported by the Global Cash for Protection Task Team (C4PTT) should be properly funded from the onset of a response, with dedicated staffing to support technical coordination, adequate communication strategies, ad hoc support and development of technical guidelines.¹¹¹

Key challenges to sufficient mutual capacity strengthening include organisational leadership and financial resources. A number of multi-agency training efforts are underway;^{112,113} however, these will require donor support for broad and sustainable roll-out (for example, through training of trainer modules such as adapting the GPC training on Cash and Protection¹¹⁴) and to monitor uptake and impact. The C4P TT is also developing different training modules for CVA and Protection, HLP & CVA, Cash & CP, Cash & GBV. This will be ready to be rolled-out in the course of 2024.

3.2 Referral Mechanisms

Although practice exists to deliver cash within case management for protection outcomes, there is limited evidence on delivery through case management vs. stand-alone delivery. There are clear benefits to delivering CVA within protection case management, for example, adherence to protection principles, such as upholding a survivor-centered approach (including confidentiality) and case managers' existing skills to appropriately assess needs, tailor referrals, monitoring impacts and adhere to appropriate data protection standards.

CVA should not be the sole component of support for protection outcomes. Referrals should be made widely known by protection actors to providers of CVA — within their own agencies or through partnerships with others delivering CVA, in combination with non-CVA referrals needed to achieve protection outcomes. While a unique internationally recognised definition of cash for protection is not currently available, **it is crucial that at the country/sector level, clear eligibility criteria and uniform implementation approaches of cash for protection activities are agreed upon and harmonised and disseminated to actors in other sectors.** Organisations in both protection and other sectors have to be aware of the criteria for referring protection cases to CVA actors. This will help prevent referrals that cannot be followed up on, which is particularly risky given the broad spectrum of activities addressed by the protection sector and will maximise the quality and efficiency of referrals.

¹¹¹ GPC TTC4P Regional Ukraine Response and CDD (2023) *Cash and Protection in the Ukraine Response Learning Report*

¹¹² In 2019 CARE and WRC with support from UNHCR developed training modules on the CVA & GBV Compendium See: <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/issues/livelihoods/research-and-resources/1549-mainstreaming-gbv-considerations-in-cbis-and-utilizing-cash-in-gbv-response>.

¹¹³ UNFPA E-Learning Course: *How to Integrate Cash Assistance into GBV Case Management based on the UNFPA Guidance: How to Design and Set Up Cash Assistance in GBV Case Management (2023)*

¹¹⁴ [erc-guide-for-protection-in-cash-based-interventions-web.pdf \(calpnetwork.org\)](#)



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3.3 Localisation

Supporting local organisations and systems to engage in and implement CVA for protection is an essential way to overcome barriers of access and resulting protection risks and, further, to ensure that localisation agendas are concretised. Leveraging partnerships between local and international organisations will ensure that the steadfast principle of the 2030 agenda of leaving no one behind (LNOB¹¹⁵), that the needs of survivors and individuals at risk are met, that programs are appropriate for context, and that organizations' expertise complement each other.¹¹⁶ At the global level, as highlighted in the Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Meeting in 2019, too often the power in humanitarian partnerships is unbalanced; dynamics favour northern and international organisations which excludes local actors from global and local fora (including country-level clusters), discussions, policy, funding and implementation. This in turn impacts the quality and effectiveness of CVA overall, including CVA for protection.

It is imperative that the localisation agenda prioritises CVA for protection so that local partners can meaningfully engage and strengthen their existing capacities. In advancing the localisation of protection agenda, it is also imperative that we leverage the unique value add of community-led (including women-led) organisations in the design and implementation of cash for protection activities and programming.¹¹⁷ Progress has been observed in the 2023 *State of the World's Cash* report which states that in order to increase community led responses which could create protection outcomes, the international communities need to facilitate structures and ways of working that are adapted to the strengths of local and national responders¹¹⁸.

Local partners are often relegated to the role of subgrantee to a larger international humanitarian organisation. At the regional and country level, this means they are excluded from participation in the protection cluster and Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) decision-making and have been limited to the role of subgrantee to larger international humanitarian agencies thus preventing them from reaching scale. Insufficient effort to engage local actors in country-level planning through the protection cluster and cash working groups contributes to the deficit of CVA for protection coordination.

Lack of meaningful capacity strengthening on CVA, including CVA-protection issues, is also a major barrier. A tendency to bring in external capacity rather than investing locally in CVA and protection expertise, including CVA for protection expertise, inhibits the localisation agenda. Where investments in training local partners have been made, including micro-grants for community groups focused on protection outcomes,¹¹⁹ these are focused on

¹¹⁵ <https://open.unwomen.org/LNOB>.

¹¹⁶ CALP Network (2022) CVA & GBV Outcomes MENA Series – Webinars, Workshops, and the Way Forward <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cva-gbv-outcomes-mena-series-webinars-workshops-and-the-way-forward/>.

¹¹⁷ For more information, see IASC Grand Bargain Cash Workstream <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/migrated/2021-11/Commitments%20and%20core%20commitments%20by%20workstream.pdf> and the Outcomes of the Grand Bargain Cash Workstream Report 2019 https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/3rd_gb_cash_workstream_workshop_report_-_june_2019_final.pdf.

¹¹⁸ State of the World Cash report, 2023, Chapter -3 Locally Led Response: *The State of the World's Cash 2023 - The CALP Network*.

¹¹⁹ CALP has started the development of guidelines for community cash grants supported by the Local to Global Protection (L2GP) Initiative <https://www.local2global.info/> and <https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Chapter-3-SOWG-2023-Locally-led-response%E2%80%AF.pdf>.



basic technical and operational skills to enable implementation of CVA; local actors are rarely involved in response analysis and strategic decision-making on response.¹²⁰

Local organisations, including those which are women-led and youth-led, have unique contributions to make to CVA for protection responses. They understand the root causes of violence, how protection risks can be exacerbated by crisis and are uniquely placed to identify appropriate solutions to prevent, mitigate and respond, including cash for protection. Women youth, people with disabilities, older persons and indigenous groups are particularly excluded from decision-making around design aspects of CVA, including cash for protection, such as appropriateness of delivery mechanisms and locations for receipt of CVA, access to markets, including markets related to protection (e.g. alternative care, health, legal services, transport, education and birth registration), and gender-responsive complaints and feedback mechanisms. Such organisations are uniquely placed to identify “persons with specific needs”, a key population which may require CVA for protection and which may be least visible and hardest to reach in the community by international organisations. Lastly, evidence is needed on social safety net and protection benefits and how these can make connections to emergencies for protection outcomes.

3.4 The Role of the Protection Sector in Multipurpose Cash and the Minimum Expenditure Basket

The presence of protection actors/focal points in Cash Working Groups is essential to ensuring protection is appropriately mainstreamed throughout CVA (for example, to support protection-related needs assessments or develop tools that capture protection-related needs). But it is also essential for contributing to the development of a minimum expenditure basket (MEB)¹²¹ that includes non-consumption protection-related expenses (e.g. documentation, communications and transportation, legal and administrative fees) to not exacerbate barriers or discrimination for populations at risk, and to support non-protection agencies to monitor positive spillovers for protection outcomes derived from CVA focused on other sectoral objectives. Protection actors ensuring quality services that cannot be monetised and cannot be quantified into an MEB, such as case management, family tracing and reunification, are essential to leveraging CVA for protection outcomes.

¹²⁰ CALP (2018) 'The State of The World's Cash Report: Cash Transfer Programming in Humanitarian Aid' Available at: <http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/calp-sowc-report-web.pdf>.

¹²¹ See CALP's forthcoming MEB decision-making tools aims to accompany practitioners and decision-makers through key stages in the process of calculating an MEB to identify what is the most appropriate path to take in relation to their particular context, identified objective, existing capacities and available resources and access guidance on specific technical issues. The MEB is used by CVA actors to support the calculation of the transfer amount of a **multipurpose/multisectoral cash grant**, contribute to better vulnerability analysis and monitoring, and improve collaboration.



4 Measuring Protection Outcomes and the Impact of CVA for Protection

Discussion took place within the GPC around measuring cash for protection and it remains an open question whether separate indicators are needed vs. adding cash within the different inputs/strategies that achieve various protection outcomes. Methods of action research need to be strengthened and to be more rigorous. Indicators should include protection output/outcome indicators, as CVA can be a strong tool for promoting protection outcomes. Given the current state of evidence on CVA for protection, the designation of an indicator for the measurement of protection outcomes of MPC would be premature at this stage.

Further rigorous research is needed to understand the impact of the use of CVA on protection outcomes. A recent “What Works” report highlights that rigorous, ethical, longer-term evidence that adheres to the principle of do no harm is particularly lacking in conflict settings.¹²² In this regard **more research is needed into the use of CVA for protection in conflict settings that employs mixed-methods quasi-experimental designs**, since the use of other rigorous methods in many conflict-affected settings has proven problematic both ethically and operationally. It has been suggested that existing guidance and tools can be utilised to generate evidence and bridge evidence gaps on using CVA for protection outcomes and to further clarify the optimal CVA design features, such as delivery modality, delivery mechanism, transfer value, frequency of transfer, duration of transfers and complementary activities and service with specific reference to the potential use of case management data.^{123,124}

¹²² Global Women’s Institute and the International Rescue Committee (2019) *What works to prevent violence against women and girls in conflict and humanitarian crisis - Synthesis Brief* <https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/355-p868-irc-synthesis-brief-report-lr-26092019>.

¹²³ CALP Network (2022) *CVA & GBV Outcomes MENA Series – Webinars, Workshops, and the Way Forward* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cva-gbv-outcomes-mena-series-webinars-workshops-and-the-way-forward>.

¹²⁴ UNFPA (2023) *UNFPA Guidance: How to Design and Set Up Cash Assistance in GBV Case Management*



5 Calls to Action

Discussion took place within the GPC around measuring cash for protection and it remains an As previously stated, one of the central aims of this stocktaking paper is to highlight gaps in knowledge, evidence and practice in the use of CVA for protection in order to channel critical attention and resources towards addressing these gaps. The following section outlines the critical areas of focus, as outlined by this paper, for key humanitarian stakeholders:

<p>Donors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund annual evidence-mapping led by the GPC Cash for Protection Task Team. • Fund action research focused on CVA for protection outcomes to build evidence in accordance with the priorities set forth by the GPC Cash for Protection Task Team to meet critical needs. • Consider the unique parameters required to utilise CVA within the protection sector, which include, but are not limited to longer-term project horizons to ensure that affected persons with protection cases have access to sufficient support and can safely graduate from case management services. • Allocate specific funding streams to capacity building of local organisations, not just in the delivery of CVA for protection but in engaging with global policy and programming and in-country decision-making and design of CVA for protection.
<p>Inter-Cluster/ Humanitarian Coordinator/ Humanitarian Country Team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that interventions using CVA contribute to protection outcomes whenever possible. • Ensure the use of the Protection Risks and Benefits Analysis tool to decide the appropriateness of CVA as a modality. • Ensure that protection analysis is undertaken during feasibility assessments in all stages of the HPC to ensure that common. • Ensure that protection risks and threats are considered within technical guidance for CVA. • Ensure CVA is designed to maximise protection outcomes.



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Clusters/Sectors implementing CVA for protection outcomes and/or protection programming

- Invest in capacity strengthening of humanitarian staff to leverage CVA for protection outcomes.
- Endorse/adapt existing yet limited guidance and tools to align with organisational processes and establish their use in policies and protocols.
- Proactively seek out partners — including other implementers and academic institutions/research-focused organizations—to support quality and rigorous action research.
- Include cash for protection within donor proposals based on context-specific assessments.
- Centre CVA for protection within localisation agendas.
- Partner with local NGOs, CBOs and women-led organisations and networks to jointly design interventions in the UN response planning process, decision-making and coordination mechanisms and develop evidence on locally led approaches to cash for protection.

Clusters/Sectors implementing CVA for protection outcomes

- Proactively establish partnerships/protocols with protection actors to integrate CVA as a tool, where appropriate, to better meet protection needs.
- Adopt and prioritise opportunities to tailor the delivery of CVA (for example, capacity to switch between delivery mechanisms) to enhance preparedness for the use of CVA for protection outcomes.
- Partner with local NGOs, CBOs and women’s networks to jointly develop evidence on locally led approaches to cash for protection.
- Utilise rigorous methods for action-oriented research.

Protection Cluster/Sector implementing protection programming

- Proactively identify when CVA can be used as a tool for protection outcomes in support of populations of concern.
- Prioritise establishing and strengthening referrals with cash actors as much as referrals for other services, for example, health or legal services.
- Lead in monitoring CVA to ensure that the introduction of the modalities promotes intended case action goals and does not expose the protection client to harm.
- Develop context-specific protocols to facilitate tailored and adaptable CVA referrals.
- Utilise rigorous methods for action-oriented research.
- Proactively reach out to other sectors and cash working groups to train on protection and inform opportunities for integrated programming.



6 Next Steps

This paper will be revised on an annual basis with new evidence reflecting the use and impacts of CVA for protection in humanitarian settings. This will be informed by an annual evidence mapping undertaken by the GPC TT C4P. Advocacy efforts undertaken by the GPC TT C4P will be informed by this position paper and will entail a minimum of sharing the current state of practice and evidence during key stakeholder convenings (such as the GPC Annual Retreat and CALP's forums¹²⁵).

¹²⁵ These events may include the GPC annual meetings and CALP global forums.