



**Report on the
Cash for
Protection
Workshop
Rome, Italy**



29 – 30 May 2023



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**Global Protection Cluster
Task Team on Cash for Protection**

Acknowledgements



The Cash for Protection workshop was attended by donors, UN agencies, and I/NGOs. A complete list can be found in Annex I – under participating agencies. The aim of this workshop was to use experiences and evidence of participating agencies to pave the necessary steps to increase understanding on the use of CVA for protection outcomes and frame the main characteristics and elements of cash for protection. Our appreciation goes to the presenters, who shared their experiences and lessons learnt, and to all those who co-facilitated the group's work, and provided leadership and vision to progress on these pertinent topics.

This event was made possible, thanks to the commitment and generous contributions of the United States Government through the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) who generously funded the Global Protection Cluster's Task Team Cash for Protection (TTC4P) to implement their activities, including organising this event.

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Workshop Objectives & Summary



The aim of the C4P workshop was to bring together practitioners across different organisations and agencies working in cash and protection to share existing policies and practices, promote a joint understanding of what “cash for protection” entails, and outline minimum requirements and key approaches to promote globally and integrate into program design. The workshop focused to first, review the key guidance, policies, and experiences on “cash for protection” (hereinafter C4P) and assess if they were sufficient to design C4P programs; and second, generate discussions on the specific activities and additional guidelines that were needed to clarify the different areas that are currently creating confusion for the community of practice and support better implementation of C4P.

The specific objectives were:

1. To establish foundational knowledge of C4P progress and initiatives within each AoR and across key stakeholders.
2. To reach a common agreement on the minimum requirements and key approaches for Cash for Protection.
3. To agree on shared priorities and ways forward to promote key approaches and to advance C4P practice.

The first day prioritised sharing of key challenges, approaches, and policies as it pertains to Cash for Protection globally. This was conducted through 1) a presentation of the survey and key informant interview findings conducted in preparation of the workshop, 2) a donor panel and question and answer session with DG ECHO, PRM and BHA, 3) a presentation from UNHCR to understand cash throughout the protection continuum in displacement contexts, particularly in refugee contexts and 4) a marketplace, where AoRs shared the guidance developed to date, key resources, and priorities.

The second day focused on unpacking cash for protection interventions and delved deeper into the sticky areas and challenges that practitioners are facing at all stages of the project cycle. The workshop ended with a session dedicated to outlining next steps and ways forward, with agreement of the need for greater inter-agency collaboration, especially between TTC4P and GPC members, other global clusters, and AORs.



Summary of Sessions

1) Overview of Survey and Key Informant Interviews

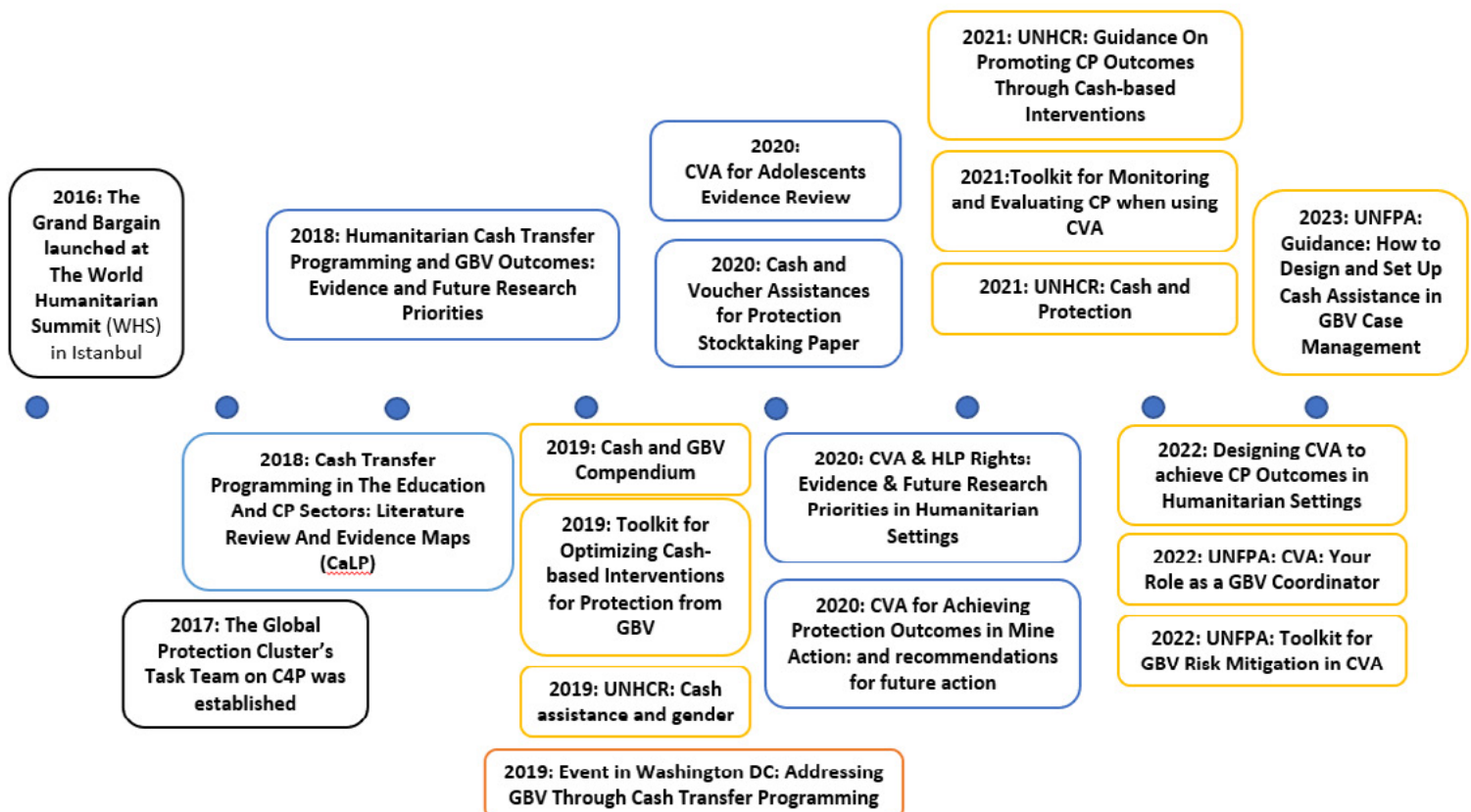


In order to inform the design and content of the workshop, key informant interviews (KIIs) and a survey were conducted. There were 18 respondents to the KIIs and 19 for the survey. Respondents represented a variety of practitioners with significant technical oversight throughout the project cycle, strategy development, coordination, and mainstreaming of cash and protection.

The main challenges highlighted in the KIIs and survey included:

- Unclear definition of what C4P is and what it is not.
- Coordination between Cash and Protection colleagues (at Cluster/WG level as well as within agency/organisation at the field level)
- How to target
- How to determine transfer values

2) Cash for Protection Timeline



3) Cash for Protection Definitions

The cash for protection definition as defined by the TTC4P states that cash for protection is a term used to describe the use of cash and voucher assistance to help achieve specific protection outcomes. Specifically:

- Cash for protection is an intervention whereby cash and voucher assistance (CVA) are used as the modalities to address individual, or household (HH)-level specifically identified protection risks or needs.¹
- Consequently, cash for protection can be used in situations wherein an individual and/or HH is at risk of immediate harm, as well as in cases where individuals and/or HHs face identified protection concerns/violations/incidents that negatively impact well-being but that are not necessarily time specific.
- Cash for protection can be both a responsive and remedial action, meaning that it is aimed at preventing, reducing, or mitigating exposure to identified protection risks, or limiting the effects of violations on victims/survivors.
- The provision of cash for protection should not be intended to address generic socio-economic vulnerabilities. Rather, the provision of cash for protection is driven by a causal link between a clearly identified protection risk/concern/violation and the analysis of how the cash assistance provided will produce a specific and intended protection outcome by preventing, reducing, or mitigating the risks identified within a holistic protection programme/action plan (not as stand-alone cash).

While all parties broadly agreed with this definition, challenges around operationalisation of the definition were being faced by practitioners, donors, and coordination bodies alike. In line with the key findings from the survey and KIIs, it was agreed in plenary that instead of endorsing a restrictive or limiting definition, the workshop and TTC4P would focus on developing a framework and parameters for cash for protection interventions.

Figure 1: The protection continuum



1. [c4p_definition_tipsheet_pic_0.pdf \(globalprotectioncluster.org\)](#)



A strong sticking point that came out was the complexities and boundaries of mainstreaming, integration, and standalone cash for protection interventions, with confusion arising around targeting, protection outcomes and the interaction of two (or more) sectors to distinguish between mainstreaming, integration, and standalone C4P. All cash programming should have protection mainstreamed at a minimum, and where possible, prioritise integration. Additionally, it was stressed that as the distinction between all of these is made more concrete in the C4P space, it is crucial that the significance and benefit of each is not lost. It is also important to acknowledge that C4P will target and reach a small subset of cash beneficiaries and it is imperative to promote the centrality of protection and a do no harm approach.

There was general acknowledgement that the potential that MPCA has on achieving protection outcomes should be examined, yet there is a need to maintain a distinction between protection integration. Protection integration involves incorporating protection objectives into the programming of other sector specific responses to achieve protection outcomes. Integrated protection programming requires all humanitarian actors to commit, wherever feasible and appropriate, to protection objectives in the design of their activities. and the imperative to maintain protection central to humanitarian assistance. Protection integration can therefore support the system- wide commitment to the Centrality of Protection because it relies on different actors (i.e. protection and non-protection) to work individually and together as part of a multisector humanitarian response.



4) Donor Panel Discussion and Q&A



Three key donors, ECHO, BHA, and BPRM, funding cash and protection interventions and supporting technical development and design of cash and protection programming presented their respective guidelines, approaches, and parameters related to C4P followed by a Q&A session.

- Currently **DG ECHO's** approach to cash for protection can be found in its Cash Transfer policy (and more specifically "Annex 3 - Enhancing sectoral outcomes through cash and voucher assistance").
- **USAID/BHA's** guidance on the use of cash and vouchers in the protection sector can be found in the Emergency Application Guidelines Sector Requirements. Project must meet all protection sector requirements, and must address all components of either the cash keyword or voucher keyword if cash or vouchers will be used in the protection sector.
- **PRM** prioritises protection mainstreaming in all their interventions with partners, including in cash and voucher assistance. PRM and BHA published a Modality Decision Tool to guide the selection of modality (cash, voucher, in-kind) for resource transfers and is modality-neutral, encouraging partners to use context-specific assessments to determine the best fit. The tool is not specifically designed for protection programming but may be useful to reference.

Regardless of the modality, 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. More and more donors see actions designed to address categorical vulnerabilities through cash transfers without any causal linkage between the vulnerability and the risk. **This does not qualify as cash for protection.**

Donors are also open to integrated MPCA/Protection programming, as they believe the injection of MPCA has the potential to mitigate protection risks, and more specifically negative coping mechanisms. However, this requires protection risk analysis, appropriate targeting (based on a holistic understanding of the intersection between socioeconomic vulnerabilities and protection risks), two-way referral systems between MPCA and protection assistance (and possibly graduation into livelihood programmes for sustainability), and systematic monitoring of protection outcomes.



5) AoR Marketplace



Materials presented at the marketplace are annexed and available on the GPC website.

The marketplace activity allowed participants to visit booths allocated to each area of responsibility, including Mine Action (MA), Housing, Land and Property (HLP), Gender Based Violence (GBV), and Child Protection (CP), within the Global Protection Cluster. The booths showcased key pieces of work, evidence building, and guidance that each AoR has created.

Mine Action

During the marketplace, the MA booth attracted questions surrounding the entry point for MA in Cash interventions and where MA could collaborate with other AoR and sectors on cash. It has become apparent that cash interventions were not commonly known in MA sector as the participants saw little relevance though it is true that MA focuses mainly on mine clearance and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) which do not provide sufficient opportunities for cash interventions; however, through our conversations at the MA booth, we have shared our experiences in using cash interventions effectively in places such as Syria and Mali where cash was used as part of the victim assistance projects, mainly providing cash (transportation cost) for the victims to receive necessary medical support, prosthetics, and livelihood support. Cash interventions in the context of victim assistance was well understood by the participants as it showed strong relevance with other sectors through case management, GBV and CP etc.

We also shared potential areas where MA could collaborate with other sectors including having cash interventions linked to the productive use of the cleared land, providing cash assistance for relevant livelihood support to the affected communities such as building irrigation systems, providing necessary equipment for agricultural activities to ensure productive use of the land.

Child Protection

Two main points were discussed at the CP booth: 1) A lot of guidance has been developed over the past few years on CVA and CP. Emphasis needs to be put on rolling-out the guidance at country level and increasing the awareness of country practitioners on the available guidance and tools, and when they should be used. A suggestion was given to create a compendium of CVA and CP resources which would provide a short description of each document (which already exists for GBV and would be useful to expand to include CP, MA, and HLP). 2) 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 conclusions on the relationship between cash and child protection outcomes. A suggestion was given to develop a global results framework on CVA and CP, accompanied by a bank of standard indicators that could be used to measure the impact of CVA on CP outcomes. If all agencies implementing cash for CP projects could use and track the same indicators, it would then be possible to draw global findings on the interlinkages between CVA and CP.

It was highlighted that some of the AoRs have specific guidance and expertise in the use of cash for protection, while others have been using this assistance within their respective agency's mandates. It was agreed that resources already endorsed by AORs and task teams would be used as foundation to develop future tools and guidance notes for C4P. It was also agreed that these resources need to be consolidated and organised in a way that they are easy to find, share, and use. A matrix of tools, similar to the Minimum Standards for Market Analysis (MISMA) was suggested.



6) Cash and protection in UNHCR operations

The session provided an insight on UNHCR global investment in cash and on UNHCR's approach to the relation of cash-based interventions and protection. UNHCR highlighted how CBI have by now become a prominent modality of assistance provisions for the organisation, based on feedback received from the persons with and from whom the agency works (according to widely participated post-distribution monitoring 89% of people consulted prefer cash or a combination of cash and in-kind). In 2022, more than 100 operations worldwide implemented cash assistance, largely (95%) unrestricted, reaching out to more than 10 million individuals, investing some 977 million USD and making an increased use of digital payments. UNHCR highlighted how a new Cash Policy, mandatory for the whole organisation and applicable to both refugee and IDP operations, is now following a "why not cash" approach. It was further stated how the new policy aims at increasing ownership of CBI amongst all UNHCR personnel; at embedding cash in protection and solution strategies; at establishing a joint approach with partners and governments; and at including persons with and for whom UNHCR works and partners in the design of the cash programs.

In general, UNHCR stressed that all its CBI, irrespective of their characteristics and denomination, have an ultimate and broad goal to increase protection outcomes/space and mitigate protection risks.

UNHCR further presented its conceptualisation of the relationship between cash and protection, highlighting three levels of correlation.

Mainstreaming protection and "do no harm" elements into cash interventions:

This was presented as the most generic and essential approach, encompassing all types of CBI. It entails (a) to prioritise safety and dignity, avoiding the exposure of CBI beneficiaries to protection risks through a protection risk analysis; (b) to ensure participation of displaced communities in the assessment of risk and appropriateness of CBI; (c) to secure meaningful access to CBI recipients, including through adjusting delivery modalities (digital payments, cash in hand etc.); and (d) to ensure accountability via information, feedback and response mechanisms, including post-distribution monitoring.

Integrating protection components and approaches into Multi-purpose cash assistance:

This was presented as a fundamental approach adopted by UNHCR in its CBI, which are currently mostly delivered at scale in the form of MPCA. While not exclusively designed to directly achieve protection objectives, and mainly designed to meet basic needs and to addressing poverty (socio-economic vulnerabilities), UNHCR stressed how – of properly designed - an integrated approach between cash and protection can strongly contribute to attaining protection outcomes, largely by reducing the exposure of affected populations to harmful mechanisms they would resort to address their specific sectoral needs, which in turn usually generate protection risks, such as child marriage, child recruitment, prohibited forms of child labour, sell and exchange of sex etc.



This is corroborated by evidence gathered through post-distribution monitoring (PDM). This approach requires a constant cooperation between UNHCR cash and protection teams to integrate protection elements in cash for basic needs in several and mutually reinforcing ways: through robust eligibility assessment and targeting informed by protection-related elements such as specific protection profiles; through collaborative program design, particularly the determination of the Cash Transfer Value/ Minimum Expenditure Basket, and a consistent and agreed instalment plan; through adaptation of post-distribution monitoring (PDM) tools to capture the effective impact of cash on the protection situation of the household or the community; and through associated opportunities through cash assessment, enrolment processes, and PDM to identify individuals at heightened protection risks to be referred to specialised protection services.

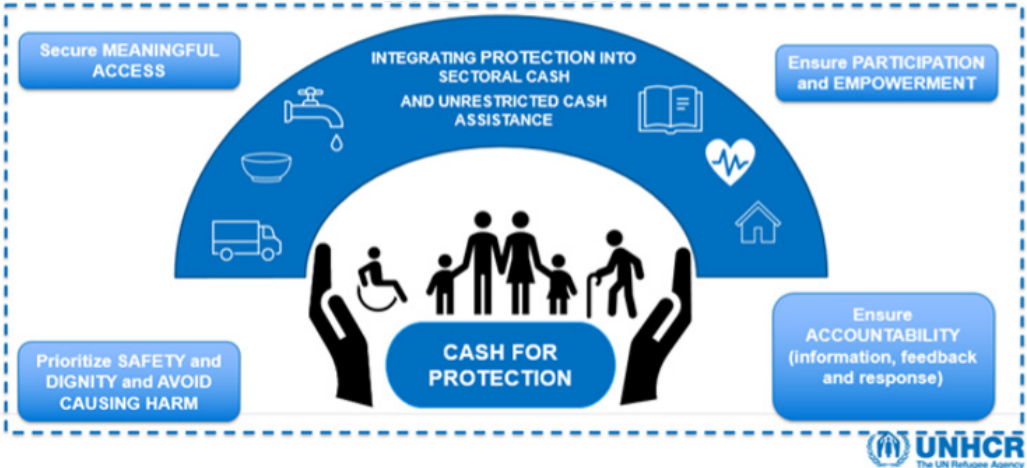
Cash for protection:

In line with many other participants, UNHCR defined also cash for protection as a form of cash assistance with the explicit and most immediate objective to support persons with and for whom UNHCR works that are at high risk of experiencing violence, abuse, exploitation, coercion, deprivation, or that are survivors of a protection incident, are experiencing an emergency shock impacting on their safety and security, that can be addressed through adequate financial support. UNHCR confirmed how cash for protection does not have as a primary objective to help the recipient to meet basic needs. UNHCR highlighted how cash for protection would be generally provided as a part of a targeted protection response and delivered as part of a case management approach where financial assistance is part of an overall preventive or remedial plan tailored to the specific protection needs of the individual. It will be followed up by a caseworker that will analyse how cash assistance can address the protection needs, analyse barriers, plan with the individual how cash will be used, ensure that cash assistance is received and assess the impact.

UNHCR added that another way of implementing cash for protection, adopted in several UNHCR operations, is through some forms of “Emergency Cash Assistance”, where cash is used to address an immediate protection shock or a sudden situation that can cause severe harm.

Given its characteristics, UNHCR concluded that Cash for protection is normally highly human resource-intensive and cannot be done at scale, but would normally target a limited number of beneficiaries with an eligibility system based on a “case-by-case” adjudication and will likely need to be outsourced, given their very labour-intensive nature.

Figure 2: UNHCR’s approach to Cash-Based Interventions



The intervention from UNHCR Cash and protection expert from headquarters was complemented by two in-depth interventions from field refugee operations, notably an insight into the CBI and protection approach in UNHCR Americas Region and in UNHCR refugee operation in Lebanon.

UNHCR participants from the regional Bureau for the Americas provided a general overview on how CBI is integrated in their protection case management approach, particularly in the context of the response to the Venezuela situation. Cash assistance is only provided to a fraction of cases based on an assessment and for short periods, while other assistance/ services/ referrals is provided to a wider range of persons that UNHCR supports. UNHCR Americas highlighted how CBI can be an initial way for individuals and household to approach UNHCR to apply for the support, and therefore a way to provide a different range of protection services and other form of assistance even though the individual or household may not be found eligible for cash based on an assessment of the individual or HH situation.

UNHCR Lebanon operation presented an overview on the current socio-economic situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, with 2/3 of refugee households lacking the economic capacity to afford basic needs largely due to the sharp increased in the price of food items, and the consequent harmful coping strategies regularly adopted and generating a variety of protection risks. UNHCR Lebanon then presented the current status of its Protection Cash Assistance program, which complements the MPCA done at scale.

The Protection Cash Assistance program was launched in 2016 as a case management tool for refugees facing protection risks or having experienced protection incidents (largely GBV, CP incidents or evictions and homelessness). It was then broadened in 2017 to complement MPCA and include support to refugees with specific vulnerabilities that could expose them to higher risk (HoH with serious medical condition, disability or mental illness, older persons at risk, unaccompanied and separated children, LGBTIQ+ individuals at risk).

UNHCR Lebanon highlighted the main process in implementing Protection Cash Assistance, through (a) the identification of protection risks, incidents and specific needs by UNHCR or partner staff, inter-agency referrals, Outreach Volunteers, and community-based structures; (b) the assessment by dedicated case management partner staff; (c) the adjudication by a multi-functional panel at UNHCR; (d) the follow-up by dedicated case management partner staff; (e) the discontinuation after 3-12 months (based on the panel recommendation). Finally, UNHCR Lebanon presented some of the main results of the post-distribution monitoring, highlighting the largely positive impact of its Protection Cash Assistance program.

7) Defining the Parameters of C4P

This session focused on the parameters of C4P, within the agreed definition. In discussion around these parameters, it was agreed that a strict definition of C4P would not be useful. Participants were divided into groups to discuss what is cash for protection, what it is not, and what the criteria are, considering both prevention and response. Key agreements include the following:

A protection risk assessment is the entry point for any protection program, including C4P activities (which is considered a protection intervention from a sectoral perspective). As CVA is a modality that sits within a given sector(s), C4P must follow the guidance and sit within the Protection sector.

There was widespread agreement that referrals between CVA and Protection and targeting on socio-economic vulnerability alone fall outside the umbrella of C4P.

However, if vulnerabilities, or basic needs (including accessing services), were caused by an individual protection risk and the cash intervention is specifically seeking to address this risk then it would fall within C4P. It is important to note that targeted C4P programming is different to integrated programming in that it must target specific individual needs. For example, if an entire community is at risk and requires cash assistance, this would not be considered C4P and would be expected to be integrated into the eligibility criteria of CVA programming. However, if an individual has been assessed and requires specific basic needs to achieve a Protection outcome, this would constitute C4P - examples of this may include financial support to access a referral (ex. legal, health), emergency rental or shelter payments for a GBV survivor, access to clothes, a mattress, food for an unaccompanied child, etc.

Additionally, it was agreed that cash integrated in case management, where cash assistance is integrated into the case plan to achieve the objectives of the case plan, also falls within C4P. It was stressed throughout the workshop that C4P is to be delivered by protection actors, to address a specific protection risk, and requires substantive protection staff support and follow up. However it was also raised that when cash is to be disbursed to many victims/survivors, it might be too cumbersome for case workers, especially in low-resourced areas and therefore could result in reduced quality of case management.

Cash for Protection

- **Intentional, with clear protection objectives**
- **Requires a risk analysis, targeted interventions to respond to immediate protection risks, and close monitoring**
- **at the individual level/an individualised approach, C4P looks at an individual's risks**
- **direct causal link between the objective of the cash assistance and the prevention or response to a protection risk.**

NOT Cash for Protection

- **MPCA**
- **Mainstreaming and integration (needs to be defined, as the integration component is the sticking point)**

Points for further discussion:

There was dispute on the definitions of protection top ups and individual protection assistance (IPA). To date, there is a lack of standardised definitions for these terms and interventions, causing agencies/organisations to operationalise them at their own discretion. This can sometimes result in an over concentration of approaches that are often not in line with one another and create confusion among practitioners. Therefore, it was agreed that clear definitions of specific terminology/interventions and their parameters, including protection top ups, IPA, emergency case management fund, and cash for protection, that participants can review and endorse, need to be developed. This will support the design and implementation of C4P programs in a comprehensive and cohesive way across agencies and contexts. This was defined as a priority action point coming out of the workshop.

It was agreed that CVA alone is not C4P, rather that C4P must be intentional, in that it is CVA designed to mitigate a specific, identified protection risk to achieve a protection objective for an individual. C4P requires a risk analysis, targeted interventions, and close monitoring. Additionally, it was agreed that partners require greater support in understanding how to incorporate the analysis of protection risks (and benefits) as an integral part of program cycle management. This is to ensure that each stage of the management of the program cycle is informed by the analysis of the risks and benefits, which should be the entry point to any C4P programme. This also requires support on identifying which tools and guidance should be used for this analysis. It was also raised that there is a need to reflect on and standardise the process of developing further guidance, ensuring that it remains technically sound and endorsed by practitioners in the C4P space.

Greater collaboration amongst protection and cash colleagues is needed from the onset throughout programme design, implementation, and monitoring. Protection teams need to collaborate with cash teams and the responsibilities related to all phases of the project cycle should not only fall to cash teams, and vice versa. Cash experts support the process of integrating the CVA modality, but the leadership on C4P needs to come from protection staff. However, it was stressed that protection colleagues need technical support from cash colleagues in order to inherit all the cash knowledge and be ready to improve the design process. Successful C4P programming requires expertise in both areas. While it isn't imperative to have both cash and protection teams to implement C4P, protection teams are required.

It was recommended that a RACI (responsible, accountable, consulted, and informed) Matrix is developed for each step of the programme cycle, outlining who is responsible for what. While this is not a requirement, it can be particularly useful to mitigate the risk associated with a single person or single team (protection case manager, protection staff member, protection team) transferring resources to an individual without clear segregation of duties. Within the TTC4P, collaboration is also required to implement key agreements, recommendations, and actions, including joint guidance, workshops, and sharing and endorsement of key terminology.

8) Sticky Questions and Deep Dive

Sticky questions related to cash for protection were drawn out from the key informant interviews and survey. From there, participants of the workshop voted on which of the sticky questions were a priority to focus on addressing during this session. The three themes that were identified during this process were Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL), Targeting, and Transfer Values and Design. Participants broke into groups to discuss the related questions within these three themes. All of the sticky questions that were drawn out from the KIIs and survey can be found in Annex 3.

8.1 MEAL

How can we build monitoring, evaluation and evidence building into programming? How can we document whether CVA has contributed to protection outcomes?

Discussion Points

Discussions focused on how to demonstrate that cash contributed to a protection outcome. It was agreed that monitoring of how cash is spent, through PDMs, can be informative to determine if the CVA had protection outcomes - therefore mainstreaming indicators should be included in all standard monitoring (e.g. PDMs).. It was also agreed that when conducting specific and targeted C4P programming, monitoring should be handled by protection colleagues or case managers, particularly for more sensitive cases to determine whether the specific protection need was supported through CVA. Monitoring of case closures and client feedback is critical, however, while these are strong monitoring practices and standard practices in protection programming, they may not indicate whether the cash contributed to a protection outcome. The risk of consolidating all monitoring in a single team is a concern. It is not best practice for CVA as a modality though it may be necessary for certain protection clients. Segregation of duties where different teams engage in the cash transfer program cycle is a best practice to reduce risks of fraud, waste, abuse of power, etc.

When discussing measuring protection outcomes, participants agreed that there needs to be more targeted monitoring tools (e.g., to be part of the dialogue between a case worker and the 'client' (survivor, vulnerable person). But it was highlighted that there is a gap for measuring the impact of C4P outside of case management. It was also agreed that there is not really C4P outside of case management (no concrete examples that fit the criteria were raised during the workshop).

Outcome harvesting was a point raised, with the idea that shifting to communities and their lived experience would be a good way to measure protection. While the outcomes may not necessarily be those anticipated, but positive, nonetheless.

The discussion then shifted to how C4P is more appropriately applied to certain protection risks or cases. The GBV Prevention Evaluation Framework² was highlighted as a good starting point, and that it can be developed further to apply to protection more broadly. However, it was agreed that it is unrealistic to create a monitoring framework applicable across all the AoRs; AoR-specific frameworks would be relevant.

2. protection.interaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/GBV-Prevention-Evaluation-Framework-05-26-21-1.pdf



Agreed Actions

Overall, it was agreed that the sensitivity of what is being measured needs to be matched with the skills of those doing the monitoring.

It was agreed that going forward, it will be helpful to standardise a protection risk analysis which can be understood and used by cash actors to identify some of the economic drivers of protection risks. Alternatively, cash related tools for protection actors should be developed to support the design process of C4P programmes.

Developing tailored monitoring and evaluation tools and systems was suggested, including indicators such as the Grand Bargain indicators.

It was also proposed that resourcing for information management could come from the AoRs, citing that a mapping to capture indicators could be done for better coordination for data collection and evidence building.

8.2 TARGETING

How can protection actors support cash actors in MPCA to enhance protection outcomes through targeting based on a protection analysis rather than purely socio-economic targeting?

In potentially sensitive cash for protection programmes, for example GBV or child protection, what are our red lines in terms of information sharing for the purposes of coordination and avoiding duplication?

Discussion Points

A hybrid targeting approach was recommended whenever possible.

For stand-alone C4P programs it was highlighted that eligibility criteria need to be clearly linked to an assessed and identified protection need (i.e. protection risk to be maintained as entry point through case management) that the cash intervention directly addresses to mitigate or to respond , and therefore would not include groups of broadly or socioeconomically vulnerable populations. When there is different guidance (agency based or at the coordination level) targeting often becomes somehow categorical (i.e. groups generally perceived as vulnerable).

The discussion touched on categorical targeting, focusing on groups and people with protection risks (such as child or female headed households, persons with serious medical conditions or disabilities, elderly persons, among other traditionally vulnerable groups). It was agreed that targeting through more comprehensive protection activities, such as case management is straightforward. However, in situations where case management is not operational, targeting is much less straightforward. Targeting through Psychosocial Support (PSS) activities was discussed as a possible alternative. When it comes to prevention, it was agreed that targeting is very difficult. This does not mean that CVA should not be used for prevention activities, but that more thought and discussion need to be put into how to improve this area.

It was discussed that in most cases, there is a need to cover basic needs and protection needs, although protection costs can be hard to estimate in a standard manner considering they vary on a case-by-case basis. There was some debate as to whether some costs need to be part of a standard minimum protection cash assistance, i.e., part of the MEB, while others suggested that there needs to be more guidance and discussion to determine what other costs need to be part of a fixed or one-off/recurring cash assistance. This should include more criteria to determine what other costs are eligible as ancillary payments.

It was stressed that, in order to provide valuable guidance on “protection” modalities, the best CVA delivery mechanisms and modalities within C4P interventions need to be reflected on. Additionally, we need to have flexible mechanisms for the delivery of cash that are tailored to the needs of individual people. There is guidance available on delivery mechanisms, which can be reviewed and adapted with a protection lens.³ This is an area where protection actors could benefit from the technical work (to be adapted) done by cash colleagues.

As previously highlighted, participants agreed that a risk analysis of the context is crucial and that targeting should be based on protection risks identified in the analysis. From a protection perspective, if there is a protection risk identified in the risk analysis, then a discussion with cash colleagues can be had regarding MPCA, specifically when the link between the protection risk and a lack of access to basic needs has been demonstrated, and protection top ups won't suffice to address the protection risk. This leaves room for protection actors to refer cases while allowing large scale direct transfers to continue.

Another point of discussion that brought up some debate was how humanitarian actors working in contexts in collaboration with governments (who continue to make decisions) consider what these governments are doing and what they will allow in terms of providing cash, and more specifically related to targeting criteria. There was some agreement that cash and protection actors need to have synergies with social protection systems where feasible and appropriate considering humanitarian principles.

Agreed Actions

It was agreed that a specific time bound working group needs to be assembled to iron out several sticking points that continue to arise related to targeting.

3. <https://www.calpnetwork.org/toolset/selection-of-delivery-mechanism/>

8.3 Transfer values and design

Where do basic needs end and where does protection begin? Conceptually, how do you define that space between the two when they are so inter-linked?

How do we balance the idea of ensuring cash is spent towards protection outcomes while giving people the dignity to prioritise how they spend their money themselves? What values, principles and ideas do we have on this? Are they the same?

Discussion Points

It was agreed that transfer values, and even the modality, cannot be determined upfront because they are highly individualised/specialised in a cash for protection intervention. It is important to note that sectoral cash, in this case when cash is used as a modality within protection interventions, the delivery mechanism, frequency, duration, and amount of the transfer value will vary based on the individual need identified through an individual assessment and case management plan. This is distinctly different to integrated programming (e.g. MPCA) where the frequency, duration and amount is determined during the design phase due to the scale of such programmes. This needs to be coordinated well between cash and protection teams. It was also discussed that there is a need to provide a methodology for calculating these transfers, rather than protection actors providing standardised amounts.

It was agreed that the keys are:

1) Creating an estimated range or list of items that may be included in the C4P based on the estimated caseloads. This should be led by protection teams in collaboration with cash colleagues.

- For proposals that seek to include C4P, allocate a flexible pool of money that can then be designed and adapted once the individual cases and risks are identified.

2) The specificity of the transfer values should be based on the individual risk assessments. Determining of the transfer value, frequency, and eligibility should be at the caseworkers discretion, alongside the wider SOPs.

- Discussion on cash transfer values were centred on how to quantify the “one off” and “recurring costs” as well as how to budget for them in protection programs when needs assessments are not yet conducted.

Agreed Actions

It was agreed that a range of two-pager guidelines need to be developed and include the most common cash support in protection programs and how the transfer values were determined in the design process. These guidelines need to be simple and applicable across all AoRs, including most common types of support that CVA is meant to cover in a C4P intervention. However, there will be some distinctions for each thematic area. A standardised approach for costing is believed to support quality programming.

It was also highlighted that within case management there is a need for a methodology, to define recurrent protection related expenditures and calculate the transfer values, that outlines exactly what will be accessed with the cash. However, it was agreed that there needs to be more flexibility for the caseworkers to make quick decisions at the field level based on the needs and risks that are identified and/or arise. This can be built into the SOPs and be based on specific risk assessments. While C4P should be as unrestricted as possible and conditionality would likely not be appropriate for most cases, protection cases require a highly individualised approach. However, the close follow up by case workers on how the cash is spent is a close form of conditionality.

It was agreed though that there is a need for a stronger methodology for calculating transfer values and should be designed by technical protection staff.



Next Steps and Ways Forward



Key questions, answers, and next steps that arose and were discussed and agreed at the end of the workshop included:

1/3

Question	Answer	Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible
What is the difference between IPA, the Case Management Fund and Protection Top Ups?	IPA can be C4P, but it depends on its objective. Further work is needed to define this.	Development of comprehensive definitions/ parameters of each term to ensure agreement across agencies and reduce confusion. A specific time bound task team to develop these definitions.	30 Nov 2023	Sub Working group
Does what the CVA is spent on determine if it is C4P?	No, protection costs are broad. This does not determine if it is C4P or not.	To be included in C4P Help Desk FAQ document.	5 Dec 2023	C4P Specialist
Does an intervention need to be designed with an immediate and direct protection objective in mind to be considered C4P?	Yes, if it is not designed with an immediate and direct protection objective in mind we can't consider it a C4P programme.	Donors will support good practice and some will share strong proposal examples with task teams and AORs.	16 Oct 2023	Donors
How do we determine eligibility for C4P?	C4P eligibility is determined solely on whether through an assessment within a broad case management action plan, CVA is determined to be a suitable modality contributing to avoid or alleviate the protection risk/need of the individual.	Consolidate an example (that needs to be contextualised) eligibility for C4P.	30 Nov 2023	Sub Working group
If MPCA on it's own isn't inherently C4P, should we measure protection outcomes?	Yes, we should be systematically measuring protection outcomes through well designed post-distribution monitoring (cooperation CVA and protection staff) . HOWEVER, we need to ensure that the protection elements/indicators included in the monitoring tools are matched with the skills of those doing the monitoring.	Agree on standard approach and sensitise relevant colleagues. The harmonised MPC indicators already exist and include CP indicators. They could be strengthened to include additional indicators reflecting other protection subsectors. ⁴	31 Jan 2024	Co-leads and C4P Specialist
How do we measure Protection outcomes outside of case management without doing harm?	Receive guidance from protection experts on appropriate indicators to measure protection outcomes. Ensure that we Do No Harm Consider using proxy questions in the PDM	TTC4P to coordinate and disseminate Matrix of Resources	15 Sept 2023	Co-leads

4. <https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/CALP-MPC-Outcomes-EN-final.pdf>



Question	Answer	Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible
Is C4P more important/relevant than integrated cash programming?	No, C4P will reach a significantly smaller subset of the population than integrated programming. Mainstreamed programming is the obligation of all cash interventions.	Develop integrated matrix for MPCA and Protection.	31 Jan 2024	Sub Working group (future)
Is a protection analysis required to design C4P?	Yes	To be included in C4P Help Desk FAQ document.	5 Dec 2023	Co-leads and AoRs
How do we determine targeting for integrated cash and protection programming?	Needs to be done jointly by CVA and Protection Actors.	Specific time-bound group needed of both CVA and Protection Actors to develop guidance. GPC to lead.	30 Nov 2023	Sub Working group
How do we determine who is targeted?	Targeting should be based on risk analysis with an iterated protection risk	To be included in C4P Help Desk FAQ document.	30 Nov 2023	C4P Specialist and informed by Sub Working group activities
How can we do targeting when MPCA focuses on the HH and Protection on individuals	If a risk analysis shows there is a prevalence of a certain risk, we can have a prior to discussion on targeting. HOWEVER, we need flexibility to update and refer cases. MPCA may have targeting criteria that addresses profiles of HH where there is evidence (also through consultation with communities) that certain HH due to composition, profile of HH etc. are socio-economically vulnerable and prone to adopt harmful coping strategies and therefore protection risks if not supported.	To be included in C4P Help Desk FAQ document.	5 Dec 2023	C4P Specialist and informed by Sub Working group activities
Who is ultimately responsible for calculating Protection Top Ups?	Protection colleagues can determine the list of items/services and CVA actors can support in determining cost per item.	Consolidate (or create) simplified guidance document.	30 Nov 2023	Sub Working group
Who delivers Protection Top Ups (operationally)?⁵	It depends on the agency – it can be both CVA and Protection actor. In a single organisation which has both cash and protection teams, there could be a set-up where there's a harmonised cash delivery framework within an organisation that may be more efficient, safe, have proper internal controls. It would depend on a given organisation's set-up and capacities.	To be included in C4P Help Desk FAQ document.	5 Dec 2023	Can be explored in the Sub Working group, C4P Specialist inputting

Question	Answer	Next Steps	Timeline	Responsible
How do we budget Protection Top Ups in overall budgets?	We need a methodology to calculate an amount to include in budgets. HOWEVER, we acknowledge that each individual will get a different amount.	Leaning on GBV, determine parameters for calculating transfer values. Share examples from GBV and CP in Nigeria.	5 Dec 2023	Can be explored in the Sub Working group, C4P Specialist inputting with support from GBV and CP AoRs
Who is responsible for what?	In order to successfully implement C4P, we need Protection, Cash and MEAL Actors	Develop sample RACI (Responsible, Accountable, Consulted, Informed) for each step of the programme cycle. Not a requirement but can be useful. Share an example with field colleagues.	15 Feb 2024	C4P Specialist
Should we not do C4P if there is no MPCA in a specific context?	MPCA is not a prerequisite (but it is preferable to have in a context) for C4P. This is to ensure that referrals to MPCA can be made for basic needs and that C4P doesn't attempt to cover a need or population better targeted by MPCA. However, C4P can't be designed to just be MPCA for "vulnerable groups"	To be included in C4P Help Desk FAQ document. Continue to promote the importance of mainstreaming and integration, Refer to as basic needs rather than MPCA.	31 Jan 2024	C4P Specialist, relates to the Integrated Matrix
How do we determine who in our caseload is eligible?	We need to consider and balance whether to reach a higher caseload while only partially covering the protection needs or reach a lower caseload while fully covering the protection needs. We need to be clear about what we can achieve in Humanitarian Protection	To be included in C4P Help Desk FAQ document.	5 Dec 2023	Sub Working group with C4P Specialist
How do we ensure C4P recipients receive their assistance in a dignified and individual manner.	We need a variety of delivery mechanisms to tailor for individuals	To be included in C4P Help Desk FAQ document.	5 Dec 2023	C4P Specialist
Do we require conditionality/restrictions in C4P?	No. However, the degree of support that the individualised approach of C4P requires through the monitoring or a case manager/ social worker whether the money is spent for the agreed purposes (in the action plan) will be very close to a form of conditionality	To be included in C4P Help Desk FAQ document.	5 Dec 2023	C4P Specialist

This workshop was particularly useful to bring together some of the key relevant stakeholders within cash for protection and have frank discussions about challenges, successes, and sharing experiences and best practices.

It was stressed that protection colleagues need support from cash teams, and vice versa. The question of how the new cash coordination model is being transitioned in and how it can be used to build better connections between protection and cash coordination mechanisms in-country was posed but given the short timeframe of the workshop, it was agreed that it while this is important, it was not something that would be solved at this time.



Annexes



Annex 1. Workshop agenda

Monday 29th May 2023	
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome and Introductions
9:30 - 10:15	Workshop Overview and Parameters
10:15 - 10:45	Opening Activity: Cash for Protection Definitions
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 11:50	Donor Panel Discussion and Q&A
11:50 - 12:45	Marketplace
12:45 - 13:45	Lunch
13:45 - 14:15	Marketplace Discussion
14:15 - 15:15	Refugees and Cash and Protection (UNHCR)
15:15 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 16:00	Refugees and Cash and Protection Cont. (UNHCR)
16:00 - 16:50	Defining the Parameters of C4P
16:50 - 17:00	Wrap up and Close

Tuesday 30th May 2023	
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome and Recap
9:30 - 10:45	Unpacking Cash for Protection Interventions
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 11:30	Unpacking Cash for Protection Cont.
11:30 - 13:30	Sticky Questions and Deep Dives
13:30 - 14:30	Lunch
14:30 - 15:15	C4P Parameters in Practice
15:15 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 16:30	Next Steps and Ways Forward
16:30 - 17:00	Wrap up and Close

Annex 2: Participating agencies

1. Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)
2. Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)
3. European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
4. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
5. Permanent Mission of Belgium
6. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
7. World Food Programme (WFP)
8. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
9. United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS)
10. Oxfam
11. International Rescue Committee (IRC)
12. Swiss Foundation for Mine Action (FSD)
13. Collaborative Cash Delivery Network (CCD)
14. Street Child
15. Plan International
16. Women's Refugee Commission (WRC)
17. Save the Children International (SCI)
18. Danish Church Aid

Annex 3: Key Informants

1. ECHO
2. UNHCR
3. Plan International
4. CP AoR
5. GBV AoR
6. UNFPA
7. BPRM
8. CaLP
9. BHA
10. WFP
11. CORE

Annex 4: Marketplace Materials

CP Booth
HLP Booth
GBV Booth
MA Booth



Annex 5: Sticky Questions

Defining the Parameters of Cash for Protection

- Can we define cash for protection while respecting the mandates of different agencies? What do we need? Is it a framework? A list of “approved” activities? Is that too restrictive? How prescriptive should we be?
- Do we need a definition or is it more a common understanding of what can be considered cash for protection what cannot? Defining the scope and boundaries.
- Can we define what cash for protection is not?
- At which point in the programme process can we define whether it’s cash for protection? Is it in the risk analysis and design? Is it based on what the money is spent on? Or what outcomes we achieve?

C4P and Basic Needs

- Should cash for protection be linked to a particular outcome if we want to respect the principled use of cash as the person who requires it considers best?
- When do we use MPCA versus C4P?
- If we provide the equivalent of MPCA with the sole objective of a protection outcome, does this count C4P?
- Where do basic needs end and where does protection begin? Ideologically, how do you define that space between the two when they are so inter-linked?
- Designing Cash for Protection Interventions
- What does a C4P theory of change look like and how can we support field practitioners to develop clear linkages between risks, activities and outcomes.
- We have a protection risk equation (threats, vulnerabilities, capacities) which we use in protection, can it be applied to cash in the same way?
- How do we ensure a consistent approach in C4P if different donors have different definitions and parameters?
- What is the difference between protection mainstreaming, integration and C4P?
- Do we all have the same understanding of what IPA is and it’s role?
- Are special needs funds cash for protection or are they closer to MPCA?
- In some contexts, has cash become the entry point rather than the protection risk?

Targeting

- How do we determine targeting for cash for protection - considering various interventions such as IPA, Protection Top Ups, C4P?
- How can protection actors support cash actors in MPC to enhance protection outcomes through targeting based on a protection analysis rather than purely socio-economic targeting?
- Most of the time partners tend to have pre-established targeting groups which are assumed to be most vulnerable, but this doesn’t always reflect the most vulnerable in reality – what can we do about this?



Transfer Value and Frequency

- What guidance can we give on determining the transfer value and frequency?
- Do protection services belong in the MEB? If so, how can we ensure MEB is systematically includes protection services?
- How can we have a set amount for protection in the MEB when it's so individual to each case?
- How can we support the standardisation of costing?

Conditionality and Restrictions

- How do we balance the idea of ensuring cash is spent towards protection outcomes while giving people the dignity to prioritise how they spend their money themselves? What values, principles and ideologies do we have on this? Are they the same?

Coordination

- How can we ensure that local and national actors can feed back on anything we can create? How can we ensure that we meet the needs of the field?
- How can protection and cash actors better cooperate and work together when it comes to multi-purpose cash?
- How is the new cash coordination model being transitioned in and how can we use this to build better connections between protection and cash coordination mechanisms in-country?
- What circumstances or conditions trigger the start-up of a regional task team?
- How can each AoR, including those less well-funded and resourced in cash for protection, leverage the opportunities we access as a technical task team to advance the work of each AoR.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Evidence-Building

- Quality – are we doing this well? Are we getting the outcomes we are expecting?
- How can we build monitoring, evaluation and evidence building into programming? How can we document whether cash has contributed to protection outcomes?
- Can we get more rigorous evidence, using more quantitatively verifiable approaches and more elaborate research methodologies?
- Is there a way to better connect and measure the link between MPC and protection outcomes?

Resources, Tools, Guidance, Capacity Building

- There are a lot of tools available but how can we ensure that teams in the field can access the right tools at the right time? Could we work on a matrix of existing tools and what they can be used for? (e.g. like the MISMA matrix)
- What is the process for the quality check, review and endorsement for new tools and guidance? Is it working? Are the right people being consulted at the right time?
- How can we ensure that global capacity building efforts are impactful and sustainable?

Do No Harm and Information Sharing

- In potentially sensitive cash for protection programmes, for example GBV or child protection, what are our red lines in terms of information sharing for the purposes of coordination and avoiding duplication?
- How do we address the issue of non-protection actors developing cash for protection programmes, without essential components in place, such as data protection and information sharing protocols.

