



## GPC GLOBAL PROTECTION FORUM 2021 THEMATIC EVENT

### **Demystifying CVA and Child Protection: Spotlighting resources and sharing country office experience**

**Tuesday 26 October 2021, 10:00 – 11:30 CET**

#### Rational/purpose

Humanitarian crises have become more complex in recent years challenging humanitarian actors to adapt to meet the evolving needs of affected populations. One in four children lives in a country affected by conflict or disaster<sup>i</sup> and every year, 175 million children are expected to be affected by geo-climatic disasters.<sup>ii</sup> As humanitarian crises break down traditional protection mechanisms and the loss of income restricts access to basic resources, children become increasingly vulnerable to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence. The global COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the root causes of some of the biggest threats to child survival and well-being such as hunger, and reduced access to health, education, social and child protection services.

An increasing proportion of humanitarian assistance is being given in the form of cash and voucher assistance (CVA). In 2019, 17.9% of total humanitarian assistance was delivered in the form of CVA.<sup>iii</sup> Disbursal of CVA (i) is efficient and cost effective; (ii) stimulates local economies; and (iii) is a respectful dignified way of providing aid.<sup>iv</sup> As the prevalence of cash transfer programming in humanitarian response has grown, so too has the recognition that the sector must learn how to use cash transfer programs to achieve better results for children<sup>v</sup>.

Perceived risks associated with CVA<sup>vii</sup> are limiting exploration and piloting of CVA to achieve CP outcomes - for example, risks around including children and adolescents as direct recipients of CVA.<sup>viii</sup> Historically, certain CVA interventions have created risks for children. Negative outcomes of using CVA have included for example: increased stigma and exposure to threats, theft and violence for children who were formerly associated with armed forces or groups;<sup>ix</sup> escalation in intergenerational violence as children demand the CVA allocated to a household for themselves<sup>x</sup>; and the potential commodification of children when transfers are used as incentives for foster care.<sup>xi</sup> However, CVA can be delivered in ways that ensure safety and security. And, in some situations, in-kind assistance may present a greater risk.<sup>xii</sup> Thus, the exclusion of children and adolescents from programmes that are prioritising cash and voucher assistance may be harmful, limiting actors' ability to reach some of those who are most at risk.<sup>xiii</sup>

Child protection (CP) is a sector that produces life-saving outcomes when delivered through standalone activities and integrated and mainstreamed with other sectors. While recent pilot studies and desk reviews underscore the use of cash as a protection tool to improve child protection and well-being, they also point to knowledge gaps and the need for more concrete data findings. In response to this members of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Cash for Protection, including Plan International, the Women's Refugee Commission, and Save the Children have been working together to understand and address the barriers to successfully implementing joint CVA and CP programming.



## Expected Outcome

Through this session, we aim to demystify CVA and CP by identifying and addressing key barriers to uptake of CVA in programmes seeking CP outcomes, familiarizing participants with available resources, and spotlighting several countries' work in this area.

## Format/Content of the Event

Topic	Tools/Platform (Zoom video and Powerpoint)
<b>Opening Remarks &amp; Introductions</b> (10min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Present responses to pre-event survey:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Have you ever implemented CVA for CP outcomes? (Yes, No)</li> <li>o How confident do you feel designing and implementing CVA programming for CP outcomes? (Very confident, confident, unsure, very unsure)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Introduction to CVA and CP</b> (10 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rationale for CVA and CP</li> <li>- Introduce the format for the remainder of the session               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Interactive poll/question (detailed below)</li> <li>o Introduce three tools and how they have been used in the spotlight country</li> <li>o Participants are encouraged to log their questions in the Q&amp;A function to utilise during the panel discussion</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Spotlight: Child Safeguarding for CVA Guidance</b> (10 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Discussion</b> (utilizing Word Cloud / Free Text)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o What risks do children face that CVA can help mitigate?</li> <li>o Following the declaration that CVA is not itself risky, when CVA is used as a tool within program design what can be the associated risks?</li> <li>o How can these risks be identified and mitigated?</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Organisation:</b> (Save the Children)</li> </ul>
<b>Spotlight: Toolkit for Monitoring and Evaluating CP when using CVA</b> (10 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>True or False Poll:</b> CVA is a modality that poses more risk than other modalities.</li> <li>- <b>Organisation:</b> <a href="#">Shafak NGO</a> (Syria, founded by Syrians, for Syrians)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Challenges in implementing CVA for CP.</li> <li>o How the MEAL Toolkit has been used to support Shafak programming.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Spotlight: CVA and CP Toolkit for Adolescents</b> (10 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>True or False Poll:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Providing cash to adolescents in family-based care will expose them to violence</li> <li>o Adolescents who receive cash will divert it towards recreational activities that may not be in their best interest</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Organisation:</b> Plan International (Uganda)</li> </ul>
<b>Video</b> (5 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>True or False Poll:</b> Children and their families risk spending money on unnecessary items if CVA is unrestricted.</li> <li>- Case Study <a href="#">Video</a> from Cambodia</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b> (15min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants breakout into virtual rooms and discuss one of the following questions:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o What are the challenges / risks associated with implementing CVA for CP?</li> <li>o How have you overcome certain barriers to using CVA for CP outcomes effectively?</li> <li>o What benefits do you see to integrating CVA and CP?</li> <li>o What information/guidance would you need to design and implement CVA and CP programming?</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Facilitators take notes on a Mural Board</li> </ul>
<b>Present in Plenary</b> (15 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitators highlight key points from group discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Closing remarks</b> (5 min)	



## Speakers/Moderator/technical donor partner

The event will be co-facilitated by Plan International, Save the Children, and DRC. The event will also include engagement from colleagues from the three spotlight countries.

- Panel members: Brizza Zuazo (Save the Children); Ibrahim (Shafak); Christopher Kagab, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (Plan International)
- Moderators: Lori Murray, Senior CPIE Specialist (Save the Children); Anita Queirazza, Global CPIE Specialist (Plan International)

## Local voices

The Spotlight sessions will include at least one colleague from each country.

## Pre-event questions /survey to be shared with participants

If possible, we would like participants to answer the following questions:

1. Have you ever implemented CVA for CP outcomes? (Yes, No)
2. How confident do you feel designing and implementing CVA programming for CP outcomes? (Very confident, confident, unsure, very unsure)
3. What are 1-2 questions you have on the intersection between CVA and CP?

## Background Reading

Participants are encouraged to look through the following resources:

- [3 things to know about Integrated Cash and Voucher Assistance \(CVA\) and Child Protection \(CP\) during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Cash and Voucher Assistance for Adolescents](#)
- [Money Matters: A toolkit for caseworkers to support adult and adolescent clients with basic money management](#)
- [Cash and Voucher Assistance for Protection Stocktaking Paper](#) (also available in [ES](#), [FR](#), [AR](#))
  - Executive Summary – Stocktaking Paper on Cash and Voucher Assistance for Protection, also available in: [FR](#), [SP](#), [AR](#)

<sup>i</sup> Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, 2019

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.srcd.org/research/understanding-impacts-natural-disasters-children>

<sup>iii</sup> The State of The World's Cash 2020 (July 2020) Cash and Voucher Assistance in Humanitarian Aid

<sup>iv</sup> European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (2019) Factsheet: Cash transfers and vouchers, [https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/cash-transfers-and-vouchers\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/humanitarian-aid/cash-transfers-and-vouchers_en)

<sup>v</sup> The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2019). Cash Transfer Programming and Child Protection in Humanitarian Action: Review and opportunities to strengthen the evidence.

<sup>vi</sup> Ibid

<sup>vii</sup> Cash Learning Partnership (2020) The State of The World's Cash 2020: Cash and Voucher Assistance in Humanitarian Aid, [https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SOWC2020\\_Full-report.pdf](https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SOWC2020_Full-report.pdf)

<sup>viii</sup> The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. (2019). Cash Transfer Programming and Child Protection in Humanitarian Action: Review and opportunities to strengthen the evidence.

<sup>ix</sup> Thompson, Hannah (2012) Cash and child protection: How cash transfer programming can protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence x Jackson, Rosie (2008) Swaziland Cash and Food Transfer Programme, Devereux, S. & Jere, P. (June 2008) Choice, Dignity and Empowerment - Cash and Food Transfers in Swaziland. An evaluation of Save the Children's Emergency Drought Response 2007/08.

<sup>x</sup> Roelen, K., & Shelmerdine, S. (2014). Researching the linkages between social protection and children's care in Rwanda. Institute of Development Studies, [https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/14081/pdf/researching\\_linkages\\_between\\_social\\_protection\\_and\\_childrens\\_care\\_in\\_rwanda.pdf](https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/node/14081/pdf/researching_linkages_between_social_protection_and_childrens_care_in_rwanda.pdf)

<sup>xi</sup> Bailey, S. and Harvey, P. (2015) State of evidence on humanitarian cash transfers: Background Note for the High Level Panel on Humanitarian Cash Transfers, ODI, <https://cdn.odi.org/media/documents/9591.pdf>

<sup>xiii</sup> The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (2019). Cash Transfer Programming and Child Protection in Humanitarian Action: Review and opportunities to strengthen the evidence.