

Cash and Voucher Assistance

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Quick updates

- The total spending on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) further increased in the past years. However, in 2018 only around **16% of total global humanitarian assistance** was provided through CVA, while its potential is estimated at 40%.
- 21 **CVA Secondments** were deployed in 2019. Experts with experience in Social Protection or with 'mixed profiles' are increasingly in demand.
- In December 2019 and January 2020, SDC/HA implemented a CVA **direct action** in response to the Earthquake in Albania.

General

- The total spending on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) further increased in the past years. However, in 2018 only around **16% of total global humanitarian assistance** was provided through CVA, whereas [GPPI report](#) in 2016 suggested this could be up to 40%.
- Check out the new **CVA Factsheet** (attached) for an overview of SDC's engagement in Cash.

SDC Cash Secondments

- In 2019, a total of **21 Secondments were deployed** to 6 organisations (WFP, UNHCR, Unicef, CaLP, ICRC, IFRC) in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Europe.
- Currently, **8 Secondments are on mission**, another 2 are will deploy in February and March, and 1 position is still open for applications. Experts currently on mission:
 - Corinne Thévoz, WFP Haiti
 - Philippe Glauser, WFP DRC
 - Alexandra Kappeler, ICRC Geneva
 - Sonia de la Cruz, UNHCR Colombia
 - Natacha Pugin, WFP Sri Lanka
 - Alice Golay, CaLP Geneva
 - Gianluca Rigolio, IFRC Geneva
 - Karl-Friedrich Glombitza, UNICEF Bangladesh
- We received increasing requests for experts in **Social Protection** and for "**mixed profiles**" with expertise in CVA and Protection, CVA and WASH, etc.

Direct Action

- A 2-person Cash Team (first 10 days: Stefan Bumbacher and Lea Moser; second 10 days: Hannes Herrmann and Danièle Wyss) were part of the rapid response team sent to Albania after the 26th November 2019 earthquake. The Cash Team implemented an **Emergency Cash Pilot Project** with the goal to provide emergency support to households affected by the earthquake with unconditional and unrestricted cash assistance for the two winter months of December 2019 and January 2020. The project supported 333 families to cover for their most urgent basic needs, including preparing for winter months, improving temporary shelters or renting accommodation. The pilot project will be evaluated in February.



CVA Policy Developments

In December 2018, the Principals of UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and OCHA announced their intention to create a [Common Cash System \(UNCCS\)](#), which comprises “joint cash feasibility assessment, coordinated targeting of beneficiaries, a single transfer mechanism, joint post distribution monitoring and pursuing accountability to affected populations through agreed complaints and feedback mechanisms”. It will also include a harmonized data management approach through interoperable data systems and data-sharing agreement. The three UN agencies and OCHA have identified 6 focus countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Ecuador, Niger and Yemen) where the UNCCS shall be applied.

At the same time, there has also been significant progress over the last two to three years in improving **donor coordination** on cash transfers. Switzerland, with its own longstanding experience in cash, is actively engaged in these discussions. In 2019, a group of likeminded donors (EU, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and US) have adopted the [Common Donor Approach for humanitarian cash programming \(CDA\)](#), which lays out a vision for the use of cash in humanitarian action and sets forth general guiding principles to guide programming; and the [Joint Donor Statement on Humanitarian Cash Transfers \(JDS\)](#), which offers further clarification by identifying priority areas where donors can improve coordination by focusing on nine key principles.

In May 2019, Switzerland convened a meeting in Geneva where the different stakeholders (UN, donors, NGO community and the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement) came together. It was agreed that communication and coordination between the different stakeholders and initiatives should be improved and the initiatives should be tested/implemented jointly in the field.

SDC Financial contributions to organizations

- SDC/HA continues to support [CaLP](#) with CHF 400'000 in 2020, as well as through a secondment in Geneva. In addition, we are engaged in CaLP's Board (Jacqueline Birrer) and Technical Advisory Group (Stefan Bumbacher)
- SDC/HA continues to support [CashCap](#) with CHF 300'000 in 2020.
- In 2020 SDC/HA supports the chronically underfunded **Cash Task Teams** of the Global **WASH, Education, Nutrition, Protection** and **Health** Clusters with a small contribution of CHF 30'000 each, with the goal to strengthen the use of CVA in the humanitarian sectors, fill evidence gaps, develop case studies, support capacity building, and improve coordination within and between clusters.

Localization of aid

- Since October 2019, building on its expertise in localization and cash, SDC/HA (Stefan Bumbacher) co-leads the Grand Bargain cash **sub-workstream on Local Partnerships** together with Oxfam International and the Philippine NGO PDRRN. The workstream seeks to align the work of the Cash Workstream with objectives and outcomes from the Localization Workstream and the broader localization agenda in the sector.

2019 – CVA Hot topics

- **Data Responsibility:** to learn more about the topic, check out this [blog](#).
- **Social Protection:** to learn more about linking humanitarian CVA with Social Protection Schemes, check out this [introduction](#).

2020 – CVA Outlook

- CVA will be a topic at SDC/HA's **Annual Conference** on 27th March 2020.
- This year, we will develop the new **Operational Concept Note for CVA**, defining our involvement in CVA for 2021 – 2024.
- Based on an [independent evaluation](#) of SDC's Performance in **Social Protection** 2013 – 2017, SDC/HA will work closely with colleagues in Development Cooperation to enhance existing internal dialogue with the aim to develop a common vision on how to better link and strengthen long-term and short-term approaches in the context of an adaptive social protection approach.
- The 11th **Cash Basic Training**, for SHA members with a potential cash profile and Desk officers interested in CVA, will take place from 22nd – 24th June in Spiez, followed by the 8th **Cash Advanced Exchange Platform** on 25th and 26th June for CVA experts who have been on mission within the last 12 months.

CVA in the Media

Cash Assistance – from a development angle – was prominently featured in the SRF science **TV programme** «Einstein im Krisengebiet – wir helfen, was bringt?» which focused on SDC/HA's work in humanitarian crises ([article](#); [TV programme](#)).



Bargeld: Segen – oder auch ein Fluch?
Aus Einstein vom 07.11.2019.

And in addition... some links to useful CVA documents, articles and blogs:

- The CaLP **CVA glossary** is now available in [6 languages](#) (English, French, Spanish, Arabic, and German)
- What will **Financial Assistance look like in 2030**? Check out CaLP's [Report](#)
- Check out CaLP's [sector-specific pages](#) on:
 - [CVA and Education](#)
 - [CVA and Protection](#)
 - [CVA and Shelter](#)
 - [CVA and WASH](#)
 - [CVA and CCCM](#)
- Care's study on "**CVA that works for women: 6 lessons from the field**" is available in [French](#) and [English](#). Shorter versions are available in [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#) and [Portuguese](#).
- Ground Truth Solutions re-launched the [Cash Barometer](#), "an independent accountability mechanism that allows cash recipients to provide feedback on CVA". Following earlier pilot studies in [Afghanistan](#), [Kenya](#) and [Turkey](#), in 2019 the Cash Barometer will be implemented in [Nigeria](#) and [Bangladesh](#).
- Oxfam is testing **blockchain** in Vanuatu (see 5mins [Video](#))
- In a 'meaningful shift', the European Commission will transfer 'the **largest single humanitarian project**', the €600 million Turkey cash aid project from WFP to IFRC. [The New Humanitarian](#) has the background and some reasons. EU made a [statement](#). IFRC published a [press release](#).
- ICRC developed a [Biometrics Policy](#), hoping to facilitate the responsible use of biometrics and address the data protection challenges this poses
- The [CVA & GBV Compendium](#) is now available in Spanish, French, and Arabic. The purpose of the compendium is to assist humanitarian actors and crisis- and conflict-affected communities to integrate GBV risk mitigation into CVA interventions; integrate GBV prevention into multi-sector programming using CVA when appropriate; and integrate CVA into GBV prevention and response when appropriate.
- IRC launched the [Safer Cash Toolkit](#), which is a set of three tools and additional guidance to: (a) ensure CVA proactively considers the safety, dignity, and rights of individuals, groups, and affected populations; (b) ensure that CVA does no harm to targeted beneficiaries; (c) support cash practitioners in designing safe, participatory and inclusive evidence-based programmes; (d) provide guidance on the analysis of data collected to ensure its "need to know" and not just "nice to know".

- Save the Children published its updated guidance on [Child Safeguarding for CVA](#), which "enables users to make CVA more accountable to children, by providing guidance on how to identify, prevent, and respond to child safeguarding incidents more effectively"
- In an effort to help clarify the concept of **Multipurpose Cash**, CaLP wrote a blog on the [ABC for MPC – What multipurpose cash can and cannot do](#)

