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Facts in a nutshell:

- **October 2016, Haiti:**
SET uses cash for its rapid response.
Two Swiss cash experts supported WFP's emergency cash response.
- **December 2016:** 1 day trainings for SDC/HA and SRC.
- **February 2017:** Geneva Cash Working Group discussion on coordination.
- **March 2017:**
First RC/RC Movement cash event takes place in Geneva.
Social Protection Issue paper is approved by SDC Management.
New SDC/HA Cash Concept is approved by HA Management.

Haiti, a Swiss direct action in response to hurricane Matthew

In response to hurricane Matthew, SHA deployed a SET/Rapid Response Team for the emergency response. After a rapid needs assessment (Switzerland was among the first humanitarian actors to actually travel to the affected areas), it was decided to assist some of the most affected communal sections of the department Sud where SDC already had presence prior to the disaster. The SET focused on emergency shelter and water, as well as **immediate income support through cash**.



Emergency cash for work:

- *2,000 households were reached in October, the month during which the hurricane made landfall.*
- *They received cash as income support, and it was distributed against work performed in removing debris and clearing roads in the communities (cash for work).*

This **approach was based on various decisive factors**: i) **markets**, which had collapsed just after the hurricane, were already recovering a week later allowing households to purchase emergency goods; ii) the **availability of cash through banks** and the fact that the Cooperation Office already had an agreement with SOGEBANK which facilitated cash retrieval and transport by the SET team; iii) **one of the SET team leaders was one of the most experienced SHA Cash experts** which prompted his natural consideration for cash and risk-taking. Furthermore other members of the SET with other functions (Logistics, Security) didn't shy away from taking responsibilities for the cash transfers showing flexibility and willingness to learn on the job; and iv) the **Government of Haiti is in favor of the use of cash and vouchers** as they have been widely used by multiple actors ever since the earthquake response in 2010.

Access was a critical issue in the wake of Matthew, as most of the roads and streets were covered with debris and fallen trees. Hence the **households received cash against work done on the cleaning of community roads and removal of debris** caused by the hurricane.

The decision to distribute cash was internally approved in only two days, and the **cash assistance was provided within 17 days of the hurricane.**

In addition to this direct action, **SDC/HA provided immediate support to WFP Haiti with two of its cash experts** over a four-month period to support the agency's emergency response with cash to cover the food needs of 21'600 households with transfers via sim cards with the phone company Digicel.

Recognizing that more readiness for the implementation of cash is necessary in SET teams, SDC/HA will work on a cash toolkit and will ensure training material is made available to the SET.

Multi-purpose cash and protection: a project in Colombia

While both multi-purpose cash and the use of cash for protection outcomes are still very new (and newly studied), WFP Colombia, with the support of our Swiss secondee Giuseppe Rullanti, conducted a multipurpose cash pilot with protection ends in Medellin from May to December 2016.

Women victims of violence have received a cash transfer upon their departure from the Government safe houses to restart their lives and be able to live in an independent manner. Giuseppe tells us how he put this into practice.



Beneficiaries from the project receive cash cheques redeemable within 5 to 10 days with their identity cards at the counters of Bancolombia. Photo by WFP.

Who is targeted and why?

Women who have been/or are victims of violence based on gender (sexual abuse/violation, intra-household violence, or systematic violence from a third party due to being a woman) in their daily lives or women victims of sexual violence due to the armed conflict. These women are cared for in institutions supported by the Government/Municipality or other institutions with the same objectives, after which they need to restart their lives, often by themselves as a protection mean from previous violence. WFP supports them in this latter phase with cash transfers aiming to cover their basic needs so that they can focus on recovering a livelihood.

SHORT REMINDER: DEFINITION

A **Multipurpose Cash Grant (MPG)** is defined as a cash transfer (either regular or one-off) corresponding to the amount of money a household needs to cover, fully or partially, a set of basic and/or recovery needs. MPGs are by definition unrestricted cash transfers.

The **Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)** is defined as what a household requires in order to meet basic needs – on a regular or seasonal basis – and its average cost over time. MPGs will contribute to the MEB, but can also include other one-off or recovery needs.

MPG differs from other unrestricted cash transfers (i.e. cash amount provided to cover needs for one or more sectors) as their value is set to be sufficient to cover for all needs or a part of them, and is no longer attached to specific values per sectors.

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How was this done?

After having conducted a feasibility assessment, WFP partnered with CERFAMI, *the Center of Integral Resources for the Family* as cooperating partner in the field, and Bancolombia, as the financial service provider for the cash transfers. The cash amount was calculated based on the gap between the income/resources that the vulnerable women could count on and the total minimum expenditure basket calculated at the market prices for goods and services in Medellín. The transfer was equivalent to US\$140 per month (which was adjusted on a case-by-case basis when necessary). The targeted women received monthly transfers over a period of six months. The cash transfer was complemented by training on income generating activities and psycho-social support.

Any specific findings?

Cash allowed the targeted women to purchase what they needed from different locations within Medellín. There were no major security risks encountered for beneficiaries or staff during the project, and actually, having access to cash gave a sense of security to the women thereby complying with the project's protection objective.

What now?

As the project was a success, it is now being replicated in Cali, the city with the highest rates of violence against women in Colombia. In addition to integrating the approach of supporting women victims of violence with cash to restart their livelihoods in the departmental roadmap, local authorities are also providing half of the funding for the project to WFP. Furthermore, to ensure women are independent through employment, either individually or collectively, and can benefit from financial inclusion, WFP has actively engaged with the private sector in Cali. The overall methodology of work for this project, and its lessons learned, was shared by the Latin America Regional Bureau with WFP Headquarters and other Regional Bureaux.



Giuseppe, center at the bottom, is one of SDC/HA cash experts with the largest experience. Photo by WFP.

More news from our cash secondees: A regional focus on Eastern Africa

We take a look at the work done by Swiss cash experts in the upper Eastern Africa region. Natacha works for WFP Somalia, Sonia works for UNHCR Sudan and there has also been a Swiss JPO acting as Regional Cash Advisor for UNHCR in Kenya.

Sonia de la Cruz is currently on secondment with UNHCR in Sudan. For her first months, from November 2016, she has been working along one of the most experienced Swiss cash experts, Karl-Friedrich Glombitza. This is one of the tandem schemes built for on-the-job training to reinforce the Swiss cash expert pool.



How would you describe your core work in just a few sentences?

Since I joined the UNHCR Sudan office in Khartoum, my daily tasks are mostly related to capacity building and the easing of processes for increased cash use within UNHCR. This goes from finalizing

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Standard Operating Procedures for a multi-purpose cash programme for urban refugees from South Sudan in Khartoum, the negotiation of an agreement with a bank, sensitization material for the refugees, defining roles and responsibilities within each units of the office, meeting partners to a) find out their capacity and knowledge on cash and vouchers and b) to identify synergies, as well as identifying further areas of collaboration with the Government programmes. We have also prompted the reactivation of the national cash working group in Sudan which had been dormant for a few years. Overall, Sudan is one of UNHCR's focus countries for the roll-out of the corporate Cash-Based Intervention strategy so internally all eyes are on us.

How is your work contributing to your organization's strategy on cash-based transfers in your area?

With the Cash Assessor, we advocated very strongly for the undertaking of feasibility studies in the country to find out whether more use of cash would be possible across UNHCR's activities. However delays in obtaining travel permits hamper our efforts.

What is the extent of the regional/cross-border component in your work?

My work is focused exclusively on Sudan, which is already a huge country with a complex work environment. However there has been regular exchanges with the Regional Service Center in Nairobi and we receive support from the Regional Cash Officer (who is a Swiss JPO to UNHCR).



Sonia conducting assessment with the Sudanese Red Crescent Society in Dabab Bosin Camp, Sudan. Photo by Karl-Friedrich Glombitza.

Natacha Pugin has been working for over a year as Programme Policy Officer Cash-Based Transfers in WFP Somalia Country Office, based in the Nairobi Liaison Office.

How would you describe your core work in just a few sentences?

In Somalia, WFP provides food assistance to beneficiaries using an owned digital beneficiary and transfer management platform called SCOPE. To date, 1.7 million people in Somalia have been registered in SCOPE. By March 2017, 662'938 Somalis in acute need received food assistance through a chip-enhanced card, which holds both the household's entitlement and the fingerprints of transfer recipients.

As a member of the Transfer Management team, I work closely with the Heads of Programme, relevant units and Area Offices in Somalia to ensure that cash-based transfers within Somalia are implemented according to WFP corporate guidelines, standards and procedures. We manage the end-to-end stream-lining of processes related to SCOPE and strategically adapt delivery solutions to the local context and individual programme needs, irrespective of the modality selected, being cash, vouchers, in-kind or a combination. Somalia, slowly emerging from years of conflict, is a very complex context to work in. Difficult times are yet to come due to the pre-famine status that is plaguing the country. Currently 2.9 million people require immediate humanitarian assistance and life-saving support. The horrifying, unacceptable fate of starving to death is once again a 21st century reality.

How is your work contributing to your organization's strategy on cash-based transfers in your area?

Cash-based transfers through SCOPE technology, allow beneficiaries in Somalia to purchase nutritious food from more than 625 retailers contracted nationwide. Data digitalization means that assistance can be more easily tailored to the needs of the highly affected population groups, such as the elderly, disabled, pregnant and lactating women and children under five years of age. WFP Somalia Country Office is at the forefront of innovation when it comes to cash-based transfers.



SCOPE registration in IFO 2, Daadab Refugee Camps. Photo by WFP.

Through one SCOPE card, multiple-wallet assistance to the most vulnerable is provided simultaneously and over time. For instance, last July, 8'100 drought affected households in the northeastern Somalia region of Puntland received unconditional cash-based transfers from WFP and also hygiene kits and non-food items from UNICEF using the same SCOPE card.

The use of common services helps WFP and other humanitarian agencies to better serve people in need, ensuring greater synergy between the different organizations and clearly demonstrating impact of concerted and coordinated global assistance, increasing effectiveness, beneficiaries' empowerment and communities' resilience. FAO, Save the Children, World Vision International, NRC and DRC have embraced the use of SCOPE as a common platform to register beneficiaries and deliver assistance to people in Somalia.

What is the extent of the regional/cross-border component in your work?

Unfortunately, I have not yet undertaken any missions to Somalia due to the security constraints and volatile environment. However, I have been on several field missions to implement WFP cash-based transfers in Daadab Camps in Kenya. WFP Somalia is providing assistance to refugees expressing interest to return to Somalia. The process is supported by WFP Kenya, UNHCR and



DRC, our cooperating partner on the ground. Biometrics of those households voluntarily returning to or resettling in Somalia are captured in SCOPE. Each household receives a monthly value voucher credited on their SCOPE card for a period of six months from the date of return, which enables them to safely purchase the food from local retailers. WFP is also assisting Somali returnees from Yemen and Djibouti. But this is just a drop in the sea. This region is facing tremendous challenges and we, together, must act fast and efficiently to avoid the worst and help women, children and men at risk.



A quick look back on the period since the last edition:

New SDC/HA Operational Cash Concept, 2017-2020

- On 28 March, the **HA operational committee approved the [new operational cash concept](#)**.
- Despite notable improvements globally cash and vouchers still account for only 7 percent of assistance delivered by all humanitarian actors (data of end of 2016, increase of only 1 percent since 2015). Large bottlenecks remain and need to be addressed in the coming years. **SDC/HA keeps an important added-value**, especially with its close to 20 years of experience as operational actor and donor.
- **The new concept focuses on what is missing for cash to reach scale**, following the shift from “why not cash?”, as benefits are now well understood, to the “how to do it”. This goes with prioritizing: 1) **the systematic inclusion of CTP as an option**, especially with actors that are still heavily working on their scale up such as the RC/RC Movement (ICRC, IFRC and their support to the readiness of national societies to use cash), UNHCR, UNRWA, CaLP and others; 2) **support to coordination**: with the support to joint initiatives for reduced duplications and support the establishing of a predictable solution for cash coordination within the existing humanitarian architecture; 3) **Support to preparedness**: i) strong internal will to reinforce readiness to use cash within the SET/rapid responses (entry point for direct actions), ii) importance to take into account existing national and local capacities, and linking with existing systems (social protection, private sector). This link to localization calls for strengthened partnerships with actors that invest in local capacities,

like the RC/RC Movement does with national societies.

- And for communication on SDC/HA work to external partners, please feel free to use the [SDC/HA Cash Fact sheet](#).

SDC Social Protection issue paper

- On 20 March, the SDC Management/Dirko approved the **first [SDC Social Protection issue paper](#)** which was produced by Humanitarian Aid together with the South Cooperation. It calls for more investment in Social Protection from SDC and for the identification of joint projects between domains.
- A **workshop on humanitarian cash transfers and Social Protection** was also held during the H-Seminar in March for which you can find a summary enclosed [here](#).

White paper on cash coordination

- Upon CaLP's request, GPPI drafted a **white paper on cash coordination**, available [here](#). The paper **takes stock on what is existing, and on what are the perceived advantages and disadvantages of each existing and possible model**, as per interviews with multiple key stakeholders. It does not take a position towards one model or another, but seeks to provide constructive inputs to the current debate.

Current reality:

- Cash working groups have formed in an ad hoc manner (less than 30 active worldwide in 2016), are often under the food-security or the inter-sector group, a broad range of actors are involved in leading them either permanently or in rotation.

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- There is a recognition that multi-purpose cash goes across sectors and that the response analysis should be done in an integrated manner.
- There are also global coordination efforts (IASC work, Grand Bargain cash workstream, High level panel, Geneva-based working group) as well as Regional ones (CaLP regional advisors).
- Debate around cash coordination is politicized due to concerns about resources and power, with the risk of actors with less expertise trying to get involved in the mechanisms.

General agreement on the following:

- Cash coordination to be formalized to some extent (as it can cause many operational issues otherwise, Swiss cash experts experienced this first

hand in Haiti), while retaining some degree of flexibility (context).

- Technical and strategic coordination around cash shouldn't be separated as it is more of a spectrum and they can easily overlap.
- Recognition that IASC global proposal has so far had little effect and should be followed up upon (i.e. IASC suggested a technical and strategic response analysis group to assess all transfer modalities, and avoid having cash as a silo, to be linked to the inter-cluster coordination group, to remain flexible and include the Government).

SDC/HA is committed to support efforts towards a better global coordination of cash.

Good recent reads & resources:

- **Testing grounds in Lebanon: when discussions go into action** [Irin article](#) and [ODI article](#).
- **UNHCR Corporate Strategy on cash-based interventions** [here](#).
- **The case for cash** [by the RC/RC Movement](#).
- **Impact of cash transfers on women and girls, evidence** [by ODI](#).
- **Cash Myths versus Realities, illustration** [by UNICEF and FAO](#).
- **5 Myths about Cash** [Irin article](#).
- **Counting cash: tracking cash expenditures** [by ODI](#).
- **Cash is one of them! 3 notable innovations in Humanitarian Aid** [Irin article](#).
- **New online courses:** CaLP partnership with the Humanitarian Leadership Academy is providing access to online CTP courses on markets, cash in urban settings, and Social Protection in various languages. Visit [here](#).

Upcoming events:

- **8 to 10 May, SDC/HA Basic Cash training:** Opportunity for SHA members to get into the cash pool.
- **11 to 12 May, SDC/HA Advanced Cash training.** Senior Swiss cash experts to meet for experience sharing and discussion on current topics (single agency delivery models, multi-purpose cash, coordination and others).
- **1 June:** Cash will feature on the agenda of the SDC Dirko retreat.
- **28 and 29 June, CaLP Global Cash Forum in Geneva:** The annual meeting of CaLP with all key cash actors and its 50 members, Switzerland will be co-hosting it this year.
- **June:** Geneva will also feature cash side events during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment resolution, the Grand Bargain and GHD cash workstream meetings.

More regular communication with us!

We are re-activating the SDC/HA cash D-group where you'll be able to get more regular feeds from us on information that you might find relevant.

If not already a member, subscribe: [here](#).

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