



Cash and Voucher Assistance in Humanitarian Crises: What Works?

Credits	2 credits ECTS
Dates	12 – 23 May 2025
Format	<p>Online (combination of self-study time and live sessions). Live sessions are mandatory and take place 2-3 times a week, usually in early afternoon CET.</p> <p><i>Online course requires 20-25 hours of dedicated work per week. We recommend that participants allow at least 50% of their time for the course and adapt their professional activity accordingly.</i></p>
Language	English
Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full price: CHF 1'700• Partner rate (MSF, ICRC): CHF 1'360 (20% discount)• Special Rate for Government and NGO/CBO Staff: CHF 850. Available exclusively to staff from local and national NGOs, CBOs, and government employees in low/middle-income countries. Proof of local employment and salary required.
Course director	Helene Juillard – helene.juillard@unige.ch

Course overview

Short description

In recent years, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) has emerged as a key game changer in the way humanitarian assistance is implemented, especially as it is becoming a common modality to deliver relief. The use of cash and vouchers is not new, and examples date back to the 19th centuries. However, CVA has only become mainstream recently. Despite this global favourable environment, 7 out of 10 humanitarian organisations report having difficulties finding staff with this skill set. This executive short course has a dual objective to build students' practical skills to design, implement and monitor projects using CVA as well as build their critical and reflexive skills on the topic of cash and voucher assistance.

Objectives of the course

At the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Explain the different cash and market related concepts and terminologies
- Discuss the state of cash-related evidence and current Global policy dialogues triggered or encompassing CVA
- Decide if cash and voucher assistance is an appropriate modality to cover sectoral or multi-sectoral needs in a given humanitarian context
- Identify output, outcome and process related indicators to measure the success of a project using cash as its delivery modality
- Discuss the extent to which the increased uptake of cash and voucher assistance is shaking up the overall humanitarian coordination architecture
- Assess the comparative risks cash can pose or expose especially in light of data protection and AML/CT regulations

Workload

Around 20-25 hours of work each week, including:

1. Asynchronous self-study activities (such as case studies, videos, recorded slideshows, readings, etc.)
2. Synchronous live sessions

Thematic structure of the course

- Cash and market related concepts and terminologies
- The state of cash-related evidence and the common myths around CVA
- Output, outcome and process related indicators to measure a project using CVA

- CVA feasibility: The main preconditions to use CVA in crisis context
- Market functionality and the influence of CVA on the local economy in crisis contexts
- Delivery mechanisms for CVA and the role of anti-money laundering and CT regulations
- Data protection and compliance
- Global policy environment for cash coordination and the use of CVA

Prerequisites

Audience

- Professionals in the humanitarian, development or social sector looking to develop their competencies in cash and voucher assistance in humanitarian settings
- Professionals from other sectors (marketing, bank system, project management, policy making, donor agency, government officials) who wish to increase their understanding of cash and voucher assistance in humanitarian responses
- Graduate students with relevant volunteer or intern experience, looking to undertake a postgraduate course with a view to entering the humanitarian sector.

Non-professional audience should possess, as a pre-requisite, a good command of the project cycle management and of the way the humanitarian arena function (who are the different stakeholders, what is the typical architecture of a humanitarian response, etc.).

Distance Learning

- Broadband/high speed connection - 2.5 Mbps minimum.
- Please note that a PC/laptop/tablet is preferred to access most weekly content and activities
- microphone and webcam

Admission requirements

1. a university qualification (Bachelor's degree or equivalent)
2. at least three years of relevant professional experience
3. excellent command of English
4. motivation working in the humanitarian sector

