

Brussels, 20 May 2026
(OR. en)

9474/26

COHAFA 42
DEVGEN 84
FIN 708
RELEX 682
INTER-REP 34

NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
On: 20 May 2026
To: Delegations

Subject: Humanitarian Reset
- presentation by CALP Network

Following the meeting of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid (COHAFA) on 20 May 2026, delegations will find in Annex the presentation made by CALP Network¹²

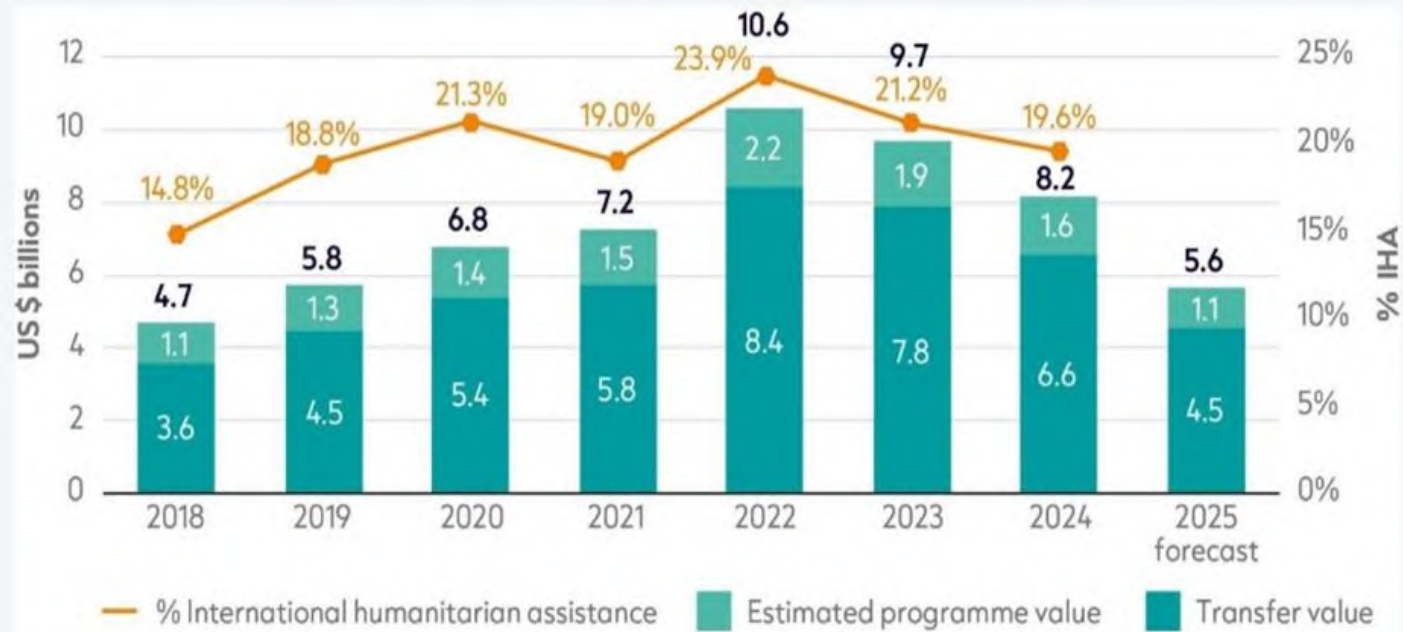
¹ CALP Network, identification number in the EU Transparency Register: 46856801604-90.
² This document contains a presentation by an external stakeholder and the views expressed therein are solely those of the third party it originates from. This document cannot be regarded as stating an official position of the Council. It does not reflect the views of the Council or of its members.

Cash and Voucher Assistance

1. Current Status
2. The Case for CVA: New Evidence
3. Cash and the Humanitarian Reset



CVA Current Status: Volumes and Share



Re-making the Case for CVA: The Evidence - People-Centred Modality

People Centred: People strongly prefer cash and use it wisely

Most people prefer cash across contexts & crisis-affected groups

- *60-90% of people surveyed globally (16 responses highlighted)*

Post distribution monitoring consistently report uses of cash for food, health, utilities and rent

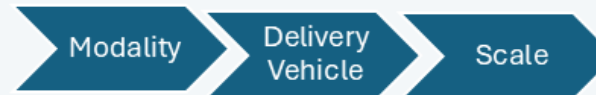
New evidence on the important impact of CVA on dignity, agency, well being and psychological outcomes in complex crises

Cash assistance improves dignity, choice, and household well-being - cash transfers consistently strengthened day-to-day stability, allowing families to prioritise essentials while increasing a sense of autonomy and dignity compared to in-kind aid.

CVA supports psychosocial well-being - Recipients reported reduced anxiety and improved mental well-being, especially linked to food security and debt reduction.

Re-making the Case for CVA: The Evidence - Efficiency

Program design not context drives the largest gains and losses in efficiency



Modality

Multipurpose Cash Assistance

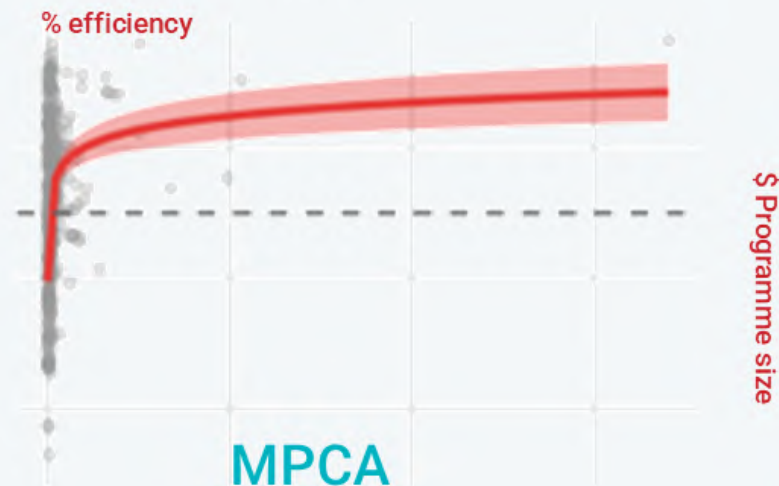
In-Kind Food

} MPCA is 37.5% more cost efficient to deliver than in-kind food

Efficiency measured by transfer ratio exceeded 70% for CVA programs – compared to 56% for in kind food aid.

Re-making the Case for CVA: The Evidence – Efficiency

Scale: MPCA gets rapidly more efficient as program size increases



Partner Type: Local and National Actors deliver cash efficiently

Sectoral cash delivered by **local and national actors** achieved efficiency of over 75% (sectoral/MPCA)

Cash works efficiently at small scale and can scale up quickly



Remaking the Case for CVA

Evidence 3: Risk and Diversion

There is no evidence that diversion risks are higher for cash than in kind aid

- New CALP research shows no quantitative evidence either way. KI interviews indicate:
 - The type of modality is not the primary determinant of diversion
 - There are **fewer diversion entry points** for electronic cash vs in kind aid
 - CVA programmes is subject to stringent donor due diligence
 - And electronic cash is **safer** for vulnerable groups than in kind aid



Successful examples of CVA come from 'hard-to reach conflict contexts'

- Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Somalia and Sudan
- Innovation is happening fastest in challenging contexts

Cash is an Enabler of the Reset

Cash is not just a modality but a driver of system reform. Greater use of cash can :

Support prioritisation – focusing scarce aid on most acute life saving needs in complex contexts .

Improve efficiency - streamlining delivery chains and reducing transaction costs and bureaucracy

Drive localisation - locally- led cash is a powerful tool for shifting the response close to the ground. Links between social protection and CVA.

Support coordination reform – locally led cash coordination is thriving in some places but sitting at the edge of the system. Potential for common pool funds.



The Cash Workstream (all CVA)

Strengthen tracking – focusing on strengthening the FTS – critical that donors track better

Re-affirm importance of Cash Working Groups – in context of resource shortages and high economic volatility role is crucial

Support local leadership and co-implementation

- By end-2027, 75% of CWG have local or national actors in co-chair roles.
- By end 2027 % of CVA funding that donors allocate directly to local partners

Improve cash preparedness - countries have systems, tools, analysis, and capacities required for rapid, safe, and scalable cash delivery.

- By end-2027, 80% of countries⁶ adopt or update preparedness plans that position cash as the priority response modality when conditions allow.

The Cash Workstream

Cash at scale : Increase the proportion and coverage of CVA year-on-year.

- By end 2027, CVA represents 35% of funded humanitarian assistance
- By end 2027, unrestricted and unconditional cash assistance (MPCA) represents 85% of the overall CVA delivered

People's preferences - ensure modality decisions reflect recipient preferences consistently and transparently.

- By end-2027, 95% of humanitarian assistance is delivered in CVA in contexts where at least 85% of crisis-affected people report a preference