

# Cash for Protection



## About the Break it Down Series

The "Break it Down Series" covers approaches and technical topics throughout the humanitarian project cycle in an engaging, bite-sized format. By being concise, it aims to enhance clarity and foster a shared understanding and terminology. The series offers helpful tips as well as links to tools for further exploration and learning.

## What is Cash for Protection?

Cash for Protection (C4P; CfP) focuses specifically on using Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) to address individual or household level critical protection needs. Note that Cash for protection should not be confused with [protection mainstreaming](#) and must be offered within a Case Management framework.



Cash for Protection Program in Türkiye, STL, 2024

## What is the objective of Cash for Protection?

In Cash for Protection CVA is used as one of several modalities for a protection response. It can be both a responsive and remedial action, meaning that it is aimed at contributing to preventing, reducing or mitigating protection risks or reducing the impacts of the specific protection risks on the survivors.

## Why does CfP matter to Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and its partners?

In the context where Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and its partners are working, protection for people at risk is becoming a major area of work. Fostering operational preparedness in terms of effective and efficient protection programming presents valuable ways to support people in crises.

CVA, when used in protection programming — along with in-kind assistance, case management and/or other services — has the potential to contribute to protection outcomes. There is growing evidence that in some contexts cash offers new or even the only ways to respond to critical protection needs.

## How to decide whether cash for protection makes sense – or not

CVA can be used in protection programmes to address a range of household and individual protection needs to meet context-specific protection outcomes – be it in terms of GBV mitigation, child protection, housing, land and property or mine action. The provision of Cash for Protection is guided by a clear connection between a well-defined protection concern and an analysis of how the cash assistance will help achieve a protection outcome by preventing, reducing, or mitigating the identified risks. A step-by-step guide for decision-making can be found [here](#).

## In most circumstances, for cash assistance to be provided, it should satisfy the three S's

### Safe

The cash assistance will not increase risk to the service user.

### Sustainability

Cash transfers will be used to meet a specific and non-recurring cost i.e. costs which arose recently that the person/household cannot meet at the time.

### Suitability

Cash will effectively address the service user's most urgent needs for protection or when paired with other services within the service user's action plan.

## Learning from practice: Supporting Refugee Women in Türkiye

In response to the 2023 earthquake in Türkiye, the longstanding Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe partner organization Support to Life (STL) started to use Cash for Protection to help preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) among refugee women. The goal of the assistance varies depending on each GBV case according to the individual protection risk. In a nutshell, the partner provides cash assistance for protection needs, recovery, and access to essential services.

I.e. it is expected to cover documentation, dignity items/ NFI's, legal fees, emergency cash, emergency rent, and other necessary costs that provide support to prevent, mitigate or remove the GBV related risks of the survivor. Cash for Protection is complemented by Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), enabling refugees to meet their most pressing basic needs. This holistic approach supports women to rebuild their lives with security, autonomy, and dignity.



Cash for Protection Program in Türkiye, STL, 2024



## Resources and Further reading

- Global Protection Cluster (2024) [Cash for Protection in Standalone/ Specialized Protection programming - A Global Protection Cluster task team on Cash for Protection paper.](#)
- Global Protection Cluster (2023) [Cash for protection guidelines for protection partners](#)
- Global Protection Cluster (2023) [Recommendations on Cash for Protection for General Protection Actors](#)
- Global Protection Cluster (2024) [Guide to Protection Case Management](#)

## 6 Guiding principles for Cash for Protection

### Complementarity

CfP should never be provided as a standalone action to achieve protection outcomes. Moreover, Cash for Protection should complement, not replace, other protection responses.

### Protection expertise

Protection expertise is essential for the design of C4P. Staff involved in CfP must be trained on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as child safeguarding. Additionally, they must receive training on the referral pathways before participating in the intervention.

### Safety and Do-No-Harm

The potential risks and benefits of CfP must be carefully assessed to ensure it does not lead to safety concerns. Cash assistance should not expose recipients to additional risks. Direct cash transfers to children are prohibited and should only be provided to their caregivers.

### Gender Analysis

Gender must be carefully considered when providing CfP. The impact on gender dynamics within households should be analysed throughout the process.

### Accountability

Implementing organisations must involve CfP beneficiaries in both the design and implementation of the activity. A relevant and safe two-way feedback mechanism should be established, ensuring transparent communication with the community.

### Data Protection

CfP involves collecting sensitive personal data from vulnerable individuals, particularly in cases of GBV and child protection. Therefore, agencies must ensure that robust data protection policies, guidelines, and tools are in place to prevent harm to beneficiaries.

## Imprint

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