

REGIONAL CASH WORKING GROUP-R4V FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

September 2021

The Regional Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela recognized the need to create a productoriented Regional Working Group on Cash-Based Interventions, which aims to support national / sub-regional platforms and country-level working groups under the regional platform umbrella while recognizing the leadership of country-based responses (ToR, 2019).

The group conducted elections for the new (co-leadership) according to the guidelines of the <u>Elections Co-leaders Cash</u> <u>Working Group | R4V</u>

For more information, please refer to the Group's web site

Regional Cash Working Group | R4V

FAQ

- i. What is the R4v?
- ii. Is there any Cash Working Group under the R4V?
- iii. Why it is important?
- iv. How can I contact the Coordination team?
 How frequently do members meet? How can I subscribe to the e-mailing list?
- v. Who is a member of the RCWG?
- vi. How does the RCWG link up with other Platforms?
- vii. Which are the next steps?

You can contact the Cash Working Group Coordination team at <u>cbi.rwg@gmail.com</u>

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1. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

i. What is R4V?

In April 2018 the UN Secretary-General provided direction for IOM and UNHCR to lead and coordinate the regional response to the situation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela seeking access to basic rights and services, protection, as well as self-reliance and socio-economic integration. Further to this direction, the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform was established as a forum to coordinate the response efforts across 17 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a particular focus on achieving coherency and consistency throughout the response.

At national and sub-regional levels, the Regional Platform is complemented by local coordination mechanisms. Dedicated National and Sub-regional Platforms, collaborating closely with host governments are charged with the operational coordination and implementation of the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP). Such coordination platforms are in place in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru - at national levels - and in the Caribbean, Central America & Mexico, and Southern Cone - at sub-regional levels. Their configuration is based on each situational context and the operational capacities of governments and RMRP partners, taking into account existing coordination structures.

ii. Is there any Cash Working Group under the Regional Coordination Platform -R4V?

Yes. There is a Regional Cash Working Group for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela.

Co-leaders:

- 2019/21: It is co-led by the World Food Program (WFP) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and UNICEF as technical secretariat.

- 2021/2022: UNICEF and Save the Children.

The overarching goal of the group is to: *support national responses through national / sub-regional platforms with Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) design, implementation, M&E phases, and all response processes related to CVA.* You can find ToR (2019) and workplan (here) to be updated for 2021. In addition, from April 2020 until September 2021 the group has the technical support of a CashCap expert, hosted by IFRC Americas. Contact here.

iii. Why is it important to have a Regional Cash Working Group?

Besides technically supporting national responses, the RCWG aims to promote the cross-fertilization of knowledge between national groups working in the Refugee and Migrant Response, for example, in terms of assessments, targeting, delivery mechanisms, payment methods, or monitoring of results, to name a few.

Moreover, the RCWG fosters the coordination of cash responses with other sectors and intersectoral issues under the R4V, to enhance the impact and ensure efficiency. It also liaises with other platforms and actors from the humanitarian and development spheres trying to seek coherence, aligning visions, and integrating cross-cutting issues such as gender, age, and diversity.

The RCWG procures visibility of national cash working groups in regional and global forums. Finally, the RCWG aims to provide technical advice to national responses, seeking to contribute to the strengthening of national systems and ensuring sustainability while delivering timely responses.

iv. What is the role of the Coordination team?

You can contact the coordination team at <u>cbi.rwg@gmail.com</u>, request to be added to the dissemination list (more than 100 members), access to work documents <u>RCWG-drive</u>, <u>YouTube Channel</u> and key documents, and dashboard <u>Here</u>. In line with the ToRs, among many activities, they:

- facilitate the monthly regional meetings¹. You can have access to Notes for the Record (<u>here</u>), the meeting is in Spanish and through an online platform (link sent by invitation to all members).
- support the (Co) leadership and Secretariat roles and ensure workplan's activities respond better to the changes of needs and ways of working that the COVID-19 crisis is bringing and address the needs of regional partners and national CWG both in the short and the medium term.
- engage (and backstop, if needed) actively with the different National CWGs and CVA focal points in Subregions and with Regional Sector leads to engage and support CVA discussions/guidelines/workplan, when required, to achieve Sector outcomes and promote the exchange of tools, experiences, and key information on gender, GBV, and CVA.
- support the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Coordination (R4V) with relevant briefings and updates regarding the evolving situation on cash assistance responses under the Platform (twice a month).
- support the planning, implementation, and monitoring of the CVA responses for the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan 2020/21. i.e. Provide technical input to the cash elements of the Refugee and Migrant Regional Plan review process (April-May 2020) to the COVID-19 situation (here); develop <u>guidance</u> and provide technical support to the Planning phase of the RMRP 2021 <u>bit.ly/RMRP2021</u>; cross-fertilize and learn from national focal points, in collaboration with other learning platforms and networks.
- Work closely with the Regional Coordination Platform team and WGs such as Information Management (<u>here</u>), Fundraising and Communication with Communities; and Sectors, namely Integration, WASH, <u>GBV subsector</u>, Protection, Shelter (<u>October/April</u>), Transportation, Education, Nutrition, Health, and Food Security.
- The Group will continue working collectively, reinforcing its workplan to actively contribute to addressing the capacity needs, bottlenecks, and strategic opportunities identified by regional partners and national responses to assist refugees and migrants from Venezuela in affected Latin American and Caribbean states for 2021.

v. Who is a member of the RCWG?

The group is made up of partners of the Regional and National Coordination Platforms for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela either directly implementing, supporting, interested, or planning to design Cash and Voucher Assistance. The CWG has a collective membership and way of working, meaning it relies on the CWG members' active participation to achieve its goal.

- Partners, sector leads, and national platforms co-facilitate, present, or share different initiatives in monthly meetings
- Partners actively participate in the online monthly meeting and discussions, providing inputs and feedback to the Coordination team on the Group's activities, guidelines, initiatives, and workplan.
- Partners, sector leads, and national platforms work collaboratively to achieve activities of the regional workplan (*ongoing*)

¹ Meetings period April- December 2020. May 21st, June 18th, July 16th, August 13th, September 19th, October 8th, November 5th, December 3rd.

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- Implementing partners under the R4V report activities and modalities of assistance through the information Management mechanisms available (*Activity info*) to provide all the data concerning assistance provided by R4V partners towards refugees, migrants, and host communities (<u>Dashboards</u>)
- The group enables and facilitates activities involving local authorities, local NGOs, grassroots organizations and bringing refugees', migrants' and host population's views, needs, and priorities into decision making (pending)

vi. How does the group link up with other Platforms?

The Group engages and collaborates with many platforms, ensuring technical forums work collaboratively and aim for consistency and coherence to support programmatic and operational CVA responses. The Coordination team members work closely, support, and/or collaborate in dissemination in different meetings, events, and initiatives with <u>REDLAC, CaLP Américas, CashCap, WASHLAC, CashHub,</u> Gran Bargain Cash Workstream Sub Working Group, Global CWG, etc.

For example, during the first semester, REDLAC and RCWG convened a <u>regional learning event</u> on the link between CVA and social protection with more than 20 panelists from National Governments, UN Agencies, International NGOs, Red Cross, and National NGOs. <u>Here</u> you can find the systematization of the event that reached more than 200 participants online and more than 300 on the <u>YouTube Channel</u> with simultaneous translation service.

September 2019 – 2021

