



World Vision®



ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2016

Maximizing the contribution of cash-based programming to ending extreme poverty and achieving zero hunger

The Permanent Missions of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the World Food Programme and World Vision International

Monday, 27 June, 08:30am - 09.45

Conference Room 11, United Nations Secretariat, New York

Background and objectives

The United Nations Secretary General's Agenda for Humanity presents a compelling vision for the role of humanitarian assistance in the achievement of Agenda 2030 and its commitment to 'leave no one behind and reach those furthest behind first'. Cash transfers in humanitarian contexts are an essential tool for ensuring dignity and empowering affected populations. The use of cash has the potential to increase efficiency in the delivery of humanitarian assistance and to stimulate local market development and employment opportunities that promote resilience and improve development outcomes for the most vulnerable men, women and children.

The Grand Bargain of the High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing calls for the use of cash to be scaled up in the delivery of humanitarian assistance alongside other transfer modalities, such as in-kind assistance and vouchers, based on the evaluation of local context. Evidence from the country level demonstrates that cash transfer programmes designed around a thorough understanding of local context can have a positive impact on the lives of affected populations and serve to reduce poverty and hunger over time.

The food assistance sector, in particular, has been at the forefront of operationalizing cash transfer modalities and can offer key field-based lessons that can be adopted and built upon by a wide range of humanitarian actors. The side event will provide an opportunity for participants to discuss the ways in which cash programming can build on the outcomes of the Grand Bargain to bring greater amounts of humanitarian funding directly to beneficiaries and support beneficiary participation in program design and delivery.

Discussion points

The side-event will focus on the following suggested questions:

- *What priority actions are required to accelerate the scaling up of cash transfers in the provision of humanitarian assistance?*

- *How can the use of cash in the delivery of food assistance inform programme design, including for the establishment of common platforms and multi-sector programming?*
- *What is required to strengthen the evidence base for assessing the impact, risks, costs and benefits of cash transfers relative to in-kind assistance, service delivery, and vouchers across a wide range of humanitarian contexts?*

Intended outcomes

The event will seek to stimulate a substantive discussion between member state representatives, policy experts, and practitioners. It will seek to build a greater understanding of key policy issues based on practical examples of how cash is utilized to achieve food security and nutrition objectives at the operational level as well as how these lessons can inform a smoother and swifter scale up of multi-sectorial cash programming. The outcome of these discussions should serve to inform follow up to the World Humanitarian Summit and the Grand Bargain.

Format

Panel discussion followed by interactive dialogue.

Chair: Dina Kawar, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the UN

Moderator:

- Eran Nagan, Senior Humanitarian Officer, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN

Panelists:

- Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme
- Ian Ridley, Senior Director for Humanitarian Affairs, World Vision International
- Colin Bruce, Senior Advisor to the World Bank President
- Sarah Bailey, Secretariat Manager and Technical Expert, High Level Panel on Humanitarian Cash Transfers

Background Material

The Other Side of the Coin: The Comparative Evidence of Cash and In-Kind Transfers in Humanitarian Situations

Doing Cash Differently: How Cash Transfers Can Transform Humanitarian Aid

Contact

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