

Guidelines for Cash for Protection Programming in Jordan

Definitions, Eligibility Criteria and Target Groups

July 2020

The below definitions have been developed by the Cash for Protection Task Force in Jordan, in order to outline a common understanding and approach to Cash for Protection programming amongst different actors within the current humanitarian response in Jordan.¹ The definitions are intended to serve as a guideline to organizations planning Cash for Protection Programs.

1. Objective of Cash for Protection Programming

- Cash for Protection is a form of assistance that aims to mitigate, either through prevention or response, a protection incident or situation experienced by vulnerable individuals or HHs (such as vulnerable refugees, migrants or members of the host communities). A Protection incident/situation is defined as an event where an individual has experienced or is at risk of *serious*² harm, violence, abuse, exploitation, a severe form of discrimination, or a violation of their rights which is impacting on their safety and dignity, meaningful access, participation and empowerment, or otherwise their wellbeing. Case management services alone are often not sufficient to mitigate these incidents. If this is the case, they can be coupled with Cash for Protection payments for a limited period of time.
- Cash for protection is always to be seen as a complementary measure in
 - preventing the materialization of a protection risk,
 - responding to the consequences of a protection incident or threat, or
 - reducing the exposure to an existing protection threat.
- The cash payment(s) must always be accompanied by case management and other forms of assistance.
- Cash for Protection is generally not intended to assist refugees, vulnerable migrants or members of the host community to meet their basic needs as a result of their socio-economic vulnerability and cannot address a long-standing vulnerability.
- Depending on the programme, Cash for protection might be unconditional or conditional based on the needs and situational context.

¹ The definitions are based to a large extent on the SOPs of the UNHCR Emergency Cash Assistance and Protection Cash Assistance Programme in Lebanon (May 2016, revised 2017), but have been adapted to reflect the experiences and realities of NGOs delivering Cash for Protection in Jordan.

² 'serious' is a threat to or violation of the integrity of the mental health or bodily autonomy of a person

2. Forms of Cash for Protection

Cash for Protection can take two different forms:

a) **One-time Emergency Cash for Protection**

- Usually a one-time payment that **addresses an emergency situation** that exposes an individual or a household to risk or actual serious harm. It aims to resolve the emergency situation or to mitigate serious harm or potential threat to personal safety or well-being.
- The emergency situation may relate to an **unforeseen event or incident** (such as an accident, detention of a family member, forced eviction etc.) It may also be caused by the **accumulation of factors**, such as medical situation, ongoing harassment, or change in family composition/dynamic that leads to an emergency situation.
- This assistance may not always be in response to an immediate threat (where quick delivery is essential). It can also be used as a tool to respond to threats that are not immediate, if it fills a gap in a service not provided by any other actor.
- An event that leads to serious harm is in itself not sufficient to warrant the issuance of Cash for Emergencies. There must be a chance that a one-time cash payment is able to address or mitigate the serious harm. Serious harm must be on the balance of probabilities, be likely to occur and not be theoretical.

b) **Recurring Cash for Protection**

- In many cases, a one-time cash-payment is not sufficient to mitigate serious harm. Cash for Protection can therefore also be paid over several months through multiple instalments of cash assistance.
- This form of recurring Cash for Protection can serve to **bridge a period of extreme hardship** that has been brought about by unforeseen circumstances such as a protection incident, an accident, a medical emergency/condition, or loss of access to livelihoods which results in people being exposed to a protection incident/concern (e.g. arbitrary detainment, sole provider is pregnant and cannot work anymore; sole provider is injured). It can also target **persons transitioning out of a protection situation into safety** (=legal safety, physical safety, mental wellbeing) or certain categories of **persons facing a particular protection incident/situation due to their profiles** (e.g. unaccompanied child, person with disability, elderly person, LGBTI, single heads of household).
- The minimum requirement for Cash for Protection to be considered as 'recurrent' is for cash instalments to be provided at least twice. Usually, the payment should be limited to a certain period of time (three to six months). However, within this period the case should be re-evaluated to assess whether further assistance is needed. If it is clear from the beginning that the case is in a situation of recurrent need, the case should be referred to a more sustainable programme/Multi-Purpose Cash Programme, if possible.

3. Eligibility Criteria for Cash for Protection

Cases that are at high risk of or experience one or more of the following protection threats are eligible for Cash for Protection:

1. High risk violence, abuse and/or exploitation such as:
 - Gender Based Violence issues such as rape, sexual assault, physical abuse, emotional abuse, economic exploitation or abuse, etc.
 - Child Protection issues such as physical abuse, emotional abuse, hazardous child labour
 - Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by humanitarian workers
2. Protection risks as a consequence of a health crisis (including MHPSS)
 - Necessary medical treatment or care not covered by organizations who provide medical assistance (e.g. ambulance transportation; kidney dialysis; iron-chelating agents for thalassemia/blood disorders; biological treatment for cancer patients, hormonal therapy, plastic surgeries; cross-linking visual correction, organ transplantation, rehabilitation services and assistive technology including; hearing, visual and mobility aids)
 - Cases of patients or corpses being withheld in hospital due to unpaid bills
 - Police generalisation/warrant due to unsettled medical invoices
 - inability to cover transportation costs to access treatment
3. Protection risks due to a sudden change in economic or living circumstances such as:
 - sudden loss of primary source of income, e.g. due to short term health emergency of primary income earner/caregiver, detention or death of primary income earner/caregiver
 - sudden loss of essential household items, e.g. due to fire or flooding
 - consequences of harsh weather conditions
 - Inability to cover burial costs of a family member
4. Legal protection risks such as
 - unregistered status / waiting for registration; lack of needed documentation, e.g. birth notification/birth certificate/marriage certificate
 - eviction or risk of eviction
 - detention or risk of detention
 - Issues related to family separation/separation from caregiver (e.g. divorce, custody, alimony)
 - police warrant/generalisation
5. Protection risks due to lack of adequate shelter
 - severely damaged or unsafe shelters
 - lack of safe shelter for SGBV and LGBTI-cases
 - limited mobility and accessibility of shelter

Please note the following points:

- The above list is meant to serve as a **guideline** to organizations. It highlights what kind of protection risks exist in Jordan and can assist organizations in defining eligibility criteria for their programs.
- Organizations might chose to focus their program only on some of the above mentioned protection risks.
- The list is **not exclusive**. Organizations usually conduct individual assessments and might identify protection risks not included in the above list that make the case eligible for Cash for Protection.

4. Target Groups of Cash for Protection

Persons belonging to the following groups face increased protection risks and are therefore target groups of Cash for Protection Interventions.

- A. Children at risk (aged <18)
 - Unaccompanied and separated children
 - Child-headed households
 - Child with disability
 - Children facing risk of early marriage (where cash will prevent the marriage from taking place)
 - Child labour cases (when cash will prevent the child labour and resuming education)
 - Children facing other protection risks

- B. Single caregiver
 - Persons giving care to children, older individuals or persons with severe illnesses and disability with no family support
 - unable to meet basic needs, which impacts on the safety of the person in care

- C. Women at risk
 - Pregnant women
 - Lactating women
 - Women with disabilities
 - Single women without family support (including separated, divorced and widowed women as well as married women who are not accompanied by an adult male)

- D. Older individuals (aged 60+) at risk
 - Persons isolated/separated from families, neglected or abandoned by family or relatives
 - Persons with disabilities including physical, visual, hearing, mental and intellectual disabilities
 - Persons with health problems (severe mental or physical illness; specific health and nutritional needs, need for home-based care, need for prescription drugs for NCD/chronic illnesses etc.)

- E. Large families (6 or more family members):
 - Families with babies, toddlers or children attending school (including foster families)
 - Member of the family is a person with disability or an older person.

- F. Persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses
 - Person with physical disability
 - Person with sensory disability (hearing and visual)
 - Persons with intellectual/learning disability
 - Person with mental health disability including survivor of torture or trauma.

- G. Minority groups:
 - Person identifying him/herself as LGBTIQ+ and:
 - At risk of or survivor of violence, exploitation and/or abuse due to his/her sexual orientation;
 - Facing denial of services due to his/her sexual orientation;
 - Facing social exclusion on the basis of his/her sexual orientation;

- Person of nationality other than Jordanian or Syrian (including Iraqi, Yemeni, Sudanese, Somali, etc.):
 - At risk of or survivor of violence, exploitation and/or abuse due to his/her nationality;
 - Facing denial of services due to his/her nationality;
 - Facing social exclusion on the basis of his/her nationality;
- Person belonging to an ethnic/religious minority and:
 - At risk of or survivor of violence, exploitation and/or abuse due to his/her ethnicity/religion;
 - Facing denial of services due to his/her ethnicity/religion;
 - Facing social exclusion on the basis of his/her religion.

Please note the following points:

- The above list serves as a guideline and is not exclusive.
- Cash for Protection can target persons belonging to the target group, their caregivers or cases in which one household member belongs to the above mentioned target groups.
- Organizations should apply an intersectional approach and prioritize cases that face multiple protection risks or vulnerabilities.
- Cases not belonging to one of these target groups can still be eligible for Cash for Protection, if they face one of the above mentioned protection threats.