

## WHAT IS A GROUP CASH TRANSFER (GCT)?

A response modality that seeks to transfer power to crisis-affected populations or community groups by transferring cash directly to selected groups and enabling them to respond to their needs and priorities.\*

GCTs facilitate a shift away from sectoral silos and support both cross-cutting agendas and multi-sectoral objectives.



### TIPS FOR SUCCESS

#### CVA MODALITY

GCTs are a form of cash and voucher assistance (CVA). They are unrestricted, but conditional on participating community groups submitting a proposal to the facilitating agency. Grants range from USD 500 to 10,000 per group.

#### GCTs alone are not an income generating activity (IGA)

For GCTs to enable livelihoods and economic support objectives, they should be planned alongside structured capacity-building tools and technical support.

#### FOR INFORMAL COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS

GCTs are designed exclusively for informal community-based groups (including grassroots, emergent or unregistered groups), not for formally established organizations nor individual recipients/families. GCTs can empower vulnerable groups by providing them with financial resources and capacity development opportunities.

#### FACILITATES LOCAL HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP

GCTs shift power and control from traditional humanitarian actors to community groups and leaders, such as local women's and youth groups, as first responders to the crises they face.

#### NOT NEW, BUT DIFFERENT

The GCT approach has previously existed under various definitions (e.g. [Survivor and Community-Led Crisis Response](#)) but has now been repackaged as one of many CVA tools that can be easily used and adapted across all emergency response phases.

**TOP TIP:** use the GCT approach for multi-sectoral and cross-cutting themes.

**1** Engage local authorities and stakeholders, including women's groups, from the outset.

**2** Work with community groups for their holistic capacity development.

**3** Maximize project impact by integrating GCTs alongside other program activities.

**4** Jointly establish simple compliance and monitoring measures with recipient community groups.

**5** Plan and budget for a long project duration and significant time requirements for staff.

**6** Enable local and national agencies (who have existing relationships with affected groups) to lead the GCT approach.

## OPPORTUNITIES



**ANTICIPATORY ACTION:** Use the flexibility and agility of the GCT approach to design contextually-relevant programs that use early warning information to mitigate or prevent an emergency from developing.

**SUSTAINABILITY:** Create opportunities to strengthen community-based groups, with a view towards sustainability and community-led resilience.

**DIGITALIZATION:** Use GCT as an entry point to increase the use of digital tools for accountable and transparent record keeping.

### TO LEARN MORE...

Consult the following sector-focused case studies and learning materials:

- [WASH\\*](#)
- [FES\\*](#)
- [Protection\\*](#)
- [Cross-cutting\\*](#)

\* These are live folders into which updated materials will regularly be uploaded.

\* Adapted from Tønning M., and Kabeta, A.R. (2021). [Group Cash Transfers: Guidance and Tools](#). Key Aid Consulting and DCA.