

The Shelter Companion to the CaLP¹ Cash and Voucher Assistance Glossary

Global Shelter Cluster Cash Working Group



¹ Cash Learning Partnership

Global Shelter Cluster Cash Working Group (CWG)

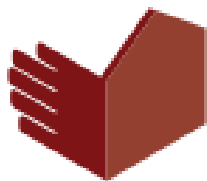
Shelter Companion to the “Glossary of Terminology for Cash and Voucher Assistance”

Between January-February 2019, several agencies from the Global Shelter Cluster’s (GSC) Cash Working Group (CWG) conducted a review of the Cash and Learning Partnership’s “Glossary of Terminology for Cash and Voucher Assistance”².

The glossary provides a number of definitions designed to ensure consistency and enhance awareness of cash and voucher modalities. Some of these definitions and their application may however challenge traditional shelter thinking on how best to use these modalities in meeting shelter objectives. The following companion aims to:

- Provide clarifications on the Glossary in shelter programming terms
- Promote understanding and harmonization of CVA terminology for shelter practitioners
- Enable all humanitarian practitioners to understand how cash and vouchers can be used to meet shelter needs.

The work was developed by the International Federation of the Red Cross’s Shelter Research Unit, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children, and UNHCR on behalf of the Shelter Cluster’s Cash Working Group. The companion is based on available evidence and the Global Shelter Cluster’s Position Papers.³⁴



Global Shelter Cluster
ShelterCluster.org
Coordinating Humanitarian Shelter



Photos on the front cover from left clockwise:

Nadia Carlevaro Kukuna, Nepal June 2015

Rikka Tupaz Shelter Upgrade through cash based interventions Wau, South Sudan IOM 2018

Mike Whittle Philippines

R. Wynveen Contractors hired by the International NGO People in Need conduct repairs in Luhanske, Ukraine April 2017

R. Wynveen Emergency, Light, Medium Repairs Subnational Shelter Cluster Avdiivka, Ukraine July 2017

² [Glossary of Terminology for Cash and Voucher Assistance \(2018\)](#)

³ Joint Position Paper with WASH Cluster 2017: <https://www.sheltercluster.org/shelter-and-cash-working-group/documents/wash-shelter-cash-advocacy-paper-final-version>

⁴ 2016 and 2017: <https://www.sheltercluster.org/shelter-and-cash-working-group/documents/gsc-position-paper-cash-and-markets-shelter-sector>

This glossary should be read as a companion to the CaLP glossary. CaLP’s definition is listed on the left-hand side. Additional clarifications and specificities relevant to the GSC are mentioned on the right. Where terms essential for shelter cash and voucher programming are lacking in CaLP’s glossary, the terms are marked as “Additional Shelter Term” and a definition is proposed as it has importance for shelter programming.

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<p>Basic Needs- The concept of basic needs refers to the essential goods, utilities, services, or resources required on a regular or seasonal basis by households for ensuring long term survival AND minimum living standards, without resorting to negative coping mechanisms or compromising their healthy, dignity, and essential livelihood assets. The Basic Needs Approach (BNA) views poverty as “deprivation of consumption” (inadequate food, nutrition, clean water, education, health, etc.) and is often opposed to the capability approach (CA) in which poverty is seen as a “deprivation of opportunities” related to lifestyles people value.</p> <p>According to the BNA, absolute poverty is measured by comparing households’ consumption level to the absolute minimum resources necessary for physical and material well-being, usually in terms of consumption of goods and essential services. The poverty line is then defined as the amount of income required to satisfy those needs.</p>	<p>The first portion of this definition is important as it refers to minimum living standards, and is something that shelter actors can relate to in how they measure and target shelter programming.</p> <p>Viewed through a shelter lens this definition implies that shelter colleagues should more systematically define minimum costs, thresholds and income levels for the construction or maintenance of affordable shelter, and purchasing of other shelter-related goods and services.</p> <p>Shelter programming though traditionally takes more of a capabilities approach⁵, as the shelter sector consults with communities and attempts to foster’s beneficiaries’ ownership of their shelter solutions based on local building practices. Affected communities and survivors of conflict and natural disasters are deprived of basic capabilities due to the circumstances in which they find themselves. Money itself is usually not sufficient to cover the need, it is rather about a person’s ability to achieve safe and healthy living conditions, and achieve an ability to cope with stressors. In this way, shelter programming should set standards based on objective shelter indicators and on local building cultures while also enabling affected populations to either build back better (for natural disaster) or to recover after conflict situations. This will ensure that the toolkit of shelter policies in responses better correspond to shelter recovery and enables local populations to innovate their own shelter responses. Consistent with this capabilities approach is</p>

⁵ <https://owlcation.com/social-sciences/Understanding-Poverty-Comparing-Basic-Needs-and-Capabilities-Approaches>

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	<p>the recognition that shelter is a process and not a product.</p>
<p>Complementary Programming- This term refers to programming where different modalities and/or activities are combined to achieve objectives. Complementary interventions may be implemented by one agency or by more than one agency working collaboratively. This approach can enable identification or effective combinations of activities to address needs and achieve programme objectives. Ideally this will be facilitated by a coordinated, multisectoral approach to needs assessment and programming.</p>	<p>The shelter sector has long used the term mixed modality to describe this concept. There are many programs that combine in-kind materials, contracted works, and cash particularly in heavier shelter repairs/community infrastructure constructions. Modalities should be chosen based on which mixture is best to achieve shelter outcomes and secure enough tenure.</p> <p>Complementary programming for cash programming should also encompass technical assistance in order to achieve enhanced quality outcomes such as information provision (on construction practice and techniques, but also where to find available housing in rental situations), environmental support programming, skills training, outreach and awareness, and support with Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) to ensuring secure tenure. Technical assistance is separate from the provision of cash. The Shelter Cluster recommends regular monitoring of cash or in-kind assistance in order to ensure that technical assistance and support programming can be provided in order to ensure that the objectives of minimum safety and adequate shelter are being met.</p> <p>In situations of activated Shelter Clusters, the establishment of referral mechanisms⁶ can facilitate the delivery of complementary programming to cash systems. UNHCR in a recent study on <i>Multipurpose Cash and Sectoral Outcomes: a Review of Learning and Evidence</i> advises:</p> <p><i>“UNHCR sees services, cash, in-kind and technical support as core businesses that complement each other to deliver on sectoral</i></p>

⁶ In some responses, Shelter Cluster has facilitated referral mechanisms focused particularly on gaps in shelter assistance. Referral systems can also be multi-sectorial- for example when protection is conducting its monitoring, they should refer relevant shelter cases to technical experts for follow up.

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	<p><i>outcomes without one modality being subordinate to another... At the same time, the wide coverage of cash transfer programmes may provide opportunities to increase the reach of sector-specific activities. For example, the inclusion of behaviour change communication activities when people are registered, at pay-points and during monitoring. There may also be opportunities to layer and integrate sector-specific programming into multi-purpose cash grants. For instance, case management and referral systems can use single registries and programme monitoring as key entry points, building on experience from social protection systems.”⁷</i></p>
<p>Conditionality- Conditionality refers to prerequisite activities or obligations that a recipient must fulfil in order to receive assistance. Conditions can in principle be used with any kind of transfer (cash, vouchers, in-kind, service delivery) depending on the intervention design and objectives. Some interventions might require recipients to achieve agreed outputs as a condition of receiving subsequent tranches. Note that conditionality is distinct from restriction (how assistance is used) and targeting (criteria for selecting recipients). Examples of conditions include attending school, building a shelter, attending nutrition screenings, undertaking work, training, etc. Cash for work/assets/training are all forms of conditional transfer.</p>	<p>Conditionalities play a large role in shelter programmes both when cash and materials are delivered to accomplish construction or rental support programmes. At each stage of the construction or renting process, tranches of cash are subject to agreed-upon outputs and local building standards to ensure the safety, suitability, adequateness, and appropriateness of homes.</p> <p>For overall tracking of conditionality, the Shelter Cluster recommends tracking at country cluster level whether cash is paid out conditionally or unconditionally.</p>
<p>Conditional Transfer- See conditionality</p>	<p>Current evidence and practice shows that conditions support better outcomes in terms of technical standards in shelter projects, particularly whenever activities are aimed at preserving the structural foundation or when undertaking repairs and construction. Each tranche of the cash or voucher delivery in construction settings should be linked with a bill of quantities (BoQ) and a monitoring of construction</p>

⁷ <https://www.unhcr.org/5b28c4157.pdf>

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	<p>works according to standard local building standards.</p>
<p>Cost-Effectiveness- Cost-effectiveness is the extent to which the program has achieved or is expected to achieve its results (outcomes/impacts) at a lower cost compared with alternatives.</p>	<p>While both efficiency and effectiveness are important, efficiencies should not come at the expense of effectiveness.</p> <p>Shelter practitioners should undertake a thorough review of available response modalities according to available budget but also according to the needs, capabilities, and appropriate shelter solutions.</p>
<p>Cost Effectiveness Analysis - Cost-effectiveness analysis measures the cost of achieving intended programme outcomes and impacts (e.g. improved food consumption, reduced malnutrition rates), and can compare the costs of alternative ways of producing the same or similar benefits (DFID) See also cost effectiveness</p>	<p>Through analysis of local markets and capacities it should be possible to identify the most cost effective means to achieve desired programme outcomes.</p> <p>Efficiencies should always be sought in shelter programming, though all programs are accountable to achieve shelter adequacy in the main outcome areas defined by sector standards. E.G adequacy (space; meeting minimum building standards; no defects in physical conditions i.e. leaks, drafts; and have adequate ventilation), affordability, functioning electricity, utilities, access to other services, and security of tenure.</p>
<p>Critical Market- The specific market systems that are most urgently relevant to the target population's needs. Essentially those markets that have or could have a major role in meeting the essential needs of the target population.</p>	<p>The major markets which are critical for the Shelter Sector to inform a given shelter response are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commodities/Construction Materials 2. Labour/construction skills 3. Services (engineering, planning, structural calculations, utilities, legal etc.) 4. Housing/Rental 5. Finance & Financial Services <p>Shelter sector actors should begin with defining their critical market of intervention in order to better design shelter programming and the provision of shelter solutions for the affected population.</p>

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	<p>With the exception of commodities/construction materials, the latter four market areas tend to be more dynamic as they are often composed of several different markets.</p> <p>The review of available response modalities (in-kind, financial support, contracted works, and technical assistance⁸) should be based (among other assessments) on the analysis of the critical market(s) ability to support demand for a given response.</p>
<p>Additional Useful Term</p>	<p>Debt- duty or obligation to pay money, deliver goods, or render service under an implied agreement or render service under an expressed or implied agreement; usually cheapest long-term financing⁹</p> <p>In order to leverage longer-term solutions, debt financing strategies of the poor could be measured for longer-term shelter solutions such as housing microfinance for purchasing of shelter materials.</p>
<p>Delivery Mechanism- Means of delivering a cash or voucher transfer (e.g. smart card, mobile money transfer, cash in hand, cheque, ATM card, etc.)</p>	<p>In terms of output monitoring of a response through activity tracking such as 3W/4W tools, Shelter Clusters at country level have not included whether assistance is distributed through smart cards, mobile money transfers, cash in hand, cheques etc.</p> <p>The choice to track delivery mechanism should be taken at agency level and as necessary through collaboration between Shelter Cluster and technical working groups supporting with cash delivery.</p>
<p>Demand Elasticity (Elasticity of Demand) a measure of how sensitive to price changes is the quantity demanded by buyers. Goods on which people cut back sharply when prices rise or incomes are reduced (e.g. luxury items) have ‘elastic demand’</p>	<p>Implication for shelter actors: One can conclude that the demand for housing is elastic, as the affected population may be able to substitute quality housing with cheaper alternatives (one should identify such coping strategies and how this impacts</p>

⁸ ECHO Shelter and Settlements Guidelines

⁹ <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/debt.html>

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	<p>the affected population's access to affordable, adequate, and safe housing). In order to better design programming and target beneficiaries, one can measure how elastic this demand is in the short-term. Over the longer-term, more housing options may become available thus changing the elasticity of the demand. The measurement of housing (though also skilled/unskilled labour quality/lack of quality materials) is determined as the factor of a price.</p>
<p>Enabling Environment- The enabling environment or rules that influence how a market system works – sometimes these are called 'dis-enabling' factors because they make a market system work badly. It forms one 'layer' in market system mapping and analysis.</p>	<p>Housing sector's enabling environment includes: Infrastructure, availability of land, external policies, demand, and supply.</p> <p>Demand and supply in the housing sector are often composites of several micro-factors and thus require analysis at a smaller geographic area to improve shelter programming (for example relationship between construction, and markets for selling and renting out housing).</p>
<p>Additional Shelter Term</p>	<p>Housing Cost Overburden Rate- % of population who are living in houses where 30% or more of their income is spent on housing¹⁰</p>
<p>Additional Shelter Term</p>	<p>Housing Market Analysis: In a humanitarian context such analysis looks at the capacity of the housing market in absorbing sudden increases in demand. This analysis typically focuses on characteristics such as affordability (relative to target population), adequacy in terms of housing, living conditions, legal barriers and tenure security.</p>
<p>Additional Useful Term</p>	<p>Informal economy/market: Informal economy is when financial exchanges happen outside of government control or</p>

¹⁰ <https://unhabitat.org/un-habitat-for-the-sustainable-development-goals/11-1-adequate-housing/>

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	<p>official economic records and does not get recorded for taxation purposes.¹¹ Shelter actors should be aware of the role of informal markets in the construction sector when selecting suppliers, contractors, and other services. Informal economies or markets may limit positive overall market impacts.</p>
<p>Integrated Markets-Markets in which prices for comparable goods do not behave independently. If markets, are well integrated, price changes in one location are consistently related to price changes in other locations and market agents are able to interact between different markets.</p>	<p>Integrated markets is usually a term to denote the integration of larger capital markets. In humanitarian responses, shelter practitioners can best observe this phenomenon with NFIs and construction materials. In the long run, these commodity goods should have the same proportional price patterns across several locations.</p> <p>When local markets are well integrated with larger markets, critical items (NFI, construction materials) and services are more easily available, and prices are more stable. These items can then flow from surplus to deficit areas. Markets that are not well integrated could be indicative of transport and other infrastructure issues.</p> <p>Housing prices can vary significantly from one location to another. As measuring market integration requires a degree of financial and statistical data, humanitarians should better understand the formula for how to measure this integration.</p> <p>An important consideration for shelter response is how well construction markets are integrated with housing markets.</p>
<p>Interconnected Markets- A market system which as well as being a market in its own right, is part of the supporting functions or rules of another market system</p>	<p>A good example of this would be the impact of the 2008 global housing crisis on individual builders. The market for construction is directly impacted by a dip in demand for housing.</p> <p>Implication for shelter actors: Enhances better</p>

¹¹ <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/informal-economy.html>

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	<p>understanding of how larger real estate and construction markets relate to markets impacted by crisis. In some countries, the Bureau of Statistics may be a useful indicator for understanding the overall situation with respect to construction and housing markets. Nevertheless, depending on the extent of the crisis, these indicators may not experience any statistically significant impacts due to the crisis. In the area of durable solutions, such analyses can also inform synergies between shelter programming and livelihood programming targeted at the construction labour market.</p>
<p>Labelling: Labelling is a programme design feature comprising activities employed by implementing agencies to influence how recipients use assistance. For example, this might include the types of messaging conveyed to recipients, possibly in combination with complementary programming activities. Sector-specific interventions using cash transfers may employ labelling to encourage recipients to spend the cash on items or services which will contribute to achieving sectoral objectives.</p>	<p>Labelling has usually been one way in which Shelter actors communicate with beneficiaries about the intended use of cash without putting additional conditions and monitoring on the program (previously understood as soft restrictions). Through messaging, market support or other activities, a shelter actor may communicate that the cash is for winterization support, rent, or meeting other forms of shelter need. Largely this cash is unrestricted, so beneficiaries are able to use it as they prioritize. When provision of housing where the structural foundation is in question or if the good is specialized (coal for example), it is recommended to use conditional cash to ensure the safety of beneficiaries.</p> <p>Best practices for shelter programming requires practitioners whether cash, in-kind, mixed modalities, or contracted works are being used to always check and monitor:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The structural safety of the construction, 2. People's security, and whether they are being exploited, forcibly evicted, 3. Health conditions, whether they became ill because of sub-standard sheltering conditions, etc.
<p>Labour Market System- A labour market system is a market system within which people sell their labour (supply), and others buy this labour (demand).</p>	<p>Labour markets are key for shelter actors to support construction and shelter programming in the area of affected populations. Labour markets are shaped for</p>

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	<p>demand and supply of skilled/unskilled labour and the products and services (prices shaped by demand and supply for those products) that they are producing or delivering. In most crisis settings the increased demand for construction labour is often filled with a movement of unskilled personnel from other sectors.</p> <p>For shelter actors in natural disaster setting, capacity building activities can prepare by improving the capacity of skilled and unskilled construction workers to build better and more resistant shelters. In conflict settings, similar approaches can also be introduced to increase the skill base of labourers to help repair and recover after a crisis event.</p> <p>For Shelter Clusters at country level, there is a need to have clarity on what the impact of shelter programming has on labour costs, daily wages, and other aspects of the market. Monitoring of labour market providers can better enhance coordination of shelter repairs in the shelter response.</p>
<p>Labour Market Analysis: Labour market analysis is about understanding the constraints, capabilities, and potential to expand labour opportunities within the market system. In humanitarian contexts, this includes consideration of how target populations in particular access the labour markets and how to strengthen and support existing market actors.</p>	<p>As above, for shelter actors, labour market analysis should inform on the volumes and costs of available construction workers, seek to inform do no harm mechanisms to prevent inflation in the construction sector, and also inform where technical assistance may be required to improve labour capacity in natural disaster and conflict responses. Minimum indicators for conducting a labour market analysis include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Demand - Minimum number of workers in order to accomplish construction <input type="checkbox"/> Skills - Type of construction trades required <input type="checkbox"/> Days of labour per worker <input type="checkbox"/> Costs - Minimum wage and appropriate wages by skill type.
<p>Market-based programming: Market-based programming or market-based interventions are understood to be projects that work</p>	<p>Cash and Vouchers Assistance (CVA) is a sub-set of Market Based Programming (MBP) interventions.</p>

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<p>through or support local markets. The terms cover all types of engagement with market systems, ranging from actions that deliver immediate relief to those that proactively strengthen and catalyze local market systems or market hubs.</p>	<p>MBP can include interventions that aim to support sector critical markets such as helping improve infrastructure (e.g. roads, warehousing), services (e.g. transport, vocational training etc.), or policies and laws that enable the supply and access of shelter critical items and services¹². For the housing sector, it can also require a detailed mapping of demand and supply side in order to inform the most appropriate modality to promote access to shelter.</p> <p>An example of MBP is the Occupancy Free of Charge (OFC) implemented in Lebanon and Jordan whereby the recipients of the cash are landlords and not the primary beneficiaries (the tenants). Landlords were targeted on the supply side of intervention which enabled them to improve the availability and quantity of existing housing stock in Lebanon causing overall supply side improvements on city infrastructure. This also has spill over impacts on settlement wellbeing.</p>
<p>Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)- A minimum expenditure basket requires the identification and quantification of basic needs items and services that can be monetized and are accessible in adequate quality through local markets and services. Items and services included in an MEB are those that households in a given context are likely to prioritize, on a regular or seasonal basis. An MEB is inherently multi sectoral and based on the average cost of the items composing the basket. It can be calculated for various sizes of households.</p>	<p>Based on the fact that shelter responses generally do not follow a purely basic needs approach, the minimum expenditure basket is most appropriate for those goods or services which are required on a regular or seasonal basis. Not all elements of a shelter response fit that definition, because they are not considered part of regular consumption patterns. In particular, one off construction materials or housing needs that outstretch an emergency three-six month time frame.</p> <p>Household utilities (energy/water) and short term rental support may be costs appropriate for inclusion within an MEB, but have been found to be sometimes too significant in cost to include in the multipurpose cash transfer. Shelter actors should analyse what items fit appropriately in a minimum expenditure basket, how to estimate their values given the</p>

¹² An overview of what is intended for MBP can be found at:
<http://www.cashlearning.org/downloads/mbp-framework2may2017final-2.pdf>

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	<p>dynamic behavior of shelter markets that may be involved in the response (See Critical Market), and who should be responsible for calculating the expected expenditures on these items or services.</p> <p>Calculations for minimum expenditure basket are often based on an average number of households. Utility costs for houses are normally calculated on the basis of minimum housing standards, but may not necessarily align with the actual costs families may encounter during harsh winters or extreme heat in the summer due to houses that may exceed that minimum standard house definition. Rentals as well can vary from village to village, house to house, and land to land while also being limited by legal aspects.</p> <p>Please see Consumer Price Index (Housing) above.</p>
<p>Modality refers to the form of assistance – e.g. cash transfer, vouchers, in-kind, service delivery, or a combination (modalities). This can include both direct transfers to household level, and assistance provided at a more general or community level e.g. health services, WASH infrastructure.</p>	<p>The Shelter and Settlements Sector (S&S) normally breaks modalities down into the following components¹³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Technical support: Technical support covers a broad range of inputs to inform, guide and add value to the S&S solutions organised or carried out by affected populations themselves, either with their own resources or with financial or material support. Technical support is particularly vital to accompany cash programming, the provision of tarpaulins or shelter kits, and other broad-scale distribution activities.</i>¹⁴ • <i>Financial support (of which CVA is for a component part) Financial support can enable households and communities to address humanitarian needs quickly, where purchasing</i>

¹³ ECHO Shelter and Settlements Guidelines

¹⁴ DG ECHO Thematic Policy Document: Shelter and Settlements: https://ec.europa.eu/echo/sites/echo-site/files/ss_consolidated_guidelines_final_version-20-02ev.pdf

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	<p><i>power is a barrier to accessing goods or services, or to carrying out works. Through financial support, affected communities can organise a wide range of shelter solutions appropriate to their diverse circumstances and particular needs, including cyclone shelters and community spaces and infrastructures, meeting critical criteria for dignity and flexibility. Financial support may be provided to fully or partially address an S&S need, and to encourage adherence to standards or other conditions. This may be part of a multi-purpose cash transfer designed to address a range of needs. However, whenever S&S programmes are supported, technical expertise, capacity building and monitoring will have to be provided for.¹⁵</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>In-Kind Material Support- including for return or transit purposes, may be distributed to the affected population. In the immediate aftermath of a crisis, people may lack adequate clothing, bedding, and personal or household items for specific weather conditions. In-kind distribution of such items is possible, particularly if markets are inaccessible or badly disrupted, or if this approach is more cost-effective, but it should be assessed against the advantages of providing greater choice to beneficiaries through cash grants. The selection of construction materials to be distributed should be informed by decisions on whether to construct temporary shelters or to retrofit, repair or rebuild structures. Consideration should be given to quality and safety opportunities to strengthen local supply lines, and to the environmental impact. Distribution of NFI or shelter items may be phased, allowing adjustment for</i>

¹⁵ Ibid.

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	<p><i>emerging needs, and to evaluate the usefulness of previously-distributed items and of the modality itself.¹⁶ All distributions should be accompanied by post-distribution monitoring.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Contracted works or products- This modality refers to partial or complete S&S works carried out for or by, or S&S products provided to, affected populations. It includes the following sub-modalities:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Community labour (beneficiary/community driven)</i> ○ <i>Contracted labour (agency driven)</i> ○ <i>Direct labour (agency driven)</i> ○ <i>Self-help (beneficiary driven)¹⁷</i>
<p>Restriction: Restriction refers to limits on the <u>use</u> of assistance by recipients. Restrictions apply to the range of goods and services that the assistance can be used to purchase, and the places where it can be used. The degree of restriction may vary- from the requirement to buy specific items, to buying from a general category of goods or services. Vouchers are restricted by default since they are inherently limited in where and how they can be used. In-kind assistance is also restricted. Cash transfers are unrestricted in terms of use by recipients.</p> <p>Note that restrictions are distinct from conditions, which apply only to activities that must be fulfilled in order to receive assistance.</p>	<p>Restrictions may be useful in shelter programming when quality drivers dictate that particular commodities or services are desirable. For instance vouchers that can only be exchanged for particular kinds and qualities of materials or at a pre-selected and qualified supplier. To ensure specific programmatic outcomes conditions are broadly considered to be more impactful than restrictions although they have often been used together.</p> <p>Labelling envisions a situation where soft restrictions may be placed on certain programming, but careful monitoring should be in place to inform on effectiveness of transfer value to meet the need for which the cash has been labelled. While there is a lot of push back to the use of the terminology of “soft restrictions”, shelter practitioners broadly agree that CVA could facilitate access to many non-food items which do not require the same levels of technical oversight as construction materials and or in-kind building. As supporting technical assistance to these “soft restrictions”, agencies have conducted</p>

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

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	<p>sensitization sessions both about the distribution of the cash and what it is aimed to cover.</p> <p>In terms of modality tracking at country cluster level, the Shelter Cluster recommends that cash is tracked unconditionally or conditionally. Vouchers will be tracked as vouchers.</p>
<p>Restricted Transfer: See restriction</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Social Assistance/Social Assistance Transfers- Repeated, unconditional, predictable transfers of cash, goods, or services provided on a long-term basis to vulnerable or destitute households or specific individuals (e.g. the elderly, pregnant women), with the aim of allowing them to meet basic needs or build assets to protect themselves and increase resilience against shocks and vulnerable periods of the life cycle. Usually refers to government assistance provided in cash, but can also refer to in-kind assistance</p>	<p>The shelter sector has worked in contexts where rental and heating subsidies are provided through the government systems conditionally or through vouchers. Based on best practices by studying such government social assistance, a key indicator is the provision of shelter that adheres to the minimum standards of health and safety.</p> <p>During the humanitarian response, shelter actors are required to take account of these programs, and ensure response activities complement where possible and utilise the pre-existing mechanisms to ensure efficiency. The design of exit strategies to these programs is essential so that the government is able to focus on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable following the emergency phase.</p>
<p>Additional Useful Term</p>	<p>Tax- any policy that collects revenue for the government¹⁸ (can inform available housing programs for durable solutions and illustrate capacity of government)-</p>

¹⁸ *The Economy Petti*