

Cash Coordination Caucus – proposed strategy

Suggested objective of the caucus

To find an agreement that provides accountable, predictable coordination of humanitarian cash, including how it relates to response analysis, within the broader humanitarian coordination architecture. The proposed solution shall be presented to the IASC, with the objective of ensuring its adoption, in coordination with the ERC.

Caucus situational analysis

- Need to strike a balance between a process that is transparent and inclusive, while at the same time being lean enough to facilitate reaching an agreement.
- Need to ensure political buy in at the highest level from agencies and NGOs, while also creating a space for technical discussions.
- Need to work in close coordination with the IASC/ERC so as to produce an outcome that can be adopted by the IASC.

Proposed coordination structure – a three-phased approach (see Annex I for a visual representation)

To tackle the issues identified above, the EP and his office suggest the establishment of a “*three-phased caucus*”.

1. First Political High-level strategic dialogue¹

At first, there will be a **Political High-level strategic dialogue**, with the following objectives:

- a. To get buy-in for the caucus from senior level stakeholders.
- b. To agree on the problem statement and scope of work of the caucus.
- c. To formally task a Senior Technical Working Group with identifying a concrete solution to the current issues around cash coordination and agree to present it to the IASC for adoption.

Participation will be at Principals level and include ECHO and USAID (representing the Donor Cash Forum), WFP, UNHCR, OCHA², UNICEF, three NGOs representatives³, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement⁴. The meeting will be chaired by the EP and take place as soon as possible, pending endorsement of this strategy.

The group of participants is intentionally limited to stakeholders that are key for unlocking the impasse, and the meeting will be closed doors. However, other interested parties can engage directly with the participants belonging to their constituency throughout the process to provide their views. The caucus will be asked to regularly communicate on its progress and any outcomes with the Signatories through the Secretariat, and also with stakeholders beyond the Signatories (possibly through CaLP).

2. Senior-level technical discussions

Secondly, discussions will move to a Senior Technical Working Group. This will consist of senior staff with responsibility for humanitarian cash and decision-making powers within their institutions (i.e. Directors/VPs) as delegated by Principals, from the following institutions: ECHO and USAID

¹ The whole exercise should be completed in a 12-week timeframe. A final timeline will be circulated pending endorsement of this strategy.

² The strategic dialogue will include the ERC, in his role as chair of the IASC, to facilitate the adoption of a proposal by the IASC.

³ It is suggested that NGOs streamline their engagement through a collective platform, such as the Common Cash Delivery network (CDD) and/or a NGO network (i.e. ICVA) and that local NGOs are represented in the discussion.

⁴ The Workstream has opened a call for nominations for interested parties to the caucus. The final list of participants will take into account nominations received.

(representing the Donor Cash Forum), WFP, UNHCR, OCHA, UNICEF, three NGOs representatives, RC/RC. A neutral party⁵, as delegated by the EP, will chair and facilitate the discussions.

Moreover, technical bodies (CaLP, CashCap) will be invited to attend these discussions, to provide independent technical expertise and support.

The discussions will take place in a hybrid form (a first online meeting to set the stage, followed by a two-day in-person workshop).

The outcome of these discussions will be a set of recommendations aimed at ensuring accountable and predictable coordination of humanitarian cash. The recommendations should spell out any points of disagreement and key questions for the political group to take a decision on. The recommendations will be delivered no later than four weeks after the last meeting has taken place.

3. Second political High-level strategic dialogue

No later than five weeks after the outcome document of the Senior technical discussions group has been delivered and shared with Principals, a second **Political High-level strategic dialogue** will take place at Principals level. The same stakeholders who would have attended the first dialogue are expected to participate in the second one.

This will be a one-off meeting where a decision will be made on the preferred solution/recommendation.

The endorsed solution/recommendation(s) will then be formally presented to the IASC for adoption by a delegated representative of the caucus or by the EP. While no further meetings of the caucus are to be expected, the caucus members agree to remain available pending endorsement of the solution by the IASC, to provide technical support if/when needed.

Suggested timeline

Week starting	Event
18 November	Political High-level strategic dialogue #1
22 November	Senior technical discussion #1 (online)
29 November [or following week]	Senior technical discussion #2 (2 days in-person workshop)
20 December	Outcome document is shared with Principals
early 2022	Political High-level strategic dialogue #1

⁵ The EP office has identified two consultants to facilitate these discussions.

Annex I – A three-staged approach

