

1
00:00:00,077 --> 00:00:04,634
[MUSIC]

2
00:00:04,634 --> 00:00:06,982
Sustainability unwrapped.

3
00:00:06,982 --> 00:00:11,166
A conversational podcast about responsibility, ethics,

4
00:00:11,166 --> 00:00:15,847
inequalities, climate change and other challenges of our times.

5
00:00:15,847 --> 00:00:19,888
Where science needs practice to think about the world and

6
00:00:19,888 --> 00:00:24,531
how to make our society more sustainable, one Podcast at a time.

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00:00:24,531 --> 00:00:28,742
[MUSIC]

8
00:00:28,742 --> 00:00:35,899
>> Hello everyone, welcome to the podcast, sustainability Unwrap.

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00:00:35,899 --> 00:00:40,451
I am Alkhimid Masoudi postdoc researcher at Home log

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00:00:40,451 --> 00:00:45,218
institute at Honking School of Economies in Finland.

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00:00:45,218 --> 00:00:49,807
Today, I'm very happy excited to have a very fruitful

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00:00:49,807 --> 00:00:52,900
session on this episode of podcast,

13
00:00:52,900 --> 00:00:58,490
about important topic titled the Environmental Impact of Cash and

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00:00:58,490 --> 00:01:02,517

Voucher Assistance in Humanitarian setting.

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00:01:02,517 --> 00:01:07,557

And today I will have two special guests,

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00:01:07,557 --> 00:01:12,885

so we are going to discuss about this topic.

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00:01:12,885 --> 00:01:18,674

Our first guest is Mr. Jose Yoda, is based in Madrid

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00:01:18,674 --> 00:01:24,472

is a Technical Advisor Cash Learning Partnership.

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00:01:24,472 --> 00:01:29,333

So he did a lot of projects in humanitarian settings for

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00:01:29,333 --> 00:01:34,416

like many years and he got to introduce himself later on.

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00:01:34,416 --> 00:01:39,597

And also we have MS Valerie Leon, so

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00:01:39,597 --> 00:01:45,137

I'm very happy and you're welcome.

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00:01:45,137 --> 00:01:50,703

So could you maybe shortly Jose introduce yourself and

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00:01:50,703 --> 00:01:56,499

also Valerie later, yeah.

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00:01:56,499 --> 00:02:00,115

>> Thank you, I mean for your introduction and

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00:02:00,115 --> 00:02:06,077

thank you Hank in schools of Economics for the invitation to participate

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00:02:06,077 --> 00:02:11,077

in this podcast about such a critical topic as you describe.

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00:02:11,077 --> 00:02:16,079

Whereas you mentioned, I'm a Technical Advisor

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00:02:16,079 --> 00:02:20,367

at the Cash Learning Partnership called,

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00:02:20,367 --> 00:02:25,370

which is a global network of 90 organizations,

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00:02:25,370 --> 00:02:31,582

including UN, donors, NGOs, private sector, etcetera.

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00:02:31,582 --> 00:02:36,670

That are all engaged in the areas of policy, practice and

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00:02:36,670 --> 00:02:41,866

research on humanitarian cash and virtual assistance and

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00:02:41,866 --> 00:02:45,484

more broadly in financial assistance.

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00:02:45,484 --> 00:02:49,421

Just to highlight that I have both development and

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00:02:49,421 --> 00:02:56,467

international cooperation background and also a graduating
environmental sciences.

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00:02:56,467 --> 00:02:59,903

And yeah based now in Madrid but I've been living and

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00:02:59,903 --> 00:03:05,061

working in different contexts including Latin, America, Saharan
Africa,

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00:03:05,061 --> 00:03:10,217

the Mena region and engage also always different on my channel
organization,

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00:03:10,217 --> 00:03:13,677

so really happy to participate in this initiative.

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00:03:13,677 --> 00:03:16,147

>> Thank you, thank you, thank you very much,

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00:03:16,147 --> 00:03:18,560

sounds that we've got a lot of experience.

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00:03:18,560 --> 00:03:23,025

I mean working with different organizations, specifically more

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00:03:23,025 --> 00:03:27,657

recently with Cash learning partnership with a number of projects.

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00:03:27,657 --> 00:03:33,563

I'm going on Cash and voucher assistance programs, MS Valerie,

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00:03:33,563 --> 00:03:39,052

maybe you have like, you can introduce yourselves, I mean.

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00:03:39,052 --> 00:03:43,464

>> Yes, hello everybody and glad to be with you today,

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00:03:43,464 --> 00:03:49,597

to talk about the environmental impact of cash and voucher assistance.

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00:03:49,597 --> 00:03:55,662

So I'm a researcher at the group allay, which is a nonprofit but

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00:03:55,662 --> 00:04:00,957

I think Hank and humanitarian practices and policies.

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00:04:00,957 --> 00:04:06,223

And I have been also filled a humanitarian worker for

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00:04:06,223 --> 00:04:10,772

10 years, mainly with ICIC on the field and

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00:04:10,772 --> 00:04:14,244

today as a researcher evaluator,

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00:04:14,244 --> 00:04:19,272

I'm focusing on issues related to resilience and

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00:04:19,272 --> 00:04:23,723

strategic programming of organizations.

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00:04:23,723 --> 00:04:27,533

>> Okay, thank you very much for the introduction and

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00:04:27,533 --> 00:04:31,875

hopefully today we'll have a very fruitful session, for

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00:04:31,875 --> 00:04:36,482

I mean the audience maybe who are not familiar with the cash and

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00:04:36,482 --> 00:04:41,623

voucher assistance, it's like slightly different with the social

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00:04:41,623 --> 00:04:46,878

Safety net program, which is like kind of covered by the Government.

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00:04:46,878 --> 00:04:52,101

However, always cash and vouches aimed to be like kind of integrated at the end

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00:04:52,101 --> 00:04:57,105

during the recovery and development with the Social Safety net programs.

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00:04:57,105 --> 00:05:02,251

But Cash and voucher if I like have to, given definitions using

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00:05:02,251 --> 00:05:07,787

the cash learning partnership Close three, it actually is defined

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00:05:07,787 --> 00:05:13,340

as the provision of money which is cash or vouchers to individuals.

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00:05:13,340 --> 00:05:18,567

Which can be used as emergency relief to address basic

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00:05:18,567 --> 00:05:23,921

needs such as food, shelter, health, sanitation.

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00:05:23,921 --> 00:05:29,116

And also we can be like kind of as a mode of support to economic activities

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00:05:29,116 --> 00:05:34,572

to like kind of those businesses were like disrupted during the crisis such

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00:05:34,572 --> 00:05:40,114

as this recent like pandemic, it can help to build the economic the market,

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00:05:40,114 --> 00:05:44,219

the local suppliers to get back to normal and business.

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00:05:44,219 --> 00:05:49,101

So traditionally, I mean in kind assistance more

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00:05:49,101 --> 00:05:53,295

like well like routine during disasters.

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00:05:53,295 --> 00:05:59,246

So humanitarian organizations brought massive workloads of the goods and

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00:05:59,246 --> 00:06:01,804

items delivered to the people.

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00:06:01,804 --> 00:06:06,881

However more recently cash during the like Grand Bar game there

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00:06:06,881 --> 00:06:13,011

was like an emphasis toward cash and voucher assistance instead of in kind,

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00:06:13,011 --> 00:06:17,066

how are these two, are like very complimentary.

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00:06:17,066 --> 00:06:22,145

And so we see a dramatic growth for cash and

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00:06:22,145 --> 00:06:28,545

voucher from 2016, 2019 which is double.

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00:06:28,545 --> 00:06:33,020

So today is like around 18% of humanitarian assistance

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00:06:33,020 --> 00:06:37,506

allocated in terms of I mean cash and voucher assistance.

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00:06:37,506 --> 00:06:40,153

So that's the importance of this phenomenon.

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00:06:40,153 --> 00:06:45,641

And looking into these cash and voucher assistance programming,

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00:06:45,641 --> 00:06:49,075

there are lots of guidelines to all kids.

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00:06:49,075 --> 00:06:53,099

And reports from different humanitarian organization,

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00:06:53,099 --> 00:06:57,942

they looked into different aspect of cash and voucher, for example,

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00:06:57,942 --> 00:07:01,143

Cash and voucher and effectiveness, Cash and

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00:07:01,143 --> 00:07:05,926

voucher and data responsibility, Cash and voucher preparedness.

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00:07:05,926 --> 00:07:11,057

However, looking into the literature that like few studies conducted

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00:07:11,057 --> 00:07:16,103

specifically by academics to connect and look into the environmental

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00:07:16,103 --> 00:07:21,076

aspect of cash and voucher assistance, which is slightly missing.

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00:07:21,076 --> 00:07:25,264

There are a couple of reports more recently published

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00:07:25,264 --> 00:07:27,877

which is one is published by URD.

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00:07:27,877 --> 00:07:32,901

And Valerie is one of the co author of this report, which they regularly look

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00:07:32,901 --> 00:07:38,096

into the environmental impact using a couple of case studies based in Africa.

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00:07:38,096 --> 00:07:44,006

So I'm gonna question Valerie, so can you just say that whether

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00:07:44,006 --> 00:07:50,470

it is like this concept linking environment to the cash is important?

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00:07:50,470 --> 00:07:55,453

And so what you found from those your research which is

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00:07:55,453 --> 00:08:01,220

published in that report, maybe you can briefly summarize?

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00:08:01,220 --> 00:08:04,175

>> [COUGH] Thank you Hammond.

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00:08:04,175 --> 00:08:08,504

It is true that today, given the perspective of

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00:08:08,504 --> 00:08:12,727

systemic humanitarian crisis in the future,

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00:08:12,727 --> 00:08:18,142

humanitarian actors are becoming increasingly more aware

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00:08:18,142 --> 00:08:23,465
of the repercussions of their action on the environment.

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00:08:23,465 --> 00:08:28,174
This includes their environmental footprint,

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00:08:28,174 --> 00:08:33,568
footprint of their operations and this is true for CVA,

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00:08:33,568 --> 00:08:40,568
cash and voter assistance, but it is not limited only to the
footprint,

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00:08:40,568 --> 00:08:46,336
environmental impact must be analyzed in a broader sense.

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00:08:46,336 --> 00:08:48,871
And as you say, it until now,

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00:08:48,871 --> 00:08:54,351
this issue has been overlooked by humanitarian organization,

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00:08:54,351 --> 00:08:59,838
in this imperative to save lives in complex emergency context.

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00:08:59,838 --> 00:09:04,473
And it is true that the criteria of efficiency and

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00:09:04,473 --> 00:09:08,881
choice of beneficiaries have often been given

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00:09:08,881 --> 00:09:13,076
priority over environmental protection.

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00:09:13,076 --> 00:09:16,958
>> Thank you, so you say actually the key challenge,

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00:09:16,958 --> 00:09:20,298
I mean cash and voucher is very important and

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00:09:20,298 --> 00:09:24,827

then look into the environmental impact of it is critical.

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00:09:24,827 --> 00:09:30,150

However, you mentioned that like it's I mean, the priority is given to the like

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00:09:30,150 --> 00:09:35,728

kind of purchasing power, dignity and also the cost effectiveness of the program.

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00:09:35,728 --> 00:09:40,880

So, maybe Jose you want to add anything else, I mean,

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00:09:40,880 --> 00:09:45,920

on this relationship and then why it's like kind of,

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00:09:45,920 --> 00:09:50,400

I mean ignored by humanitarian practitioner,

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00:09:50,400 --> 00:09:54,555

is it not their priority at the first place?

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00:09:54,555 --> 00:09:59,030

>> Yeah, thank you, I mean, I just would like to add that,

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00:09:59,030 --> 00:10:03,228

I mean, we need first probably to understand cash and

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00:10:03,228 --> 00:10:07,078

bolting assistance evolution in the past years.

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00:10:07,078 --> 00:10:12,880

And we can say that in reality CVA started as a system changer and

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00:10:12,880 --> 00:10:17,700

a severe practitioners, we needed to fight against

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00:10:17,700 --> 00:10:22,193

many preconceptions in regards to corruption,

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00:10:22,193 --> 00:10:27,473

to misuse of money, political acceptance, etcetera.

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00:10:27,473 --> 00:10:32,476

And every time we needed to justify very hard while we were

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00:10:32,476 --> 00:10:37,283

using cash, instead of kind of or service provision.

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00:10:37,283 --> 00:10:44,088

This as you playing it in the introduction has has changed in many respects and

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00:10:44,088 --> 00:10:49,756

yeah the use of cash has double right from 2016 to 2019.

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00:10:49,756 --> 00:10:54,937

And now the question is not anymore about the quantity, but more about the quality.

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00:10:54,937 --> 00:10:59,124

And this aspect of quality includes of course the integration of

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00:10:59,124 --> 00:11:03,623

environmental considerations, just very briefly in this regard,

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00:11:03,623 --> 00:11:08,373

CVA is not very different to the other type of humanitarian assistance.

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00:11:08,373 --> 00:11:13,366

But truth is that CVA has some characteristics that could

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00:11:13,366 --> 00:11:18,775

support environmental footprint reduction and we believe or

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00:11:18,775 --> 00:11:23,468

I believe that CBA stakeholders need to commit to it.

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00:11:23,468 --> 00:11:26,833

CBA was not conceived to law our environmental footprint of

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00:11:26,833 --> 00:11:28,519
the humanitarian response.

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00:11:28,519 --> 00:11:33,731
But yes, to simplify processes, increase the rapid response and

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00:11:33,731 --> 00:11:39,976
adapt better the response to beneficiary needs and local systems and
context.

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00:11:39,976 --> 00:11:44,592
So all of this should also live right to the decrease of

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00:11:44,592 --> 00:11:47,986
the environmental footprint itself.

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00:11:47,986 --> 00:11:54,489
>> Yeah, thank you, thank you for that, that's very important
initiative,

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00:11:54,489 --> 00:11:59,908
you mentioned that apart from that, one of the key challenges.

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00:11:59,908 --> 00:12:05,286
I mean, Watery also mentioned the report, there was like kind of as
you mentioned,

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00:12:05,286 --> 00:12:10,617
that is giving priority to the other like kind of humanitarian
plants principles.

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00:12:10,617 --> 00:12:15,298
Which is very important, like giving the dignity and also is the
speed of

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00:12:15,298 --> 00:12:20,225
the delivering of it, which is mostly important, so like the
priorities.

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00:12:20,225 --> 00:12:25,825
And then apart from that you mentioned also, there's like lack of
appropriate

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00:12:25,825 --> 00:12:31,007

tools to actually have specifically standard tools to measure this kind of,

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00:12:31,007 --> 00:12:36,376

to integrate the environmental impact indication about your assistance.

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00:12:36,376 --> 00:12:40,861

We want to add or like kind of

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00:12:40,861 --> 00:12:45,542

explain on this challenge.

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00:12:45,542 --> 00:12:50,999

>> Yeah, maybe just to follow on this, it is true that a certain

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00:12:50,999 --> 00:12:55,921

number of organizations recently have become more and

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00:12:55,921 --> 00:13:02,452

increasingly aware of the end of their environmental responsibility.

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00:13:02,452 --> 00:13:08,910

And that's why some organizations developed environmental policies and

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00:13:08,910 --> 00:13:13,215

they are looking at the impact of their actions and

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00:13:13,215 --> 00:13:18,973

actually it doesn't contradict some humanitarian principles.

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00:13:18,973 --> 00:13:24,548

Because we can consider that it's a question of overall

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00:13:24,548 --> 00:13:31,547

coherence of responsibility with regard to the do no harm principle,

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00:13:31,547 --> 00:13:35,833

which is also a key humanitarian concept.

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00:13:35,833 --> 00:13:41,394

However, as you say, the the environmental cost of aid operations,

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00:13:41,394 --> 00:13:47,614

in terms of reducing their environmental footprint as well as other potential

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00:13:47,614 --> 00:13:54,139

effects of CVA on the environment are rarely taken into accounting programming.

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00:13:54,139 --> 00:13:59,421

And this is mainly also by the lack of tools and

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00:13:59,421 --> 00:14:04,427

guides to assess the potential impacts and

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00:14:04,427 --> 00:14:07,637

risks on the environment.

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00:14:07,637 --> 00:14:09,526

>> Yeah, that's a good point.

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00:14:09,526 --> 00:14:15,978

And adding to that, I found like there is sustainability and

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00:14:15,978 --> 00:14:23,444

environmental standards which also populist in the sphere project,

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00:14:23,444 --> 00:14:27,886

they are like more on in kind assistance.

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00:14:27,886 --> 00:14:32,821

So, I wonder what it is like kind of any standard methods

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00:14:32,821 --> 00:14:37,441

like to measure the environmental impact of cash and

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00:14:37,441 --> 00:14:43,321

voucher assistance, which is not specified in a sphere project,

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00:14:43,321 --> 00:14:48,781

but in other kind of guidelines or tool kits, if there is any.

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00:14:48,781 --> 00:14:52,163

>> I believe if you take one of the criteria of the CHS,

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00:14:52,163 --> 00:14:54,160

the core humanitarian standard.

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00:14:54,160 --> 00:14:56,898

[INAUDIBLE] >> Yes.

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00:14:56,898 --> 00:15:01,209

>> To avoid and mitigate the negative impacts of any

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00:15:01,209 --> 00:15:06,587

humanitarian intervention, notably on the environment.

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00:15:06,587 --> 00:15:12,436

But we can also think on the negative impact on the social conditions and

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00:15:12,436 --> 00:15:17,314

some organizations argue that we shall combine the respect

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00:15:17,314 --> 00:15:22,307

towards the environment and to minimum social conditions.

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00:15:22,307 --> 00:15:24,975

Both must be linked and combined.

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00:15:24,975 --> 00:15:27,172

>> Okay.

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00:15:27,172 --> 00:15:34,123

I may ask Jose, is there any other further challenges when we want to for example,

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00:15:34,123 --> 00:15:40,977

integrate the environmental impact of environmental indicators to

the cash and

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00:15:40,977 --> 00:15:45,313

voucher programs through a cash operation cycle,

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00:15:45,313 --> 00:15:50,785

Is there any other challenges which inhibits the application?

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00:15:50,785 --> 00:15:55,093

>> Yeah.

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00:15:55,093 --> 00:15:59,911

Just to add on the former, It's true

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00:15:59,911 --> 00:16:05,203

that CBA is flexible in terms of design.

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00:16:05,203 --> 00:16:08,598

>> And in terms of how you design the program, and

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00:16:08,598 --> 00:16:14,279

how you adapt it to the specific context and to the objectives of the program.

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00:16:14,279 --> 00:16:19,088

>> So in this regard, is quite important to make sure that we

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00:16:19,088 --> 00:16:24,003

are considering the environmental aspect at all levels,

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00:16:24,003 --> 00:16:30,834

when we are in regards to the present cycles, to the specific CBA present cycle.

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00:16:30,834 --> 00:16:36,486

When we are looking at purely operational impact of CBA,

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00:16:36,486 --> 00:16:43,315

this is something that is considered already in a couple of studies,

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00:16:43,315 --> 00:16:47,435

not the one already mentioned from URD and

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00:16:47,435 --> 00:16:51,109

another one not from UMSCR and AROP.

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00:16:51,109 --> 00:16:56,685

It is indeed a good beginning but still there's the need not for

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00:16:56,685 --> 00:17:01,406

more evidences especially when we are comparing CBA

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00:17:01,406 --> 00:17:06,033

environmental footprint with other modalities.

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00:17:06,033 --> 00:17:11,282

One indicator about the, one indicator that is showing

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00:17:11,282 --> 00:17:16,421

that the awareness is increasing is that for example,

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00:17:16,421 --> 00:17:23,248

they go in it's thematic policy on transfer paper that is still in Iraq.

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00:17:23,248 --> 00:17:28,959

Is including here the need to make full use of the low environmental

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00:17:28,959 --> 00:17:34,574

impact of cash and the benefits of supporting local production.

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00:17:34,574 --> 00:17:39,532

And also mentioning that market assessment should include an environmental

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00:17:39,532 --> 00:17:40,528

perspective.

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00:17:40,528 --> 00:17:46,527

So all those are changes that will most probably

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00:17:46,527 --> 00:17:51,928

have an impact in the further consideration

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00:17:51,928 --> 00:17:56,890
of those criteria in CBA programming.

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00:17:56,890 --> 00:18:00,665
>> Okay, thank you very much.

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00:18:00,665 --> 00:18:05,386
You've highlighted actually this connection of environmental

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00:18:05,386 --> 00:18:10,115
indicators can be integrated through the cash operation cycle.

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00:18:10,115 --> 00:18:16,844
This is a good approach to start looking into the cash operation cycle.

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00:18:16,844 --> 00:18:22,271
Which is starting by the rigor needs assessment, and then market assessment,

227

00:18:22,271 --> 00:18:26,492
and then contracting with the financial service providers.

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00:18:26,492 --> 00:18:30,584
Procurement of the FSPs or financial service provider and

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00:18:30,584 --> 00:18:35,022
then the implementation design of CBA, and then monitoring.

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00:18:35,022 --> 00:18:41,788
So if you want to for example add couple of practices to actually,

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00:18:41,788 --> 00:18:50,166
to integrate these environmental practices through the cash operation cycle.

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00:18:50,166 --> 00:18:54,781
Do you want to add any kind of practices based on your experience?

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00:18:54,781 --> 00:18:59,589

Or you can give an example in a specific contribute they've done.

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00:18:59,589 --> 00:19:04,548

For example, I've had UNHCR, they had a project

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00:19:04,548 --> 00:19:09,980

based in what kind of eruption response in Colombia and

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00:19:09,980 --> 00:19:15,649

then through the cash working group in Colombia together

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00:19:15,649 --> 00:19:20,400

with UNDP they compiled a couple of practices.

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00:19:20,400 --> 00:19:24,979

This is just published in 2020, and they for

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00:19:24,979 --> 00:19:30,005

example, they mentioned about minimizing the paper

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00:19:30,005 --> 00:19:34,708

voucher which is not environmentally friendly.

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00:19:34,708 --> 00:19:39,239

However, the question is that in certain areas specifically in developing

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00:19:39,239 --> 00:19:43,912

countries affected by disaster, maybe the infrastructure is not in place for

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00:19:43,912 --> 00:19:46,491

example technological infrastructure.

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00:19:46,491 --> 00:19:53,779

So how to cope with that, reducing the paper vouchers which you know from,

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00:19:53,779 --> 00:19:57,837

Is there any trade off between these two?

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00:19:57,837 --> 00:20:02,018

The infrastructure and environmental impact.

247

00:20:02,018 --> 00:20:04,166

>> Yeah.

248

00:20:04,166 --> 00:20:10,085

Indeed, we definitely need to support right?

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00:20:10,085 --> 00:20:14,804

The practical application of CBA to both reduce operational environmental

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00:20:14,804 --> 00:20:17,024

footprint as you were mentioning.

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00:20:17,024 --> 00:20:21,377

And also to CBA programming to respond to

252

00:20:21,377 --> 00:20:26,381

natural disasters and climate change related crisis.

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00:20:26,381 --> 00:20:32,150

A couple of examples in relation to some, to the integration right?

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00:20:32,150 --> 00:20:37,253

Of those environmental criteria, a different level of

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00:20:37,253 --> 00:20:43,669

the of the project cycle could be for instance how we integrate right?

256

00:20:43,669 --> 00:20:46,905

In market assessment and analyze analysis,

257

00:20:46,905 --> 00:20:51,504

how you include some more information about the environment and

258

00:20:51,504 --> 00:20:57,057

footprint of the market supply chain, and the products that are available.

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00:20:57,057 --> 00:21:01,652

So providing or giving an emphasis on local products that

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00:21:01,652 --> 00:21:06,174

are generated by low environmental impact and quality.

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00:21:06,174 --> 00:21:10,447

For example, when we are comparing vegetable that are from,

262

00:21:10,447 --> 00:21:13,911

coming from organic or agriecological farming.

263

00:21:13,911 --> 00:21:14,861

>> Yes.

264

00:21:14,861 --> 00:21:17,165

>> And agricultural intensive production.

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00:21:17,165 --> 00:21:21,343

Another one could be the need or

266

00:21:21,343 --> 00:21:28,431

the importance of including in the needs analysis.

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00:21:28,431 --> 00:21:34,216

We consider key processes where people are affected by crisis,

268

00:21:34,216 --> 00:21:39,679

how they access to basic environmental goods and services,

269

00:21:39,679 --> 00:21:44,086

or who need to be consider in the needs analysis.

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00:21:44,086 --> 00:21:49,247

For example, aspect related to access and use of energy could be also

271

00:21:49,247 --> 00:21:54,501

included when we are doing the minimum expenditure basket analysis.

272

00:21:54,501 --> 00:21:58,382

That is further informing the value of the grant.

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00:21:58,382 --> 00:22:02,358

This was done for example for the minimum expenditure basket in Uganda.

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00:22:02,358 --> 00:22:05,401

Integrating in the value of the grant,

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00:22:05,401 --> 00:22:09,275

the needs that were relating to access to energy,

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00:22:09,275 --> 00:22:14,623

ensuring that somehow they will be able to purchase those products or

277

00:22:14,623 --> 00:22:19,998

services at the market level and not to go into the nature and find it.

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00:22:19,998 --> 00:22:21,030

>> Thank you.

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00:22:21,030 --> 00:22:25,905

Jose, that's a very good example and case this in Africa.

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00:22:25,905 --> 00:22:29,750

So you mean that this environmental concern or

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00:22:29,750 --> 00:22:33,796

practices can be integrated to the for example,

282

00:22:33,796 --> 00:22:39,235

to the needs assessment and market assessment that they want to.

283

00:22:39,235 --> 00:22:44,174

For example, do the cash visibility and then they consider this with

284

00:22:44,174 --> 00:22:49,113

the suppliers and also with the people who are purchasing to make

sure

285

00:22:49,113 --> 00:22:54,071

that they're okay, they are environmentally friendly products.

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00:22:54,071 --> 00:22:57,920

And then also on energy efficiency of for example,

287

00:22:57,920 --> 00:23:02,218

using renewable energies when they want to for example,

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00:23:02,218 --> 00:23:06,978

the use or spend their cash for example, instead of firewood.

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00:23:06,978 --> 00:23:10,461

Valerie, you want to add anything to this?

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00:23:10,461 --> 00:23:17,552

>> Yeah, it's very interesting all these technical details and

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00:23:17,552 --> 00:23:23,036

examples given by Jose and I fully agree of course

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00:23:23,036 --> 00:23:28,119

that it is important to start and to improve,

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00:23:28,119 --> 00:23:33,641

anticipating risk of this type of programming.

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00:23:33,641 --> 00:23:41,922

And this must rely notably on existing tools like market analysis,

295

00:23:41,922 --> 00:23:45,844

analysis of energy supply, and

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00:23:45,844 --> 00:23:53,414

also the types of use by the households of the energy sources.

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00:23:53,414 --> 00:23:59,625

As well as an analysis of the local supplies of suppliers,

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00:23:59,625 --> 00:24:04,566

to find ways to deliver cash or vouchers in a way

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00:24:04,566 --> 00:24:09,539

which can be beneficial for the environment.

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00:24:09,539 --> 00:24:17,657

And that's my second point beyond this direct operational impact of the CBA,

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00:24:17,657 --> 00:24:21,961

there is a need also to think of the broader

302

00:24:21,961 --> 00:24:27,017

effects of the programming on the environment.

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00:24:27,017 --> 00:24:33,263

What I mean is more related to the broader objective of the programme.

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00:24:33,263 --> 00:24:36,463

Like any type of intervention,

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00:24:36,463 --> 00:24:41,321

CBA must think in terms of global objective, and

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00:24:41,321 --> 00:24:46,298

I believe that there are ways to better promote and

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00:24:46,298 --> 00:24:50,446

to boost the positive potential of CBA for

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00:24:50,446 --> 00:24:54,595

such objectives like the preservation or

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00:24:54,595 --> 00:24:58,297

the protection of the environment.

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00:24:58,297 --> 00:25:05,150

So for instance, one way to do this is to combine distribution of cash or

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00:25:05,150 --> 00:25:09,280

vouchers with other types of activities.

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00:25:09,280 --> 00:25:16,471

For instance, to promote ecologically sustainable production locally or

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00:25:16,471 --> 00:25:20,864

to promote responsible consumer practices.

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00:25:20,864 --> 00:25:26,331

So this can go through raising awareness session on responsible

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00:25:26,331 --> 00:25:31,101

consumption, waste reduction, etcetera etcetera.

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00:25:31,101 --> 00:25:37,311

And that's one of the conclusion of our study published last year.

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00:25:37,311 --> 00:25:41,144

Not to forget about this potential of CBA,

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00:25:41,144 --> 00:25:46,361

to contribute to the mitigation of environmental risk but

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00:25:46,361 --> 00:25:51,807

also to contribute to the preservation of the environment.

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00:25:51,807 --> 00:25:57,035

So it's a new way of planning humanitarian

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00:25:57,035 --> 00:26:02,418

actions with this responsibility in mind.

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00:26:02,418 --> 00:26:09,249

It's like changing a bit our lens, or to green our humanitarian lens.

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00:26:09,249 --> 00:26:11,133

>> Okay.

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00:26:11,133 --> 00:26:14,030

Thank you Valerie.

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00:26:14,030 --> 00:26:16,790

It's very good points.

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00:26:16,790 --> 00:26:21,285

You refer to both, okay first at the strategic level,

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00:26:21,285 --> 00:26:27,444

this environmental concept needs to be integrated to the whole concept and

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00:26:27,444 --> 00:26:32,626

idea of humanitarian assistance and specifically for cash and

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00:26:32,626 --> 00:26:37,440

voucher to combine and promote sustainable production.

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00:26:37,440 --> 00:26:41,841

And also responsible consumption to just integrate in to the whole

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00:26:41,841 --> 00:26:46,094

process of the cash operation cycle, which is very important.

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00:26:46,094 --> 00:26:52,256

And also who they mentioned are more on operational level.

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00:26:52,256 --> 00:26:57,471

On that, what kind of technical aspect can be approached

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00:26:57,471 --> 00:27:02,687

across different phases and different stages of cash and

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00:27:02,687 --> 00:27:08,680

voucher program cycle to develop more sustainable activities?

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00:27:08,680 --> 00:27:14,393

This is absolutely connect to the sustainable development goals agenda,

337

00:27:14,393 --> 00:27:20,377

which is highly emphasized and the climate change and environmental issues,

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00:27:20,377 --> 00:27:26,468

and also the use of cash which is highly important starting like grand bargain.

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00:27:26,468 --> 00:27:29,481

So definitely it is to all relevant, and

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00:27:29,481 --> 00:27:34,180

can be integrated definitely there are other priorities, but

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00:27:34,180 --> 00:27:38,008

of course environmental issues can be respected.

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00:27:38,008 --> 00:27:43,088

And apart from that and during the, operationally I found that it's

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00:27:43,088 --> 00:27:48,871

on procurement of financial service provided because they play a huge role for

344

00:27:48,871 --> 00:27:52,835

cash transfers to the beneficiaries that last mile.

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00:27:52,835 --> 00:27:59,723

And specifically with this era of digitalization.

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00:27:59,723 --> 00:28:01,766

So it's improve the cash and

347

00:28:01,766 --> 00:28:07,220

voucher assistant effectiveness as it increase the speed of the delivery,

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00:28:07,220 --> 00:28:12,844

and also reduce somehow the environmental impact because it's no printing,

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00:28:12,844 --> 00:28:16,275

documentation, so it helps the environment.

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00:28:16,275 --> 00:28:19,603

So for the procurement, do you have any suggestions?

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00:28:19,603 --> 00:28:25,268

When humanitarian organizations, they connect with the FSPs,

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00:28:25,268 --> 00:28:30,829

so when they let contract framework, any kind of practices they

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00:28:30,829 --> 00:28:37,017

can include to the contract with regard to the environmental aspects?

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00:28:37,017 --> 00:28:44,346

>> Well, one thing to highlight here is the fact that probably there is,

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00:28:44,346 --> 00:28:50,818

obviously there is a big push for digitalization in general.

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00:28:50,818 --> 00:28:54,901

And this is also at the core of the cash and

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00:28:54,901 --> 00:28:58,517

voucher assistance programming.

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00:28:58,517 --> 00:29:06,186

Still, this is something that needs to be probably a little better understood,

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00:29:06,186 --> 00:29:10,811

especially when we are speaking about comparing

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00:29:10,811 --> 00:29:15,346

the environmental footprint of the physical.

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00:29:15,346 --> 00:29:19,952

Let's say, the well printing cards and

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00:29:19,952 --> 00:29:25,926

the physical cards, et cetera versus the digital.

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00:29:25,926 --> 00:29:30,261

Also, we see in regards to the needs of energy and so on,

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00:29:30,261 --> 00:29:33,690

we need to better understand and quantify.

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00:29:33,690 --> 00:29:40,443

Also know the environmental footprint of digital

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00:29:40,443 --> 00:29:45,142

and digital transaction and etcetera.

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00:29:45,142 --> 00:29:50,000

So, still this is one aspect where I believe that

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00:29:50,000 --> 00:29:54,989

more research is needed in order to clarify that.

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00:29:54,989 --> 00:29:58,018

But, And

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00:29:58,018 --> 00:30:03,635

here we are trying also to prioritize needs and

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00:30:03,635 --> 00:30:08,106

preferences of the aid recipients.

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00:30:08,106 --> 00:30:14,320

And for that digitalization it's in many context.

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00:30:14,320 --> 00:30:19,003

It's kind of the right way in order to reduce transportation costs.

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00:30:19,003 --> 00:30:24,636

And transportation, also environmental footprint, etc.

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00:30:24,636 --> 00:30:27,828

So there are many positive aspects in this regard.

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00:30:27,828 --> 00:30:35,127

I just wanted to highlight that we need to remember also that we are,

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00:30:35,127 --> 00:30:41,286

I mean, CVA really flexible in the way that is designed.

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00:30:41,286 --> 00:30:44,814

So it could be adaptable to many possibilities.

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00:30:44,814 --> 00:30:49,926

But we also need to remember that we are speaking also about humanitarian action,

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00:30:49,926 --> 00:30:53,424

and saving lives, and this humanitarian imperative.

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00:30:53,424 --> 00:30:58,874

And in these regards we need to, as in many cases decision maker or

382

00:30:58,874 --> 00:31:03,646

considering that we are managing the programs and so on.

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00:31:03,646 --> 00:31:08,092

We need to make sure that we are not put in the responsibility of

384

00:31:08,092 --> 00:31:10,840

reducing environmental footprint.

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00:31:10,840 --> 00:31:17,767

At least exclusively into the people that are affected by by crisis, right?

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00:31:17,767 --> 00:31:18,515

>> Yes. >> And

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00:31:18,515 --> 00:31:22,645

trying in fact to survive in very hard situation.

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00:31:22,645 --> 00:31:27,982

So this is one of the trade off that we need to consider, right?

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00:31:27,982 --> 00:31:30,250

>> Yeah. >> How we can incorporate

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00:31:30,250 --> 00:31:35,277

the environmental aspect in the CVA programming.

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00:31:35,277 --> 00:31:41,090

Allowing aid recipients to reduce also the kind of footprint,

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00:31:41,090 --> 00:31:46,027

but without putting probably higher responsibility

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00:31:46,027 --> 00:31:50,206

on then considering all sorts of situation.

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00:31:50,206 --> 00:31:55,419

>> Thank you for the, I mean, good points you mentioned here.

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00:31:55,419 --> 00:31:59,526

They should be damn taken into account.

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00:31:59,526 --> 00:32:04,719

Maybe this is my, I mean, last questions.

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00:32:04,719 --> 00:32:09,836

So to wrap up our discussion, do you have any kind of

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00:32:09,836 --> 00:32:15,787

recommendations you propose to different stakeholders?

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00:32:15,787 --> 00:32:19,715

So, I mean, and how they can approach and

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00:32:19,715 --> 00:32:26,573

apply this environmental impact to the CVA programs more effectively?

401

00:32:26,573 --> 00:32:27,524
>> Yes, thank you.

402
00:32:27,524 --> 00:32:35,692
I mean, I believe we already mentioned a few lines for the future.

403
00:32:35,692 --> 00:32:40,868
But just to wrap up, as we said it's important to

404
00:32:40,868 --> 00:32:46,683
continue raising awareness about this environmental

405
00:32:46,683 --> 00:32:52,260
issues among humanitarian and CVA practitioners.

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00:32:52,260 --> 00:32:55,668
It's coming, we have said.

407
00:32:55,668 --> 00:32:58,944
But it shall continue.

408
00:32:58,944 --> 00:33:04,954
Also it's important to include these environmental considerations

409
00:33:04,954 --> 00:33:09,649
more systematically in CVA policies and strategies.

410
00:33:09,649 --> 00:33:15,543
In order to encourage this type of analysis

411
00:33:15,543 --> 00:33:20,792
at the very start of the programming.

412
00:33:20,792 --> 00:33:24,992
We talked about the programmatic tools,

413
00:33:24,992 --> 00:33:30,874
which must be amended to reflect better considerations.

414
00:33:30,874 --> 00:33:36,424
And I also want you to underline again the potential for

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00:33:36,424 --> 00:33:40,287
environmental preservation through

416

00:33:40,287 --> 00:33:45,607
the implementation of complementary approaches.

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00:33:45,607 --> 00:33:51,027
Combining CVA with market based interventions.

418

00:33:51,027 --> 00:33:57,134
Technical assistance towards the suppliers, for instance, the providers.

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00:33:57,134 --> 00:34:02,821
Or awareness raising activities in terms of environmental

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00:34:02,821 --> 00:34:07,379
education, eco-friendly practices, etc.

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00:34:07,379 --> 00:34:12,874
And again, as Jose said, I fully agree, to avoid also transferring

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00:34:12,874 --> 00:34:19,435
the responsibility of the environmental footprint towards the beneficiaries.

423

00:34:19,435 --> 00:34:25,993
It's the responsibility of the operators to think and anticipate beforehand.

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00:34:25,993 --> 00:34:32,398
And finally, my last point would be to maybe reinforce the coordination

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00:34:32,398 --> 00:34:37,648
between the CVA community and the environment community.

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00:34:37,648 --> 00:34:42,986
Or those practitioners, even in the aid sector,

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00:34:42,986 --> 00:34:49,343
who think either technically in terms of CVA programming or

428
00:34:49,343 --> 00:34:53,678
in terms of environmental objectives.

429
00:34:53,678 --> 00:35:01,417
I believe these guys could get closer together to launch and

430
00:35:01,417 --> 00:35:06,217
to reflect upon initiatives somehow

431
00:35:06,217 --> 00:35:14,259
to greener humanitarian action.

432
00:35:14,259 --> 00:35:16,105
>> Thank you, thank you, thank you, Valerie.

433
00:35:16,105 --> 00:35:19,773
Very good points you mentioned.

434
00:35:19,773 --> 00:35:24,537
Jose, you want to add anything at the final point?

435
00:35:24,537 --> 00:35:31,907
>> Yeah, well, I totally agree with the points that Valerie was highlighting.

436
00:35:31,907 --> 00:35:36,484
Just to re emphasize the fact that we

437
00:35:36,484 --> 00:35:41,519
probably need to be able to provide more

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00:35:41,519 --> 00:35:47,487
visibility to the CVA and environment space.

439
00:35:47,487 --> 00:35:51,285
CVA is used, right, in multiple context and crisis.

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00:35:51,285 --> 00:35:54,975

And this also involve climate related shocks and

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00:35:54,975 --> 00:35:58,395
natural disaster, environmental crisis.

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00:35:58,395 --> 00:36:02,125
So this is something that in reality is already happening.

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00:36:02,125 --> 00:36:06,369
And there are documented example, right, of effect of cash.

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00:36:06,369 --> 00:36:10,137
Reducing, for example, deforestation in Indonesia.

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00:36:10,137 --> 00:36:14,440
Or reducing negative coping strategies, like avoiding selling

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00:36:14,440 --> 00:36:18,987
productive assets when people are affected by drought in Ethiopia.

447

00:36:18,987 --> 00:36:26,256
Or cash supporting health to prepare to monsoon big flutes hitting
in Bangladesh.

448

00:36:26,256 --> 00:36:32,446
So, however, this capacity of CVA to address environmental shocks
needs,

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00:36:32,446 --> 00:36:36,461
as I said, not to better visibilize and explore.

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00:36:36,461 --> 00:36:40,157
Gathering more evidences about it and

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00:36:40,157 --> 00:36:45,360
also suggest programmatic adaptation when needed.

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00:36:45,360 --> 00:36:51,045
Another thing is also to highlight that, well,

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00:36:51,045 --> 00:36:56,036

in regards to the tools and how to integrate

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00:36:56,036 --> 00:37:02,290

the environmental aspect in the CVA specific tools.

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00:37:02,290 --> 00:37:07,497

I won't say we are speaking about developing specific tools for that or

456

00:37:07,497 --> 00:37:12,200

create, but more adapting or complementing the existing one.

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00:37:12,200 --> 00:37:15,604

So we can contribute to the integration, right,

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00:37:15,604 --> 00:37:21,211

of climate change environmental criteria at various levels of CVA programming.

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00:37:21,211 --> 00:37:25,491

And finally, just to highlight that, I mean, CVA and

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00:37:25,491 --> 00:37:28,384

environment is the future, right?

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00:37:28,384 --> 00:37:32,743

And the interest is already here.

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00:37:32,743 --> 00:37:37,553

And the proof also is this Nascent Community of Practice

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00:37:37,553 --> 00:37:42,477

from December 2020 that now is being hosted by CaLP.

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00:37:42,477 --> 00:37:45,622

But there are more than 50 organization and

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00:37:45,622 --> 00:37:50,588

agencies that are participating and has showed they're interested in

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00:37:50,588 --> 00:37:55,404

engaging further in this common space between CVA and environment.

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00:37:55,404 --> 00:38:02,553

So this is somehow showing us the way to follow.

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00:38:02,553 --> 00:38:03,957

>> Thank you, thank you, Jose.

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00:38:03,957 --> 00:38:05,182

Good points you mentioned.

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00:38:05,182 --> 00:38:08,710

And it's like your last point, I mean, CaLP,

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00:38:08,710 --> 00:38:12,427

I'm sure that they're different initiatives.

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00:38:12,427 --> 00:38:18,669

But cash and environment is one of the new initiatives since starting 2020.

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00:38:18,669 --> 00:38:22,723

And it's very, I mean, excellent opportunity.

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00:38:22,723 --> 00:38:27,163

As there are many different NGOs involving in such a network and

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00:38:27,163 --> 00:38:28,936

community of practice.

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00:38:28,936 --> 00:38:34,993

They share idea about this kind of how we can implement this environmental impact,

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00:38:34,993 --> 00:38:37,338

education voucher assistant.

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00:38:37,338 --> 00:38:40,675

How to measure it, how to integrate it with the programs.

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00:38:40,675 --> 00:38:43,502

So I think more are upcoming and

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00:38:43,502 --> 00:38:48,737

I'm sure that Super House we can get involved with this.

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00:38:48,737 --> 00:38:52,970

We see more evidence based research and studies looking into

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00:38:52,970 --> 00:38:58,037

the environmental effect of cash and voucher assistance in the future.

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00:38:58,037 --> 00:39:03,583

And Valerie, you mentioned that it's like kind of the need to provide

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00:39:03,583 --> 00:39:08,856

more awareness, public awareness on the environmental issues.

485

00:39:08,856 --> 00:39:14,216

Specifically on those countries affected by disasters and vulnerable people.

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00:39:14,216 --> 00:39:20,184

But this need a systematic procedure and also advocacy with the government.

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00:39:20,184 --> 00:39:25,432

And then different stakeholders to make this as

488

00:39:25,432 --> 00:39:30,686

a policy to integrate cash to the environment.

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00:39:30,686 --> 00:39:37,127

And I think today I've enjoyed our discussion too much.

490

00:39:37,127 --> 00:39:40,462

I've learned, I mean, myself I learned a lot about this.

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00:39:40,462 --> 00:39:47,554

Because at HUMLOG Institute we're doing a research project on cash and

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00:39:47,554 --> 00:39:52,647

carry, which is supported by Academy of Finland.

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00:39:52,647 --> 00:39:55,906

We're looking into the delivery of the cash and

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00:39:55,906 --> 00:40:01,131

voucher in complex emergencies in those countries affected by disasters.

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00:40:01,131 --> 00:40:06,163

Of course we don't look into the environmental impact, but this is very

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00:40:06,163 --> 00:40:11,617

important to consider, which is neglected in the academic research as well.

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00:40:11,617 --> 00:40:16,037

So the people over there, like humanitarian organization,

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00:40:16,037 --> 00:40:20,712

always prioritize, I mean, the needs to provide kind of further

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00:40:20,712 --> 00:40:24,121

dignity to the people, to the beneficiaries.

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00:40:24,121 --> 00:40:28,224

Of course, you mentioned that we do not need to transfer the responsibility of

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00:40:28,224 --> 00:40:30,165

environment to the beneficiaries.

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00:40:30,165 --> 00:40:32,501

They need to purchase whatsoever they want.

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00:40:32,501 --> 00:40:34,475

However, they can't be responsible.

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00:40:34,475 --> 00:40:38,897

But this responsibility's more shifted toward the implementing partners,

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00:40:38,897 --> 00:40:41,980

like humanitarian organizations or the government.

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00:40:41,980 --> 00:40:45,847

Which they need to actually integrate the environmental impact.

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00:40:45,847 --> 00:40:48,373

We have a very fruitful discussion.

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00:40:48,373 --> 00:40:51,767

Any last comments you want to add?

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00:40:51,767 --> 00:40:56,079

>> Maybe just to say that cash and voucher assistance,

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00:40:56,079 --> 00:40:59,903

like any type of humanitarian intervention,

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00:40:59,903 --> 00:41:05,697

will have effects on the environment, either positive or negative.

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00:41:05,697 --> 00:41:12,180

And it's interesting to hear about your study at Ankara University.

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00:41:12,180 --> 00:41:17,293

Because, of course, many of the factors

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00:41:17,293 --> 00:41:21,969

which explain this negative impact on

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00:41:21,969 --> 00:41:27,389

the environment will be external factors.

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00:41:27,389 --> 00:41:32,785

And will be linked to the social and

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00:41:32,785 --> 00:41:36,515

economic structures.

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00:41:36,515 --> 00:41:42,200

So, of course, it's the responsibility of organizations

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00:41:42,200 --> 00:41:47,334

to anticipate and mitigate the risk of their actions.

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00:41:47,334 --> 00:41:53,858

But there is also reflection on the structural factors and

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00:41:53,858 --> 00:42:01,060

obstacles to have a positive contribution on the environment.

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00:42:01,060 --> 00:42:05,752

So, and here, let's say that we can make also the link

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00:42:05,752 --> 00:42:09,628

between the humanitarian interventions and

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00:42:09,628 --> 00:42:13,713

the development sector or the private sector.

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00:42:13,713 --> 00:42:15,875

And the development of local economies.

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00:42:15,875 --> 00:42:22,485

So just to say that many factors are also external to the organization.

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00:42:22,485 --> 00:42:26,664

So the minimum responsibility is to anticipate and mitigate the risk.

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00:42:26,664 --> 00:42:31,684

And to think through the broader objectives of their actions

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00:42:31,684 --> 00:42:36,615

when they try to save life or to intervene after a disaster.

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00:42:36,615 --> 00:42:37,884

>> Yeah, thank you.

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00:42:37,884 --> 00:42:45,141

>> Yeah, I mean, I totally agree with Valerie's last comment.

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00:42:45,141 --> 00:42:51,139

I would like to emphasize the fact that we have knowledge, right,

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00:42:51,139 --> 00:42:56,936

that climate change and environment is still space to explore.

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00:42:56,936 --> 00:43:02,457

But main thing that is needed is in fact a strong

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00:43:02,457 --> 00:43:07,982

commitment to further integrate those aspect

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00:43:07,982 --> 00:43:15,505

into the CVA policy organizational and technical framework.

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00:43:15,505 --> 00:43:20,315

So more evidences and more practical examples showing CVA and

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00:43:20,315 --> 00:43:23,100

value in these regards are needed.

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00:43:23,100 --> 00:43:28,744

But I am also convinced that all those conversations

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00:43:28,744 --> 00:43:35,295

like this one that we're having today, will help for sure.

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00:43:35,295 --> 00:43:40,313

And that the CVA environment common space is

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00:43:40,313 --> 00:43:47,370

also a key part of the future of the humanitarian assistance.

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00:43:47,370 --> 00:43:52,178

And we will see it sooner than later, hopefully.

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00:43:52,178 --> 00:43:55,918

>> Okay, okay, I'm looking forward to seeing all those reports.

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00:43:55,918 --> 00:44:01,737

As you mentioned, CVA is flexible and adaptable to different contexts.

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00:44:01,737 --> 00:44:05,510

And it's very context dependent and depend on the context.

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00:44:05,510 --> 00:44:09,753

So CVA can be applied either in forms of, for example,

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00:44:09,753 --> 00:44:13,180

restricted cash or cash for work programs.

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00:44:13,180 --> 00:44:16,359

Or also market based interventions.

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00:44:16,359 --> 00:44:19,269

And then can be integrated to the environmental impact.

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00:44:19,269 --> 00:44:25,488

However, it needs commitment and needs support of different stakeholders and

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00:44:25,488 --> 00:44:30,978

advocacy to have all this with the more evidence to come in the future.

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00:44:30,978 --> 00:44:35,825

And also localization of this kind of environmental impact, the CVA.

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00:44:35,825 --> 00:44:40,964

So in certain African countries maybe there's like awful digitization.

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00:44:40,964 --> 00:44:42,339

It doesn't work or does work.

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00:44:42,339 --> 00:44:45,798

Or they're like, renewable energy available can be applied.

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00:44:45,798 --> 00:44:47,824

Or in certain context maybe not.

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00:44:47,824 --> 00:44:50,899

So it's like localization of need and

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00:44:50,899 --> 00:44:56,195

then applying this environmental concern, I think is very key.

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00:44:56,195 --> 00:45:02,051

And then, yeah, we're all looking for more evidence based research and studies.

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00:45:02,051 --> 00:45:07,955

Looking into the link between environment and cash and voucher assistance for

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00:45:07,955 --> 00:45:12,977

a better society and more environmentally friendly assistance.

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00:45:12,977 --> 00:45:14,265

Thank you very much.

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00:45:14,265 --> 00:45:18,403

I've enjoyed a lot of our discussion today on this episode.

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00:45:18,403 --> 00:45:20,077

Have a good day.

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00:45:20,077 --> 00:45:22,485

And good bye, everybody.

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00:45:22,485 --> 00:45:41,472

[MUSIC]