

A large, thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the central text. The top-left corner is a solid black block, the left side is a vertical bar, and the bottom-right corner is a solid black block.

THE UTILITY OF PHYSICAL CURRENCY IN CRISIS SITUATIONS - AND GENERALLY

Cash and Card Consultants

Why is cash so important?

- Cash remains more accepted than any other payment method
- Even in Netherlands, supposedly rushing towards “cashless”, DNB reported in 2019 that 97% of businesses accepted cash; no other payment method even reached 90%
- If that’s true in Netherlands, even more so in Haiti
- As for Sweden, even the government urges people to keep cash at home, in case “systems fail” - and they sometimes do
- If that’s true in Sweden, even more so in the Sudan

Not really about cash - it is POWER

- Genuinely delivering power to aid recipients has to be the answer
- Give people the power to decide for themselves, not dictated to by people sitting thousands of kilometres away in offices
- The choices of the aid recipients can revitalise economies of crisis-hit communities

The benefits of cash

- Better programme design, focus on recipients
- Real value for money, defined by recipients
- Multiply the impact of aid
- Enhance social protection

What we need to see

- Further scaling up of cash use
- Cash efficiency compensating for reduced funding
- Increase localisation
- Cash used to bring about system-wide change

Thank you

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