# ELAN MARCH UPDATE

The first digital payments catalog; a great new multipurpose cash resource; and the Daily Mail. (Yep, you read that correctly.)

## DESIGNING THE FIRST DIGITAL PAYMENTS CATALOG

**LONDON**: Twenty-four donors, payment actors, and NGO and UN representatives spent a March day in London wrestling with 5 typical user personas to understand who would benefit from a digital payments catalog and how. Two simple design options were proposed by the workshop's facilitators, Vizzuality (creators of the Cash Atlas).

**D.C.**: Nearly 30 participants took this one step further on March 24th to discuss some of the tricky questions remaining after the London session. Many thanks to our workshop host, FHI 360, and to our workshop lead, Amy O'Donnell from Oxfam!

Based on your insights shared at these meetings, the ELAN will work on a prototype version for testing. Stay tuned for more chances to share your views to shape this product!



*Participants in the ELAN's Catalog Design Workshop in London prioritize catalog functions.*

## MARCH DEVELOPMENTS: MPGs GET OPERATIONALIZED AND MORE!

### Live! Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multipurpose Cash Grants (MPG)

The MPG Operational Guidance and Toolkit is a web-based resource to improve the design and implementation of cash-based interventions.  Grouped by five themes -**analysis**, **transfer design**, **response design**, **preparedness** and **coordination** - the MPG Toolkit is part of the Enhanced Response Capacity (ERC) project, commissioned by UNHCR and funded by ECHO.

Particularly relevant to this community: minimum standards for joint payment services and terms of engagement with a common delivery mechanisms (Annex 4: Common Delivery Mechanisms).

## Ebola: A Big Data Disaster

In "Ebola: A Big Data Disaster," Sean Martin McDonald explores the risks - known and unknown - that arise when the humanitarian community, "invite[s] the problems of digital systems into the most fragile and vulnerable environments in the world."

A sobering read from the Centre for Internet and Society, it might very well challenge how you view experimentation, privacy and the public good.

## The UK's Daily Mail: The Surest Sign Cash is Mainstreaming?

If you can find the article amidst - well, everything else - even the Dailymail.com is arguing for the "dignity" that cash transfers to EU migrants allows. (And this may well be the only time "dignity" and "Daily Mail" appear in the same sentence.)

## NOMAD's Amman Workshop – Data Collection and Analysis Tools

In January, CartONG and iMMAP organized the third NOMAD workshop in Amman, Jordan. Over two days, 106 participants from 40 organizations discussed best practices and tools for data collection and analysis.Tools such as EngageSpark (information-sharing), Last Mile Mobile Solutions (managing large case loads), Kobo Toolbox (data collection), and many others were highlighted. Open the workshop agenda for event presentations and notes.
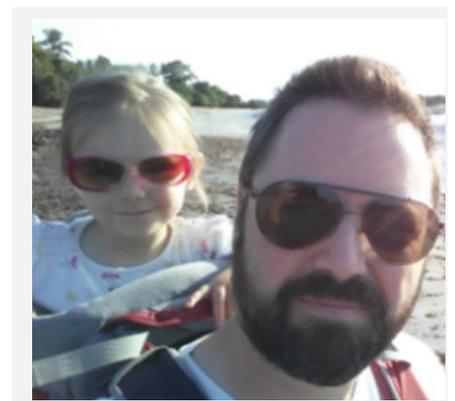
## ASK THE EXPERT: ROGER DEAN – NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

NRC's Roger Dean leads the Remote Cash Project, an initiative funded by ECHO to improve the remote management of cash. The ELAN tempted him from his desk to answer a few of our questions. (Although, based upon the photo - did he really need much encouragement?)

**How did the Remote Cash Project come about?**
While agencies have been programming remotely for some time in various places, we've found it a real challenge to get enough done in highly challenging contexts. With cash rapidly becoming the default means of assistance (and Ban Ki Moon's recent endorsement is just great), and lack of access in [some places] one of our biggest challenges, cash guidelines through remote programming principles was a clear gap NRC and ECHO could see.

**Why you?**
I'm an adaptable generalist or a serial specialist, one of those. I've been doing bits of cash programming with NRC since 2008, but my background is in logs, area management, and shelter and NFIs. I hope that range helps the guidelines speak to the needs of program and support sections.



*NRC's Roger Dean, Cash Assistance Adviser - Syria, makes it look easy with a little help from daughter Else (who spends her unconditional cash on Weetabix).*

**Is successful remote management of cash different than successful remote management, period?**

Not so much. The key remote programming principles (such as forward planning, consideration of risk transfer, adapting systems and structures) allow "good enough" cash programming in a remote programming context. There are very few risks unique to CTP, but the ways risks are understood and mitigated will vary for cash, and the experience of the project's Technical Advisory Group from key NGOs and companies was important to capture here.

**The draft is 24 pages, which - for humanitarians - is refreshingly brief! If, in the exceedingly unlikely event someone were to skim this, what are the three main points you want them to walk away with?**

Brief was the idea. Depending on your needs and perspective they may feel incomplete, but I think we've hit that "sweet spot" for getting the guidance read and used. There are plenty of links to specialized resources if project managers need them - and they will - but the three key points? Moderate your expectations, prioritize open and honest communications, and beware of inserting accidental conditionalities into the assistance.

**How can others get involved?**

We are looking for agencies to give the guidelines a field trial before we finalize and create the training resources. NRC can offer tech support (me) and a bit of funding to encourage this. Anyone interested can drop me a line on roger.dean@nrc.org.
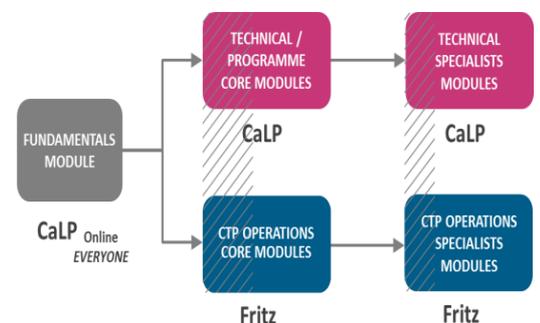
## GET INVOLVED

### Join the *Mission: Responsible* Email List

Want to stay on top of juciest deveopments in the responsible data space with just one email? Then you can join the new *Mission: Responsible* list from the Responsible Data Form. The first edition features a consideration of India's biometric database, an upcoming Tech Salon featuring ELAN members, and an IRIN piece considering humanitarian agencies' use of software developed with links to intelligence agencies.

### Share your E-transfer (and cash) Resources

The Fritz Institute and CaLP are partnering to design and deliver training on cash transfer programming for operations staff. The training will extend across the operations functions, including supply chain, logistics, finance and compliance, information and communications technology (ICT), procurement, and security and will help participants understand concepts and build skills and synergies for cash programs. CaLP will develop a CTP fundamentals module, which will be followed by Fritz Institute's core and specialists operations module as well as CaLP's technical program and specialist modules.

Currently the project is seeking input from organizations and individuals with expertise in CTP to **provide any training materials, strategy documents, manuals and other relevant publications in relation to operational support of CTP**. Please contact Nathalie Butcher (nathaliebutcher@yahoo.com) or Laszlo Viranyi (viranyi@yahoo.com) for further information.





*Fritz Institution and CaLP planned training flow.*

The Electronic Cash Transfer Learning Action Network is convened by Mercy Corps, with support from the MasterCard Center for Inclusive Growth.