

Webinar 2: Adapting to COVID-19 The Use of Cash & Markets in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement – 20th May 2020



© Turkish Red Crescent Society

	Agenda	Speaker
3 mins	Introduction	David Dalgado - Host
15 mins	Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) operational adaptations, challenges and plans.	Zimbabwe Red Cross Society – Tinomutenda Maposa , Cash Preparedness Focal Point & Morris Machawira , Operations Director
15 mins	Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) operational adaptations, challenges and plans.	Lebanese Red Cross Society – Maysa Ibrahim Basic Assistance Program Manager
20 mins	Questions and Answers	Participants to post questions in the chat. Responses from Speakers + Jo Burton , ICRC and Emma Delo , British Red Cross.



Zimbabwe Red Cross Society

Cash and COVID19
20th May Webinar Talk

National Context (3 min)

- Total population - **14.6M** (68% rural & 32% urban).

Prior COVID-19 (ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION DRIVERS)

- High prices of cereal products severely constrained access to food for low-income households.
- Low foreign currency supplies reduced Zimbabwe's capacity to access food imports.
- Severe drought and below-average rains sharply reduced the 2019-2020 harvest.
- Deteriorating food insecurity and health conditions

Post COVID-19 outbreak

- COVID 19 has further deepened the ***food insecurity situation*** in the country, with attendant consequences for the most vulnerable including women, children, persons living with HIV, with disabilities
- Zimbabwe announced Level 1 lockdown on the 27th March 2020 which speaks of Public Health (COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment).

Market and Prices Update

- Price rises approaching 50%
- Possibly attributable to panic buying prior to the lockdown, fewer shops being opened and trading, and impacts of the closing of the borders for cross border trade.
- The interbank exchange rate has also increased from RTGS 18 = 1 USD to 25, but is still well below the informal rate of about 40.

Remote Emergency Market and Prices Update

- An in-depth market assessment to look into market readiness / market conditions for responding to cash interventions and to identify what goods are available and at what prices.

MEB Components

- Changes to the MEB to reflect the current Covid 19 crisis – e.g. increased requirements for soap for hand washing, transport costs etc
- The existing MEB commodities should be reviewed in terms of quantities requirements.

Summary re-calculation of the costs of the current MEB

Total Minimum Expenditure Basket and Transfer Value - Per person					
	A	B	C		
Item	USD	USD amount covered by household income	USD Gap (A-B)	Transfer Value (USD) at 62%	Plus 10% inflation
Food	17.63	1.08	16.55	10.26	11.28
Soap	0.39	0.01	0.38	0.24	0.26
Other WASH/NFI	3.39	0.06	3.33	2.07	2.27
Services	5.35	0.05	5.30	3.29	3.62
Total/HH/Month	26.77	1.20	25.57	15.85	17.44

Total Minimum Expenditure Basket and Transfer Value - Per person					
	A	B	C		
Item	USD	USD amount covered by household income	USD Gap (A-B)	Transfer Value (USD) at 62%	Plus 10% inflation
Food	17.63	0.00	17.63	10.93	12.02
Soap	0.39	0.00	0.39	0.24	0.26
Other WASH/NFI	3.39	0.00	3.39	2.10	2.31
Services	5.35	0.00	5.35	3.32	3.65
Total/HH/Month	26.77	0.00	26.77	16.59	18.25

ZRCS Overall Response (CTP)

- British Red Cross- 20 000 individuals, modality-mobile money.
- IFRC- 3500 individuals – e voucher.
- ECHO- Finnish Red Cross -72230 individuals, modality- inkind support.
- WFP(World Food Programme) -139416 individuals - inkind support.

Mobile Money Transfers

- Engagement of the FSP (EcoCash).
- USD wallet is created to keep beneficiaries secured from inflation.
- Beneficiaries convert the money at an official rate (a 10% cushioning is added to every USD\$1 converted).

Value Voucher

- NS moving to Value voucher – markets functionality.
- Secures scarce commodities in the country eg government subsidised mealie meal.

PDM & CEA

- All being done remotely using mobile communication.
- A hot line managed by a third party set in place.

Challenges

- Resources- increased needs following COVID-19 outbreak.
- Policy inconsistency – affects modality selection.

Lebanese Red Cross Society –

Maysa Ibrahim Basic Assistance Program Manager

Stop sharing screen so Maysa's Video Feed can be seen

Question and Answers session