

# Cash & Voucher Assistance In Nepal Red Cross Society

ONE STEP AHEAD: CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (CVA) LEVEL II TRAINING



Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) Level II training was conducted from November 5 to 8, 2019. Altogether, 26 staffs and volunteers participated in the training. The members of Cash Working Group (CWG) as well as PECT trained staffs facilitated the training. The training focused on developing and strengthening the knowledge and capacity of NRCS staffs and volunteers. The participant from National Cash Coordination Group (CCG) was also included in the training.

The training was designed to equip participants with the skills required to assess, design, implement and monitor CVA using the RCM Cash in Emergencies (CiE) toolkit and meeting RCM standards for cash transfer programming. The case studies including other training materials used during training were translated in Nepali which supported participants to increase the level of their understanding. The training pre- and post-test evaluation were done through online system which was appreciated by the participants. The first CVA training was held in June 2018.



## HIGHLIGHTS OF CTP

### Nepali translation of RAM: Guidelines

On July 2019, 28 staffs and volunteers were trained on Rapid Assessment for Markets (RAM) Training. By knowing the importance of RAM, everyone felt that RAM guideline should be in Nepali version. CWG worked on hiring consultant for translating in Nepali version of RAM guideline.

RAM guideline has been developed in Nepali version and now it is on the publishing process and will be done within January 2020.



### Pre-crisis Market Assessment



With an objective to plan appropriate response modality, pre-crisis market assessment

was conducted in Siraha district on October 2019. Two most affected flood prone wards (Kalyanpur Municipality ward 11 and Siraha Municipality ward 14) were selected for assessment. Beaten rice market assessment was conducted in community and near by markets. Three members of Cash Working Group (CWG) were mobilized to conduct assessment.

The market is functioning in all areas after 2-3 days of flooding so there is possibility of cash based intervention. But storage capacity needs to be enhanced and transportation as well as labour cost should be fixed.

### Institutional Capacity Building

Cash preparedness program organized one day CVA awareness session in five districts (Pyuthan, Sankhuwasabha, Rukum East, Nawalparasi East and Ilam) on November and December 2019 to generate awareness on CVA among the executives of district chapter, Sub-chapters and government authorities. Altogether, there were 144 participants

(Female 19, Male 125) in the awareness sessions. Similarly, Basic CVA training was also organized for the headquarters' staff on 26-27 November 2019. There were 25 participants (Female 12, Male 13) in the training. Cash Working Group (CWG) supported regularly to disseminate messages of CVA in its own networks as well as local government.

CWG members also facilitated in basic CVA training conducted by SURE Program (DM Department) in Kathmandu valley, Kaski and Kailali districts. NRCS through this program

has supported capacity building of staff and volunteers in all provinces on cash transfer preparedness and selected one cash focal person in each district as well.

## Cash Simulation Exercise

The first ever cash focused simulation exercise was conducted in Siraha district on 24-25 December 2019. The purpose of the exercise was to induct and orient District Chapters on cash-based programming and modalities, and cash SoP to prepare them to master in cash interventions in the coming days, evaluate existing preparedness and response mechanism in response to potential emergencies and to provide grounds to validate the existing mechanism and identify areas for improvements.

43 participants representing from NRCS District Chapters and Sub-Chapter Executives and Staffs, Municipal Officers, Security Forces and local NGOs. Chief District Officer (CDO), Convener from District Coordination Committee, Head of District Security Forces and NRCS DC President were present in opening remarks and highlighted use of cash



in disaster response. The day-1 of simulation was focused on sensitizing participants about cash transfer modality, preconditions, cash feasibility, market assessment, delivery mechanism while day-2 was in depth practical involvement of participants based on scenarios and changing situation to decide best way of cash integration in emergency.

## Learning Visit of Cash Working Group



The first learning visit of the NRCS Cash Working Group-CWG was hosted by Maygdi and Mustang district from 19 to 22 December 2019. The theme of the learning visit was to explore the learnings on cash and voucher assistance and sharing the newly developed cash Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).

Firstly, the team had meeting with district chapters' executives and staffs in Myagdi District

Chapter. There was sharing on experiences and challenges of cash transfer in ongoing relief and development sector. The team had interacted with community people who received technical support with conditional grant from CLPP project.

Secondly, a brief meeting was organized with executive members of district chapter in Mustang where Cash focal from NRCS highlighted the importance of CVA, its modality and transfer mechanism with following best practices of NRCS in recent relief operation. Despite having specific programme for implementation of the cash based interventions, the district chapter has practice on cash distribution to the most vulnerable community people during emergencies.

# Cash Focused Shock Responsive Social Protection Project

The Disaster Management Department of NRCS is implementing Cash preparedness focused Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) project in 6 Municipalities of Saptari, Mahottari and Dhanusha districts through bilateral support from UNICEF Nepal Office for 4-months (January-April 2020).

This project aims to strengthen the capacity of Pallika to identify the settlements with high flood risks in each wards and register these households and link them with the cash delivery system so that they can receive cash or other

supports in case of disaster. The vulnerability assessment will be done which include social vulnerability, economic vulnerability, flood vulnerability etc. About 45,000 households survey will be carried out using mobile phones and the final data will be incorporated with Municipal or relevant government website that will be accessible to everyone to further use in disaster response and others purpose. The project will also focus on building capacities of Municipal governance and NRCS volunteers on cash preparedness.

## Cash in Action

**OHADA CHAUDHARY'S STORY:** Ohada Chaudhary is champion of people living in river bed group of NRCS Strengthening Urban Resilience and Engagement (SURE) programme, residing at Dhanghadi Sub-Metropolitan City ward no 14.

SURE Program organised a business plan development workshop for supporting him in income generation activities. He selected

banana farming as he had experience in it. Then, he received Rs. 10,000 conditional cash grant (bearer cheque) and got engaged in banana farming. He is now able to save Rs.30,000 from selling bananas. He said, "I am very happy and thankful with the support provided by Nepal Red Cross Society as now I can stay with my family members and support them in their daily needs and I am planning further to expand the banana farming in the nearby plot of land by renting it".

## CTP IN CLPP

Community Livelihood Promotional Project (CLPP) in Myagdi District Chapter working on livelihood of community people through promoting high value cash crops farming, homestay and herbal farming.

NRCS organized 10 community meetings and people were highly interested in high value cash crops farming, homestay and herbal farming. NRCS Team did a market assessment on those farmings. Altogether, 344 community people were listed out and received Rs. 15,000 per household.

Tika Tilija of Begkhola Homestay started his homestay. He received training from NRCS and started his work. He said, 'My home was only used by family but now I can make a homestay and earn money and guests can also feel comfortable as in their own home'.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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