



Nepal Red Cross Society

CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE NEWSLETTER



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CVA Preparedness Programme Launched in NRCS.

Nepal Red Cross Society has launched Cash and Voucher Preparedness (CVAP) Program in partnership with consortium of American and British Red Cross from August 2021. The programme aimed to further strengthen NRCS to be cash ready for effective response.

The duration of programme is three years from August 2021 to September 2024. The programme has been developed based on NRCS cash capacity assessment. In April 2021 NRCS reviewed their self-cash capacity assessment and identified gaps and strengthen, based on the assessment findings NRCS has developed the plan of actions with budget for CVAP. For CVAP the funding will be channeled through BRC. Therefore, NRCS has signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)/ Grant Agreement Document (GAD) with British Red Cross (BRC) on August to start the programme. The planned activities have been kicked off from October 2021 with the technical support from AmCross, BRC and IFRC.

Karnali Flood Victims Received Multipurpose Cash Grants Through SSA Bank Accounts

Niru Pardhan, Programme Coordinator, 18th November 2021.

NRCS, in partnership with Tikapur and Janaki municipalities in Kailali district distributed multi-purpose cash grants of Rs.13,500 to the 267 affected families in the recent Karnali river floods using the bank accounts of Social Security Allowance (SSA) to support their basic needs.

The cash was distributed with the support of Danish Red Cross and partners to the FbA-SRSP (Forecast based Action- Shock responsive social protection) Action supported by the EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), and implemented in the Karnali and Babai river basins. The minimum expenditure basket (MEB) amount was distributed to the SSA recipients; 157 single women (widowed) and 111 people living with disabilities. NRCS has been exploring for the past year, in close collaboration with SSA officials at the municipal level, the possibility to use the SSA registry for targeting, information and cash distribution using SSA bank accounts through this project.

After floods in October 2021, NRCS and partners moved one step further to actually pilot what the project had been looking into, and this experience now contributes to demonstrate that local partnerships, and using the social protection system and its features, enable to reach the most vulnerable people in a timely and sustainable manner, in response; and hopefully for anticipation in future. NRCS is also looking at the possibility of extending the cash support to additional people in the affected areas, with potential co-contribution from some of the municipalities using their DM funds- all in all in the same spirit of exploration and evidence collection that has driven the FbA-SRSP initiative.

NRCS Distributed Cash Grant to 655 Households Under DREF Operation.

It was a mid of October 2021 and unexpected and unseasonal rainfall hit with severe destruction in the 13 districts (Darchula, Kanchapur, Rupandehi, Nawalparasi West, Nawalparasi East, Kaski, Parbat, Myagdi, Sindhuli, Mahottari, Ilam, Panchthar, Kalikot) of Nepal from far east to far west. The disaster affected 5415 households (Hhs), with 101 human loss and huge property damage. NRCS immediately made an appeal for Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) and received 41.7 million rupees for the emergency response operation. Under the operation RCS has targeted 1200 households as the recipient of CASH support from all 13 affected districts.



Till the end of November the operation is able to provide cash for 655 HHS in 9 districts (Darchula, Kanchapur, Rupandehi, Nawalparasi West, Nawalparasi East, Kaski, Parbat, Myagdi, Sindhuli) with the transfer value of 13,500 the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) amount to the selected beneficiaries to fulfill the basic needs. Similarly the operation has also supported NRs 2000 to 335 most vulnerable Hhs as cash top up for temporary shelter .

The NRCS emergency response team has developed the beneficiaries' selection criteria and project team closely coordinated with local governments for verification of beneficiaries list and transferred the amount via Bank cheque to the beneficiaries. The operation has also planned to conduct the post distribution monitoring (PDM) after the completion of operation at field level.

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Upcoming Events:

CWG Meeting .
Inception Meeting
CVA level-II Training
Orientations to DC
Strategic Workshop

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Participants of Training presenting the group work . Photo Credit: Rabin Dahal

Basic CVA Training Conducted in Bardibas

NRCS has conducted 2 days basic Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) training at Bardibas, Mahottari from 3rd September, 2021. A total of 20 participants from six local governments (Palikas) of Dhanusha, Mahottari and Saptari districts attended the training.

The training was organized under Shock responsive social protection program supported by unicef. The basic cash and voucher assistance training relates to the capacity enhancement of Palika officials and NRCS volunteers. The social registry system at Palika level are now linked with financial service providers specially with banks and this CVA training will be supportive to implement CVA programmes in future crisis and shocks.

The training generates awareness to Palikas' Government Officials and NRCS volunteers and provide them with basic knowledge in implementing Cash and Voucher Assistance. The program was facilitated by Ramesh Ghimire, CVA coordinator of NRCS, Saroj Shrestha livelihood consultant of NRCS, Rabin Dahal, SRSP project coordinator and Chiya Bhandari, social policy officer of unicef.

IFRC Commitments in CVA

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is a world leader in cash and voucher assistance. We are committed to delivering 50% of our humanitarian assistance through cash and vouchers by 2025.

Dignity and choice

We believe people affected by crises should be at the centre of humanitarian response and be supported to recover with dignity. Cash assistance helps people to prepare, prioritise and take care of their families based on their own preferences and decisions. It supports them to address a wide range of needs such as rent and food, as well as education and healthcare costs. All of our work on cash is based on strong community engagement so we respond directly to people's needs.

Localization

We champion an approach that is as local as possible, as international as necessary. Our 192 member Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are often the first to respond in an emergency. By helping them to improve their ability to deliver cash, we are reaching more people, more quickly, with more appropriate forms of aid.

Working together

The IFRC works closely with other humanitarian organisations, governments, academia and the private sector to improve cash programming. This includes working towards collective goals and commitments on cash.

FBA SRSP Program Organized Basic CVA Training in Western Nepal

Rupan Gyawali, Nepalgunj

Nepal Red Cross Society has conducted 5 Basic Cash and voucher assistance training in Banke, Bardiya, Kailali, Surkhet and Dang districts under the Preparedness for Emergency Response (PER) Program. The trainings were organized in different dates in between September to November with the financial and technical support of European Union and Danish Red Cross.

A total of 119 participants from the aforementioned 5 districts had participated in the trainings. The representatives, officials and DRR focal persons of local government, NRCS sub-chapter volunteers were trained on the basics of cash based assistance in emergency response.

The objective of the training was to ease the cash assistance process in the time of disaster and share the experiences, challenges and issues in cash and voucher assistance.

The training was focused on the procedures, advantages, risk and modalities of CVA to make it effective in the time of disaster response. The participants from the different areas also shared their experience and views on CVA interventions. Prakash Sharma DRR focal person of Geruwa rural municipality Bardiya said that "CVA could be very effective in disaster response as there would be different needs of beneficiaries and they could fulfill their requirements if they have access to the functional market"

"The different agencies are distributing the relief materials of their own choice, but to fulfill the needs of affected people, the priority should be given to cash assistance to discourage the practice of providing relief assistance at one's convenience after the disaster" said Man Bahadur Bogati, a liaison person of Duduwa village municipality. He further shared his experience of cash distribution in the flood of 2074 BS, and he said that the training has been effective in terms of attention to distribution as well as in the process.

Govardhan Singh Samjhna, president of the NRCS Banke district chapter, stressed that the government should immediately endorsed the relief distribution procedure and give priority to cash distribution after the disaster.

The training was facilitated by cash surge of NRCS Hqs coordinated by Ramesh Ghimire- CVA Coordinator.



Participants of CVA Training at Banke.

Photo Credit Rupan Gyawali

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Quick Action Fund , NRCS Supported CASH for 298 Food Affected HHs

Incessant rainfall since 14th June 2021 has triggered increase of water level causing flood and landside in several districts of Nepal particularly impacting more in Sindhupalchok, Manang and Lamjung districts. The flood and landslide had damaged several settlements along the riverside.

In surge of immediate response to the emerged emergency, Quick Action Fund (QAF) of a total amount \$50,000 was provided by American Red Cross to Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) for making immediate action.

The project has implemented emergency response and relief activities with cash and in-kind support for temporary shelter construction support, distribution of hygiene kits and dignity kits to enhance hygiene and protection of most vulnerable targeted people, WASH support to prepare temporary toilet and maintaining sanitation and hygiene, cash for work for maintain damage public infrastructure.

NRCS has supported 298 household in Sindhupalchok and Lamjung districts under this operation. The Cash support to 25 Households of Melamchi municipality worth NRs. 25000 to each households, NRs. 5000 to 235 households of Helambu and 8 houses of Paachpokhari Thangpal rural municipalities as top-up support for temporary shelter set up. The beneficiaries were selected and verified by the local government through several consultative meetings. The cash was transferred through banks in Sindhupalchok whereas in Lamjung the cash was distributed in hand as there are no any financial service providers in the flood affected area of Dordi rural municipality.



Beneficiary thanking NRCS and WFP with the received amount at Gaurigunj Jhapa.

Cash Grant Support in Jhapa

Hari Sharan Khadka, Programme Officer, Jhapa.

NRCS Jhapa district chapter with support of WFP has distributed cash to the 1665 families of 25 communities residing in Kankai river basin of Jhapa district. The transfer value of Nrs 13500 (minimum expenditure basket amount) has been distributed under anticipatory action program in four Palikas .

The multi-purpose cash was distributed to prepare and to cope for the possible flood based on forecast. The programme covered the 12 wards of Jhapa Rural Municipality, Kankai Municipality, Shivsatakshi Municipality and Gaurigunj Rural Municipality. The beneficiaries of high risk areas of river banks were selected based on the recommendation of District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) and household survey conducted in 2019. The final list of beneficiaries was verified by the local government and the amount was transferred through banks, cooperatives and remittance.

NRCS Deployed Cash Focal Person to Turkey

Nepal Red Cross Society has deployed Mr. Ramesh Ghimire, the CVA coordinator of NRCS to Turkey for 2 months mission starting from 23 Sep to 20 Nov 2021 to learn market assessment and monitoring and evaluation functions in large scale cash transfer programming.

During the mission Mr. Ghimire has shared the learnings and experiences of CVA practices in Nepal and also learn the new practices and tools used in Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) programme in Kizilaykart of Turkish Red Crescent Society. The deployment is a part of learning exposure in cash practitioners' development programme of British RC cash school. Mr Ghimire is also recently nominated as a global Cash Peer Working Group (CPWG) member from Nepal. After the completion of mission, MR Ghimire said that he has learned many new tools in large scale CVA programmes and he is committed to introduce the tools, techniques and modalities and implement the effective CVA programmes in Nepal through Nepal Red Cross Society in disaster response.



If you are interested in cash and voucher assistance programme you can learn more from:

- <https://www.ifrc.org/cash-and-voucher-assistance>
- <https://rcmcash.org/>
- <https://cash-hub.org/>
- <https://www.calpnetwork.org/>
- <https://reliefweb.int/>

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Participant from Dang sharing her training experience and commitment in the closing ceremony of PCMA training .

Pre Crisis Market Assessments Training Completed

Nepal Red Cross society with support of World Food Programme(WFP) has organized two training on Pre-Crisis Market Assessment to conduct the food market survey of 24 district of Terai region of Nepal. The three days trainings were conducted in Bardibas and Butwal for the enumerators of NRCS. The first training was organized from October 30 to November 2 at Bardibas and the second event was conducted at Butwal from 18 to 20 November 2021.

The main objective of the training was to collect the relevant information via market survey to assess market functionality, identify risk to the population of a non-functioning market and to inform transfer modality-related decision-making process. The market functionality index (MFI) survey, Traders Survey, Key informant's interview (KII) and Consumers Survey has been planned to conduct by the end of December in all 24 districts. The major markets nearby the flood prone areas are identified of all the districts and enumerators are mobilized to collect the data in kobo tool box.

Mr. Shreedhar Thapa (Phd) market expert of WFP and facilitator of the training said that 'Nepal is prone to multiple disasters such as earthquake, floods, landslides and the terai districts are more prone to flood disasters. Despite this fact relatively low attention on preparedness and pre-crisis situation analysis has been given in the field. So to understand the function of markets both in pre and post disasters which is key for emergency preparedness and response, including transfer modalities; so the program has been set to find out the field scenario and this training is a part of it.' Similarly Bipul Neupane, Director of NRCS-DM department said that "Assessing existing market functionality and vulnerability with a coordinated way among humanitarian agencies could help to prepare and response in the disaster timely and effectively, so this type of assessment are very important for disaster management".

The training covered the sessions on Market concept and information, market and emergency response, food security, market integration, terms of trade, seasonality & volatility analysis, cash modality and intervention, Market survey methods and questionnaire, discussion on KoBo tool box, Questionnaire discussion and practices in Kobo and practical sessions for market assessments. The training was facilitated by Shreedhar Thapa, Ravi Maharjan and Surendra Wagle from WFP and Bipul Neupane, Nim Raj Rawat, Rabin Dahal from NRCS.

NRCS Completed SRSP-II Project

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) in partnership with UNICEF has completed the implementation of "Strengthening Preparedness of Local Government in Shock Responsive Social Protection" Project in six palikas of three districts in province 2 namely Saptari (Tilathi koiladi), Dhanusha (Mithila and Aurahi) and Mahottari (Mahottari and Jaleshwar) in September 2021.

The project was started from November 2019 and implemented in two phases. The first phase was ended in August 2020 and the second phase has been implemented from 15 March 2021 to 30 September 2021. The project was focused to improve the preparedness of Nepal's social protection system and the existing social cash transfers (Social Security Allowance (SSA) schemes) to be ready to respond to multiple and recurrent shocks in a federal context. This project intended to increase access and coverage of economic and socially vulnerable groups to shock-responsive social protection system designed to make them more resilient to various shocks and stresses.

The project aimed to strengthen the capacity of local government to identify the most flood risks settlements in each ward and register those households and link them with the cash delivery system. which will ease to transfer cash and address the necessary supports in case of disaster.

The project collected the data of 45248 HHs of 6 Palikas' and collected the bank account details of 21870 including existing SSA accounts. The survey of existing financial service providers (FSP) and institutions was also conducted the data of 94 FSP and 628 institutions has been collected by the enumerators from each districts. The project has also developed an Information management system (MIS-Dashboard) and handed over to the respective Palikas updating all the collected data.

Contact us:

Nepal Red Cross Society,
Disaster Management Department,
Kalimati Kathmandu
Tel. No: +977-1-4272761
Email : nrcs@nrcs.org, info@nrcs.org
Website : www.nrcs.org

Editorial Team:

Bipul Neupane: Director, DM Department , NRCS
Manik Saha: Regional Cash Preparedness Manager, AmCross and BRC
Ramesh Ghimire: CVA Manager, NRCS
Rabin Dahal: Program Officer, NRCS

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