



CASH & VOUCHER ASSISTANCE NEWSLETTER



Year:2, Volume:1 , Issue:1

January—March 2022

CVA Level II Training Completed

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) under the Disaster Management Department in support of British Red Cross has organized a 4 days Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) level - II training from 11-14 March 2022 at NRCS training centre Banepa, Kavre.

A total of 25 participants from 7 provinces and NRCS districts and headquarters (HQs) had participated in the training including two participants from local government who is closely working with shock responsive social protection projects.

The participants comprised up of from diverse working station viz. Health, WASH, Communication, PGI, Finance, Admin and Disaster Management. Similarly the NRCS staff and volunteers from district chapters who involve in CVA were also selected as the participants of the training.



The training aimed to strengthen the capacity of NRCS staff and volunteers in the districts and headquarters to consider CVA in assessments, planning and responses to humanitarian contexts. The facilitation arrangements for the training was coordinated by NRCS Cash Technical Working Group (CTWG).

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) standardized course module was delivered by the facilitating team, having a good experience and sound expertise in CVA. NRCS CVA Coordinator Ramesh Ghimire had led as a course coordinator composed up of Umesh Dhungana, Arya Regmi, Saroj Shrestha as co- facilitators from NRCS and Binod Ghimire (External) .The facilitation team was able to transfer practical knowledge and skills though their experiences and engagement using different case studies for widening the CVA understanding of participants .

Participants and Facilitators of CVA Level-II Training after the completion of training. Photo Credit: NRCS, HQs

Inside:

CVA Level II Training.....	1
CTWG Meeting.....	1
NRCS-Cash support	2
DREF Supported.....	3
Transitional Shelter.....	3
CASH Support.....	3
CASH in Protection.....	4
Some CVA Terminologies..	4

CTWG Meeting Conducted

The first meeting of reformed cash technical working group (CTWG) of NRCS was organized at NRCS,HQs on 17 February 2022. NRCS has formed Cash Technical Working Group (CTWG) in 2018 as the primary coordinating mechanism for capturing learning and sharing experiences contributing to the improvement of cash transfer programming of NRCS.

A Newly formed CTWG comprised up of 15 members is coordinated by Disaster Management department. The group represents all departments of NRCS which have a provision of nominating members and alternative members. NRCS has recently amended and endorsed the terms of reference (TOR) of CTWG to formalize and institutionalize the CTWG.

Mr Bipul Neupane, Director of Disaster Management Department welcomed all the members and alternative members of CTWG representing different departments and divisions of NRCS. He stated that NRCS has started to implement Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) and Anticipatory Action or Forecast Based Action as well which highlights the importance of CVA that is increasing everyday in each response of NRCS. He also suggested to find gaps in CVA and identify the strategy in order to institutionalize CVA in NRCS disaster response.

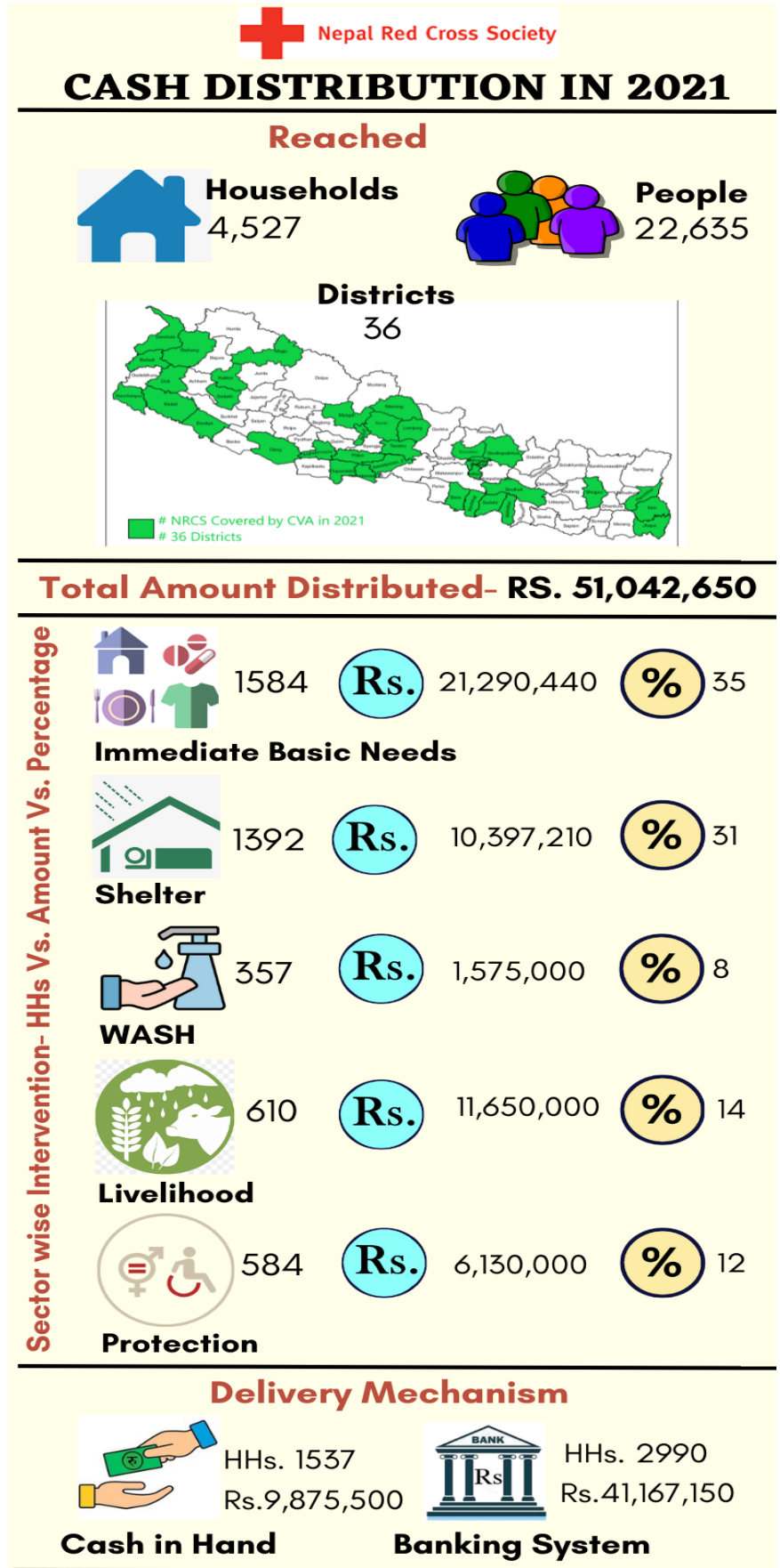
During the meeting a plan of action (POA) of CVAP programme and NRCS CVA updates has been shared by CVA coordinator Mr. Ramesh Ghimire. The CVA activities updates from each departments were also shared by the CTWG members. The meeting also shared the ToR of CTWG-developed in 2018 which has been amended and endorsed by the senior management of NRCS in January 2021. The meeting has decided to revise the developed CVA SOP along with practical tools and templates.

Upcoming Events of CVAP Program:

- Financial Guideline Review
- CTWG Meeting
- Regional CVA program Sharing Meeting
- Cash coordination Group Meeting
- CVA sensitization meeting to program coordinators / managers

NRCS CASH support in 2021

NRCS is being actively engaged in several Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) from the past to present in diverse kinds of disaster and conflict response. The history of cash support at NRCS started from 2006 through Micro Economic Initiative (MEI) program to conflict affected families. After that there were series of practices like livelihood support to the most vulnerable people after disasters. Some of the major interventions are, cash support to Koshi Flood affected families in 2008 for bamboo purchasing, progressive shelter and shelter kit 'top-up' in Mid-West flood in 2014, several cash based interventions after the mega earthquake of April 2015, COVID-19 and DREF Operation/ Monsoon response 2020 and 2021. All these interventions demonstrate that NRCS has undertaken cash assistance as a priority and one of the viable options in development programs and disaster response. The CVA is growing up rapidly at government to humanitarian agencies demonstrating many positive results at field. This is also recommended by the post distribution monitoring (PDM) reports of different operations. Thus NRCS, has adopted CVA as a possible option for responding in different situations. As a result NRCS intervened numbers of CVA activities in 2021. In the year nearly 60 million rupees was distributed through 11 different programs implemented in 36 districts. The chart shows details of CVA interventions of NRCS in 2021.





Flood Affected people of Nawalparasi East showing the received bank cheques . Photo Credit Umesh Dhungana

DREF Supported Cash Distribution Completed

NRCS has completed cash distribution to monsoon affected families in 13 districts under Disaster Emergency Response Fund (DREF) Operation implemented in 2021 and 2022. The Monsoon Response was operated from October 2021 to February 2022 by the support of IFRC.

A total of 1200 households (HHs) affected by unseasonal rainfall causing flood and landslide were provided unconditional cash support worth 13,500 rupees for livelihood and basic needs. Similarly the operation provided 2,000 rupees as top-up for emergency shelter support to 500 HHs. The operation also distributed non-food items (NFI) to the affected HHs .

The cash grant and cash top-up for shelter construction assistance was implemented in Darchula, Kanchanpur, Nawalparasi East, Nawalparasi West, Rupandehi, Kaski, Parbat, Myagdi, Sindhuli, Mahottari, kalikot, Ilam and Panchthar districts. The beneficiaries were selected based on Detail Assessment Report, Beneficiaries Selection Criteria and Palika's recommendation. DREF operation team has used Beneficiaries Bank Account Transfer, AC Payee Cheque, Bearer's Cheque and Cash in hand as delivery mechanism for Cash support. NRCS has been conducting Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) in all above mentioned 13 districts through the external consultant. The final report is yet to publish.

Temporary Shelter Support to 594 monsoon affected People

Harka Bhandari, Program coordinator NRCS.

NRCS has distributed cash to 594 flood and landslide affected households of Bajhang, Doti and Baitadi district under Quick Action Fund second (QAF-II).

The unseasonal heavy rainfall of 19 October November 2021 had badly affected the Sudurpaschim Province. Immediately American Red Cross has activated quick action fund and supported 98000 USD to NRCS for implementing integrated emergency response to the flood affected three hilly districts of Sudurpaschim Province.

As a part of emergency response the QAF-II has supported the selected households for temporary shelter construction and to fulfill the basic needs of affected families. The response provided the amount of 11965 (equivalent to 100 USD) to the 258 Hhs from Bajhang, 246 HHs from Doti and 90 Hhs from Baitadi. The beneficiaries' selection criteria was developed by NRCS and respective Local Government had verified and recommended for further implementation process. The amount was transferred in the bank account of the beneficiaries.

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

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

CASH Support to Mugu Fire survivors

NRCS partnering with Luxemburg Red Cross, has supported CASH to the 79 fire affected families of Mugu District in March 2022. The assistance was provided by the Integrated Recovery and Emergency Response Program (IRERP) being implemented in Karnali Province.

The midnight fire completely engulfed 18 houses of Gamgadhi the district headquarter mugu located at Chhayanath Rara Municipality. The incident was occurred on 15 November 2021.



The Affected Families receiving AC payee cheques from the relief distribution camp at Gamgadhi. Photo Credit Sher Bahadur Karki

Mr Jay Bahadur Malla, President of NRCS Mugu DC reported "A total of 806,500 rupees along with non-food items were distributed to the affected families through their bank account. Based on the damage 18 families received 13,500 rupees, 26 families received 105,00, 33 families received 8,500 and 2 families received 5,000 rupees whereas the in-kind support was provided to 40 affected families.

"The unconditional cash support was provided to fulfill the basic needs of fire survivors" said Sher Bahadur Karki, Program Coordinator of NRCS. He further stated that the beneficiaries selection and finalization process took a quiet longer time, which caused delay in cash transfer process. The beneficiaries selection process was conducted by NRCS in coordination with District Disaster management Committee (DDMC) and Chhayanath Rara Municipality.



12 years old girl from Lalitpur with her mother after receiving the cash distributed by NRCS GESI Department.
Photo Credit: NRCS GESI Department

CASH in Protection – NRCS supported needy children

The third wave of Covid -19 was in peak in Nepal and most of the cities were surviving with lockdown. Many unprivileged children and people were struggling hard to survive every day.

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) department of NRCS, identified 93 children living in the Kathmandu valley from economically poor background and impacted from Covid-19 with the objective of protecting children connected to street, unaccompanied and families involved in daily wage labors and are at high risk of getting involved in child labor. NRCS supported a sum of 269,500 rupees CASH to fulfill their basic needs during lockdown and pandemic. .

The IFRC supported COVID-19 Response program has distributed the cash in hand to 99 children which includes 65 from Kathmandu receiving NRs 1300, 17 from Bhaktapur receiving NRs 6000 to and NRs 5000 to 16 children and 3000 NRs to one



CVA Learning Corner

Some CVA Terminologies

Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

CVA refers to all programs where cash transfers or vouchers for goods or services are directly provided to recipients. In the context of humanitarian assistance, the term is used to refer to the provision of cash transfers or vouchers given to individuals, household or community recipients; not to governments or other state actors. This excludes remittances and microfinance in humanitarian interventions (although microfinance and money transfer institutions may be used for the actual delivery of cash). The terms ‘cash’ or ‘cash assistance’ should be used when referring specifically to cash transfers only (i.e. ‘cash’ or ‘cash assistance’ should not be used to mean ‘cash and voucher assistance’). This term has several synonyms like Cash Based Intervention (CBI) , Cash Based Assistance (CBA) , Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) but Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) is the recommended term in RCRC movement.

Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)

A Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) requires the identification and quantification of basic needs items and services that can be monetized and are accessible in adequate quality through local markets and services. Items and services included in an MEB are those that households in a given context are likely to prioritize, on a regular or seasonal basis. An MEB is inherently multispectral and based on the average cost of the items composing the basket. It can be calculated for various sizes of households. The Cash Coordination Group of Nepal has determined the value of NPR 13500 as a MEB amount.

Basic Needs

The concept of basic needs refers to the essential goods, utilities, services or resources required on a regular or seasonal basis by households for ensuring long term survival AND minimum living standards, without resorting to negative coping mechanisms or compromising their health, dignity and essential livelihood assets. Assistance to address basic needs might feasibly be delivered through a range of modalities, including cash, vouchers, in-kind and services. The Basic Needs Approach (BNA) views poverty as “deprivation of consumption” (inadequate food, nutrition, clean water, education, health, etc.) and is often opposed to the capability approach (CA) in which poverty is seen as “deprivation of opportunities” related to lifestyles people value. According to the BNA, absolute poverty is measured by comparing households’ consumption level to the absolute minimum resources necessary for physical and material well-being, usually in terms of consumption of goods and essential services. The poverty line is then defined as the amount of income required to satisfy those needs.

The terminologies are retrieved from : calpnetwork.org (March-2022)

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