



CVA Mainstreaming in NRCS Reached Another Milestone.

Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) is working to mainstream cash transfer programming within disaster preparedness, response, recovery and longer term programming through trained human resources and having adequate tools and systems in place. Different initiatives are taken to institutionalize CVA in NRCS and the positive results are paving the further path.

Recently Nepal Red Cross Society has incorporated cash and voucher assistance in its 8th Development Plan (2022-2025) and also in National Society Development (NSD) Plan (2022-2025).

Though NRCS has started implementing CVA from 2006 it was not institutionalized for a long time. The 267th meeting of NRCS central executive committee held on 13th Oct 2017 has made a consensus and decided to accept and implement cash transfer programming.

Based on the decision in-house Cash Working Group (now known as Cash Technical Working Group-CTWG) has been formed in 2018



and a standard operation procedure (SOP) has been developed and endorsed in 2019.

Now, the initiatives on mainstreaming and institutionalization of CVA in NRCS has reached another milestone. It has been subsumed in the current 8th development plan and National Society Development Plan of NRCS. The strategic objective 2.1 'Develop Resilient Community' under the strategic direction 2 "Disaster and Crisis Management" clearly mentioned in its "Strengthen recovery program/ services action areas" that "Plan for capacity building training

(for NRCS staff/volunteers) on livelihood, need assessment, market assessment, cash and voucher assistance (CVA). Workshop on design, plan and implement recovery programmes linking with emergency response operation using, supporting household with livelihood activities, organizing workshop for NRCS recovery framework, providing training to community people on vocational skills in targeted areas and revising NRCS' Cash SOP in line with government tools."

Similarly a consolidated National Society Development Plan 2020-2025 of NRCS also set the output "Logistics management capacity for cash and voucher including emergency cash and voucher mechanism developed/enhanced" and guided to intervene basic six activities like the study of different modalities of cash and voucher and identify relevant modalities based on context, develop/in build cash and voucher software and equipment, develop/adapt emergency cash and voucher training modules, Prepare champion groups (trainers) on Cash and Voucher Assistance (Level 1 and Level 2), Standby agreement with financial service providers and vendors and develop capacity for rapid market assessment for emergency cash and voucher. The mentioned activities will help to achieve the outcome "Logistics emergency preparedness capacity strengthened for effective response"

Inside:

CVA mainstreaming.....	1
WASH PCMA.....	1
Financial Policy	2
CVA Orientation.....	3
PDM Report.....	3
Beneficiaries Voice.....	4
CVA learning Corner.....	4

Along with these plans now the CVA has also been incorporated in the Disaster Management Policy and Monsoon Response Plan of NRCS. The terms of reference of CTWG has also been endorsed by the leadership in 2021 and CTWG is actively advocating to institutionalize CVA in the organization.

The mainstreaming and institutionalization of CVA in NRCS is moving further with support of cash and voucher preparedness programme (CVAP) supported by the British Red Cross together with American Red Cross, Austrian Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross.

Upcoming Events of CVAP Programme

- CVA DC Capacity Assessment
- CVA Province Orientation
- CTWG Meeting
- CVA SOP Review Workshop
- ODK training
- Coordination Meetings

Pre-Crisis Market Assessment on WASH Commodities Conducted in Gandaki province

Jayram Basnet, Wash Officer, NRCS

NRCS WASH division, with support of Austrian Red Cross has conducted Pre-Crisis Market Assessment (PCMA) in Gandaki Province from 23 to 30 May 2022 as part of WASH preparedness for effective response options during the disaster time.



Ms Shrijana Devkota collecting data from retailer of laundry soap during PCMA in Baglung . Photo Credit Sameer Awasthi

Based on the expert group recommendations, the Emergency Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (E-WASH) Project had conducted the PCMA. A team of 10 members from Hqs and 8 volunteers from each districts were deployed to collect the data in different 4 landslide prone (Hilly region) districts namely Gorkha, Lamjung, Kaski and Baglung in a cluster basis that covers all the districts of Gandaki province. The team has collected the data of normal and crisis situations on 7 basic and critical commodities ie Bathing soap, Laundry soap, Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), Sanitary pad, bucket, chlorine, Toilet pan set and plumbers (skilled worker to construct toilet).

Amarmani Poudel-Deputy Director- NRCS WASH Division led and guided the team together with the NRCS CVA Coordinator Ramesh Ghimire and WASH/CVA technical Working Group. Focused Group Discussion (FGD) and Key Informant's Interview (KII) tools were used to collect the data to figure out the different scenario before and after disaster and market chain of consumers to productions (Consumer-Retailer-Wholesaler/Distributor and manufacturers) of the area. The collected data has been analyzed to identify the market system, breakage and gaps that determines the response options during the emergency.

Similar type of PCMA was also held in the flood prone four districts (Saptari, Rautahat, Parsa and Mahottari) of Madhesh Pradesh in April 2021. During the PCMA in Madhesh Province, the team additionally collected the information of hand pumps and toilet ring/slab's which are commonly used in plain 'Treati' land for sanitation.

NRCS Financial Policy Reviewed from CVA Perspective

The initial meeting to review the financial guideline of Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) from the perspective of Cash and Voucher Assistance has been organized on 06 April 2022.

The meeting was held to identify the gaps, bottlenecks and barriers in existing financial policy documents of NRCS to implement CVA which will be shared with leadership and governance for the amendment and advancing cash and voucher assistance interventions of NRCS. The meeting realized the need of revision in existing Financial policy, procurement Policy and CASH SOP for the smooth implementation of CVA in coming days.

The diverse group having profile of finance, logistics, procurement and CVA planning and implementation had participated in the interactions and shared valuable inputs. The meeting has decided to form a task force of expert finance, law and CVA personnel of NRCS to explore other issues and way forward in this regard.



PDM Report of DREF 2021 Published

Nepal Red Cross Society with the financial and technical support from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) conducted a post-monitoring distribution (PDM) survey as part of the Monsoon Flood and Landslide DREF Operation in 2021. During the operation, NRCS provided multipurpose unconditional cash assistance of NPR 13,500 to 1,175 families to the selected beneficiaries. Besides, conditional cash support 130 families received NPR 10,000 for latrine construction and 471 families received an additional NPR 2,000 to purchase shelter construction materials. One of the key components analysed includes the cash support. The household survey, FGD, KII and timeline exercise tools were used to conduct the PDM.

The report shows that *cash is very important support for majority of the beneficiaries however only 68% of them said that the cash support was enough to meet their immediate needs.*

Amidst the respondents surveyed, 85.75% (325) received cash support, either unconditional or conditional for the purpose of procuring shelter items such as tool kits or for the construction of toilet. The bank account, cheque and cash in hand mechanism were used for cash delivery.



Out of 136 respondents having cash deposited in bank, 62.8% (85) had to open new bank account for this purpose and only 4.9% (4) found bank account opening process difficult. Almost 86.8% (118) of the respondents said that the banks were easily accessible from their place of stay while 13.2% (18) denied being banks easily accessible. The FGD and KII revealed that in some cases, existing bank account of the beneficiaries was used which made the bank transfer process very complicated as there were different types of banks.

The report further explored that almost 85.7% (278) of the respondents receiving cash support have already spent the cash received. Majority (80.4%) of them spent in buying daily necessities, 47.5% spent in house repair, 35.1% spent in medicines and health check-up while 20.3% spent in their children's education. Around 68% of the respondents said that the cash support was enough to meet their immediate needs post disaster.

Majority of the respondents in FGD also expressed satisfaction with the cash support provided by NRCS along with other relief materials. However, the cash support was limited and didn't reach all the needy ones which should be considered in future operation.

For further details in the report, kindly click the link: <https://www.ifrc.org/media/50780>



The participants of CVA Capacity Assessment Workshop doing group work at Darchula. Photo Credit Rabin Dahal

CVA orientation and Capacity Assessment Organized

The Cash and Voucher Assistance preparedness (CVAP) programme has organized district level 6 events on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) orientation and capacity assessment of District chapters' (DC's) in CVA. The events were organized in Sankhuwasabha, Mahottari, Myagdi, Rupandehi, Surkhet and Darchula districts in different dates started from 2nd June 2022.

The events were held in 6 different district chapters of each province. One event of Bagmati province will be held on July 2022. A one day events were organized to sensitize the district chapters and sub chapters in CVA and to advance the understanding on process and minimum standards on CVA. Similarly the workshops were also held to assess the capacity of district chapters in CVA using the standard matrix. The five areas are: 1) Leadership Commitment, 2) Processes, Systems and Tools, 3) Financial And Human Resources and Capacities, Area 4) Accountability to Affected Populations, Coordination and Partnerships, and 5) Test, Learn and Improve were identified to assess the current capacity of district chapters in CVA. The executive committee members, staff and volunteers including junior youth volunteers from district chapters and sub chapters participated in the events.

The matrix will be analyzed and the work plan of each district chapter will be developed to achieve the 3 years goal in CVA.

After the sessions the DC presidents thanked NRCS Hqs and CVAP team for organizing the event and sensitizing district chapters on CVA. "NRCS Rupandehi President Mr Premlal Udas said " This event helps us to follow the procedure and systems while implementing CVA in disaster response, we have realized that we have to do many things and we commit to work more to reach the next level as we are in the starting line in accordance to the matrix."

The team comprises the CVA trained staffs and volunteers visited to the districts and facilitated the sessions. Ramesh Ghimire, Rabin Dahal, Sachin Raut, Santosh Neupane and Chetan Subedi were mobilized in the different districts. The districts were selected on the basis of past disasters and monsoon forecast of 2022.

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/>

Beneficiary's Voice —"Motivation in my life"

Shyam Nepali, Bajhang

I am Kala Sarki, a single woman, resident of Jayaprithvi Municipality ward no. 3 Bajhang Nepal. My financial situation is very weak and I have no any close relatives. I have one son (14 years old) and we both are staying in one small house. Unfortunately, incessant rainfall in October 2021 severely damaged the front part of the house and it was very risky to stay there.

I don't have any property in my name so I was unable to reconstruct my house. Thankfully, District Administration Office supported NPR. 20,000 in my currently opened bank account. I used that money to reconstruct my house's wall. Further, Nepal Red Cross Society also supported NPR. 11,965 in my same bank account. The money was supported to renovate the remaining part of my house and for livelihood generation activities. I used NPR. 7,500 to purchase seeds of potato and onion as well as fertilizers.

I hope I can sell onions and potatoes in this season and earn more profits. I was worried how to join our hands to mouth and how to provide better education for my son but now I am confident and motivated to uplift my vegetable farming. Thank you Nepal Red Cross Society for the support done for me.



Kala Sarki (Left) and her onion farm (right). Photo Credit Shyam Nepali, bajhang

 **CVA Learning Corner**

Some CVA Terminologies

Modality- Modality refers to the form of assistance – for instance. cash transfer, vouchers, in-kind, service delivery, or a combination (modalities). This can include both direct transfers to household level, and assistance provided at a more general or community level like health services, WASH infrastructure etc.

Cash Transfer - The provision of assistance in the form of money - either physical currency or e-cash - to recipients (individuals, households or communities). Cash transfers are by definition unrestricted in terms of use and distinct from restricted modalities including vouchers and in-kind assistance.

In-kind Assistance - Humanitarian assistance provided in the form of physical goods or commodities. In-kind assistance is restricted by default as recipients are not able to choose what they are given.

Voucher- A paper, token or e-voucher that can be exchanged for a set quantity or value of goods or services, denominated either as a cash value (e.g. \$15) or predetermined commodities (e.g. 5 kg maize) or specific services (e.g. milling of 5 kg of maize), or a combination of value and commodities. Vouchers are restricted by default, although the degree of restriction will vary based on the programme design and type of voucher. They are redeemable with preselected vendors or in 'fairs' created by the implementing agency. The terms vouchers, stamps, or coupons might be used interchangeably

CASH For WORK (CFW)- Cash payments provided on the condition of undertaking designated work. This is generally paid according to time worked (e.g. number of days, daily rate), but may also be quantified in terms of outputs (e.g. number of items produced, cubic metres dug). CFW interventions are usually in public or community work programmes but can also include home-based and other forms of work

Conditionality refers to prerequisite activities or obligations that a recipient must fulfil in order to receive assistance. Conditions can in principle be used with any kind of transfer (cash, vouchers, in-kind, service delivery) depending on the intervention design and objectives. Some interventions might require recipients to achieve agreed outputs as a condition of receiving subsequent tranches. Note that conditionality is distinct from restriction (how assistance is used) and targeting (criteria for selecting recipients). Examples of conditions include attending school, building a shelter, attending nutrition screenings, undertaking work, training, etc. Cash for work/assets/training are all forms of conditional transfer.

Unconditional Transfer- Unconditional transfers are provided without the recipient having to do anything in order to receive the assistance, other than meet the intervention's targeting criteria (targeting being separate from conditionality).

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

Contact us:

 **Nepal Red Cross Society**

Disaster Management Department,
Kalimati, Kathmandu
Tel. No: +977-1- 4272761, 5370650
Email : nrcs@nrcs.org, info@nrcs.org

Editorial Team:

Bipul Neupane: Director, DM Department , NRCS
Ramesh Ghimire: CVA Manager, NRCS
Rabin Dahal: Officer, CVA Preparedness Program, NRCS

Coordination:

Humanitarian Values and Communication Department, NRCS
Cash Technical Working Group, NRCS

Supported By:

 **BritishRedCross**  **American Red Cross**

 **Swiss Red Cross**  **AUSTRIAN RED CROSS**