

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards - LEGS

livelihoods-based livestock interventions in disasters



LEGS Cash and Voucher Assistance Webinar, 2nd November 2023

Comments from participants

- We have used cash transfers and voucher (paper and e-voucher), in a drought mitigation programme in Zimbabwe. It was re-establishing livelihoods for small holder livestock farmers. The vouchers could be used to access services (vet drugs/chemicals, feed etc.) and purchase of livestock at livestock fairs.
- This is Shadi from CHF-Global Communities International, Turkey-Syria mission. We have developed a cash and voucher system/scheme to use this mechanism in distributing agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizer, and fuel for irrigation) to farmers. I can say that it was a very good invention last time to include (cash and vouchers) in such activities where we had to deliver the inputs under difficult circumstances such as the borders exporting of commodities, volatility, and constraints.
- We have also developed several means of verification to ensure that beneficiaries are using CVA appropriately and not accepting unused items. So the concept of (What people buy) has been implemented and achieved in a satisfactory manner. More details are available if needed.
- Ancillary services also very important e.g. vet extension workers animal inspections, police to mitigate stock theft etc.
- Cash in envelope circumvents technological hitches ensuring everyone gets cash. Mobile money involves 5 players: banks, CAH agents, mobile telecommunications agents, Know Your customer (KYC) agents, and the organization (FAO in my case).
- Cash-in-envelope lacks traceability mechanism, but it is the easiest to operationalize
- We also used preloaded ATM cards that beneficiaries use to get cash from POS operators nearest to them
- The risk of moving cash is transferred to the Financial Service Provider called financial technology companies (fintechs) such as Revolut or remittance companies.
Comment from Emma Jowett: There was even an example in Jordan where the equivalent of DHL were used to deliver cash in envelopes – at the point the NGO gave the money to DHL their insurance kicked in.
- If we are talking about the Modalities of CVA in disasters or crises, I think there will be some risks related to access to markets, services, and suppliers. The access will be limited. The recipients or beneficiaries don't have more choices to secure their animals' needs. So, these modalities of CVA can be followed in conditions that are relatively stable or after a while of the crisis.
- Concerning interference from local authorities we had a program where selected beneficiaries had already a bank account with some debts on their account. The money provided were straight been used to pay back the debts by the bank without reaching the people. We had to switch to other methods (voucher, cash in envelope, etc.)

Unanswered questions

Q: How can you ensure that the conditions set are observed once the funds were transferred?

A: Generally with conditions money is given in tranches, so a recipient may have to attend a training for e.g. before receiving the first tranche. Or where costs may be high, such as repairing of storage facilities, or repairing animal shelters, recipients may receive one tranche, then the programme monitor that the work is being done before releasing another tranche. Monitoring utilisation of grants is a big project activity when using CVA.

Q: Local government interference goes beyond modality of choice but significantly at needs assessment and targeting. How can this be mitigated to ensure that the most in needed are covered by the intervention in contexts of significant government interference?

A: Needs assessment and targeting are both processes that are not specific to CVA, and the processes should also be carried out if we are providing in-kind assistance. However, mitigation can be done through humanitarian agencies creating their own targeting criteria, not using government criteria, and through verifying and validating recipient registration lists themselves. In the immediate aftermath of a crisis an agency may take the approach of 'blanket' targeting where everyone in a particular geographical area can self-select into a programme. The other thing we are seeing more of is self- registration – recipients register to receive assistance and then they are verified by the agency, sometimes on a house-by-house basis to check they fulfil the criteria.

With regards to needs assessment in a large disaster there will generally be a large number of humanitarian agencies present, so even if one uses government data, this would be triangulated with other agencies through the coordination mechanism.

Q: As in the case of food assistance, market analysis and the food basket are used to determine the value of the CVA. Does LEGS have another approach to defining the value of supporting communities?

The process is similar, although obviously one would not use the food basket in the calculation. Depending on the objective of the intervention one would do a market assessment looking at prices, and supply of the specified items or services that you wanted the recipients to be able to access. The transfer value relates to an analysis of needs, what the recipients can provide for themselves, what the government or other humanitarian agencies are providing and then filling the gap. Generally, the calculation will evolve over time as markets settle, but also when there is more household economic data. In the immediate emergency phase the calculation might be less precise, and may use historic price data to calculate the value.

Q: Can direct cash transfer provoke security risk to beneficiaries in insecure environments. for example gangs can target beneficiaries to transfer money to their mobiles etc

A: If you mean giving currency to recipients yes, it would significantly increase risk. Generally, in insecure environments the delivery mechanism should transfer money electronically into a bank account or mobile wallet for example. Also the use of ATM cards, that can also be used at points-of-sale, and which are loaded after the distribution of the cards, have been used. An extra layer of security has sometimes been used, for e.g. iris recognition when cashing out at an ATM.