

HORN OF AFRICA LEARNING EVENT

Delivering cash better: Three opportunities for improved programming

Date: 03 December 2019

The event organized by the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), the Somalia CASH Consortium and the Kenya CASH Consortium provided space to reflect on three key issues around CVA programming in the region. One half-day workshop was organized with three sessions in which organizations shared lessons learnt from ongoing work on the three broad areas of interest. The intention was to facilitate learning by 1) sharing lessons and experiences from ongoing work and 2) exchanging views and ideas.

The objective of the event was to develop a deeper awareness and understanding of trends in CVA in the region, and explore how these could be used to improve collective humanitarian responses.

Session 1: Transfer values and expenditure patterns: A hierarchy of needs?

Presentation by Kenya and Somalia Cash Consortiums on expenditure patterns and transfer values in multipurpose cash response

This presentation compared approaches to Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance in Somalia and Kenya, including transfer values and expenditure patterns, as well as programmatic outcomes based on ongoing programmes by the Kenya Cash Consortium and the Somali Cash Consortium.

In spite of differences in transfer values, it emerged that expenditure patterns were generally similar with 50-60% spent on food (including repayment of debt). However, expenditure on water is more important in Somalia compared to Kenya. While in Kenya, expenditure on education is the second priority after food. In both countries expenditure on health comes third with almost negligible proportions allocated to remaining basic needs

Monitoring data from the two programmes showed that MPCA interventions resulted in modest to significant improvements in key indicators FCS and CSI. Indicators in use were mostly food and livelihoods-centric.

The presentation also discussed key successes and challenges common to both consortia. Challenges included contentious targeting due to limited resources and high scale of need, as well as issues harmonising M&E across different caseloads with disparate transfer schedules. Key successes included use of Crisis Modifier and contract modifications to quickly respond to rapid-onset crises, fruitful private sector partnerships with mobile money operators, and sharing of harmonised tools.

Presenters: Kirsten Poole – Kenya Cash Consortium, Kaitlyn Scott – Somalia Cash Consortium and Chris Paci – IMPACT

Key take away:

- Expenditure patterns were relatively similar across contexts, heavily prioritising food, with some variation – ex. higher prioritisation of water in Somalia and education in Kenya

- Flexible funding mechanisms, collaboration with mobile money operators, and sharing of harmonised tools between consortium partners and across countries between the two consortia contributed to the success of projects

Session 2: CVA Institutionalisation and Cash Readiness: a place at the table for local NGOs as part of increasingly collaborative operational models

Panel Discussion with actors from Somalia and Kenya spearheading localisation in the region

In the context of a continued push for further streamlined, harmonized and flexible systems in order to maximize on the efficiency and scalability in delivery of CVA, there has been mushrooming of increasingly collaborative approaches among CVA actors aimed at maximizing economies of scale and increasing reach. On the other hand, some feel that this way of working concentrates power in the hands of the big actors and further alienates local actors as they don't have sufficient capacity or financial power to be considered as part of such ventures. This panel discussion looked at the place of local NGOs within the changing landscape of increasingly collaborative models.

Panellists: Ahmed Ibrahim – Arid Lands Development Focus – Kenya (ALDEF)/ ASAL Humanitarian Platform, Mohammed Yarrow – Centre for Peace and Democracy (CPD)/NEXUS consortium, Mbaraka Fazal – Christian Aid

Moderator: Severine Weber – Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Key questions:

1. Can local actors ensure better CVA outcomes?
2. What is the evidence?
3. What kind of investments needed to increase local CVA capacity?

Key takeaways:

- While the added value of collaborative models is not disputed, the involvement of LNGOs is of strategic importance for CVA in order to derive the most value from the tool. LNGOs are
 - Often forefront responders with better access to hard to reach areas which adds onto the capacity of CVA to increase reach
 - Can be innovative as they understand context, culture, nuances and support systems
 - Are closer to the ground and likely to pick up issues invisible to international actors e.g. marginalization and exclusion errors
- There is need to incorporate granular local knowledge in CVA policy and programmatic discussion. LNGOs could bring in the voices from the ground given their in-depth ground information and relationships. However, there has to be willingness to amplify their voices which are often overlooked in policy debates.
- To enable LNGOs to contribute optimally, there is need to invest in cash preparedness and capacity building of these organizations. This means developing systems and processes and not just training of staff.

- Local NGOs should embrace the collaborative approaches and join with international actors in the endeavour and/or form their own collaborative frameworks and take advantage of the benefits that these models have to offer.

Session 3: Shock-Responsive Safety nets, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance and Resilience: Marrying the Approaches

Presentation by Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) on providing Cash and Voucher Assistance across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus

This presentation shared the work of Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) on designing and monitoring shock responsive safety-nets for resilience outcomes.

Specifically, the presentation focused on the shock responsiveness of their resilience programming. The key elements of the system included a community centred area level early warning system with early action enabled progressively through community contributions, flexible budget lines, crisis modifiers and other stakeholders' contributions. Early actions generally take place before a shock (no regrets approach) or immediately in the aftermath of a shock.

Within this framework BRCiS is currently piloting a Shock Responsive Safety Net approach in Somalia (a protracted crisis situation) in collaboration with other CVA actors. The design foresees 24 months of cash transfers at a value 20 USD per month with vertical expansion to 40 USD in the event of a crisis.

Presenter: Balint Nemeth – Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS)

Key takeaways:

- Community centred early warning approaches are more relevant as they incorporate perspectives of local communities, facilitate ownership and strengthen the capacity of communities to take their own early action. This could be improved by further incorporation of traditional knowledge to supplement standard indicators.
- Importance of building on existing learning and the ongoing work of other actors. In this case, BRCiS and the Somali Cash Consortium are building on each other's work, including collaboration on Shock Responsive Safety Net pilots, and on research on using HEA approach to determine transfer values.