
**“CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC’
RESTRICTION”
20 APRIL, 2021**

REGIONAL CASH WORKING GROUP MEETING



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CVA Cash Dashboard 2020

- **39** partners implement CVA across **38** out of **61** local government areas (LGAs) in the BAY states
- Food Security Sector alone assisted 2,400,016 individuals, of whom 45% (1,075,379) received assistance through cash and voucher assistance (CVA)
- Early Recovery, Livelihood, Shelters/NFIs, Education, Protection, WASH, Protection, and GVB account for about **30 per cent** of the overall CVA in the BAY states



General activities conducted by CWG in the context of COVID-19

Virtual MEETING TO REVIEW THE IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON CVA IN THE BAY STATES

- Key outcomes of the meeting were
 - Share relevant documents from CaLP on COVID 19
 - Explore alternative mechanisms for response e.g., conversion from cash to vouchers or in-kind where is applicable
 - Strengthen coordination and engage with the private sector, government, and donors
 - Streamline communication through the ISWG to the Government committee on COVID-19
 - Explore remote market monitoring and joint information sharing
 - Develop COVID-19 CVA risk matrix
 - Set up a Task Team to provide guidance



General activities conducted by CWG in the context of COVID-19

- **CWG COVID-19 TASK FORCE** – Comprised of INGOs, NNGOs and the UN; to agree on common position/set of guidelines on CVA interventions in the context of COVID 19, and develop advocacy messages to the HCT, Government and Donors.
- **CVA RISK MATRIX COVID-19** - Adopted Risk Matrix for CVA developed by CWG South Sudan in the wake of COVID 19. The analysis of the risk matrix helped the CWG to develop preparedness/contingency plan to minimize the impact of different COVID 19 induced risks on CVA in the BAY states.
- **JOINT FSS and PRICE AND MARKET MONITORING** - Collaborated with Food Security Sector on Joint Remote Price Monitoring. The monitoring was done weekly to monitor how prices of food and non food items responded to COVID 19 crisis.
- **Shared relevant documents from CALP on CVA in the context of COVID-19** <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/COVID-CVA-guidance-summary-24-03-20.pdf>

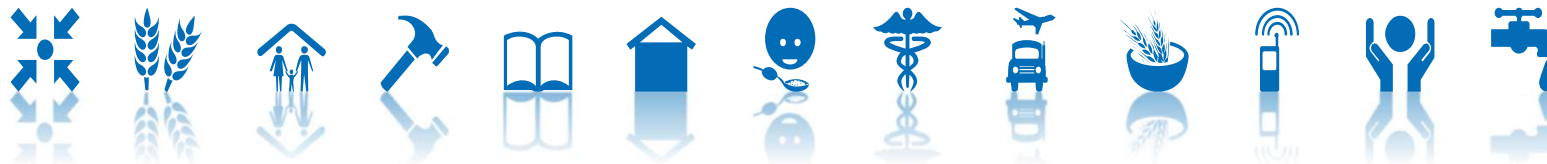
General activities conducted by CWG in the context of COVID-19

- **Integrated and tracked CVA in Addendum to 2020 HRP on COVID-19** - As part of the COVID-19 response, the ISWG developed an addendum to the 2020 HRP on COVID-19. The CWG worked closely with the sector coordinators to integrate CVA into the COVID Response Plan and monitored and ensure CVA were transparently reported in Sectors' 5ws.
- **Tracked sectors/partners activities, policies and guideline on CVA on COVID-19**- CWG took stock of activities, policies, and guidelines developed by the partners in the context of COVID-19.
- **Developed advocacy messages on CVA and COVID-19 to ISWG, OHCT AND HCT, GOVERNMENT** - The CWG developed and shared advocacy messages with the ISWG, OHCT and HCT, Government on CVA and COVID-19. The advocacy messages helped to strengthen the portioning environment for CVA in the context of COVID-19. The critical areas of focus are **market, FSP, security, issuance of passes, linking humanitarian cash transfer with social protection e.t.c.**

General activities conducted by CWG in the context of COVID-19

Support for continued CVA activities during Lockdown and restriction

- Federal and State Government imposed lockdown or restriction at the peak of COVID-19 pandemic.
- To ensure smooth implementation of critical life-saving humanitarian activities, agreed to issue passes and car stickers to the humanitarian organizations.
- The CWG worked closely with the ISWG to ensure that partners implementing CVA were issued passes.
- Cash Coordinators were on standby to troubleshoot



Challenges and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic' restriction”

- **Challenges**

- *Late distribution of Cash and Voucher Assistance*
- *Delay in movement of logistics for Voucher Assistance*
- *Lockdown resulted temporary suspension of CVA (March 2020)*
- *Distribution centers had to practice social distancing (less of challenges but finding creative ways to organize people into shifts)*
- *New paradigm in maintaining hygiene. Those using vendor devices had to be trained to “wipe these down”*

- **Lessons Learned**

- *Strong Preparedness plan - Mapping of FSP*
- *Strong existing collaboration - CaLP (rich resources)*
- *Leveraging on resources - FSS remote price monitoring*
- *Promote humanitarian social protection linkage - WFP*
- *Proactive steps to review budget and reprioritize activities with donors – Flexible funding*
- *Mainstreamed channel of communication through the ISCG – Collective approach*