“CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC’ RESTRICTION”
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REGIONAL CASH WORKING GROUP MEETING

Presented by Ajayi Ayobamidele
CWG Strategic Co-lead
Estuar Jose
CWG Technical Co-lead
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.
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.

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 ensured 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