



# LEGS

Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards

## LEGS Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

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Photo credit: EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid

## Introduction to LEGS Handbook and CVA

The Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) Handbook is a guide for implementing livestock-based livelihood interventions in emergency situations and is used by humanitarian agencies, governments, donors and academic institutions to design, implement, monitor and evaluate these emergency responses.

In the third edition, published in June 2023, key changes include a greater focus on the principles that underpin LEGS, as well as step-by-step guidance on how to use the LEGS tools to develop an emergency response plan.

Most pertinently to this paper, the third edition of the LEGS Handbook introduces a greater focus on using cash and voucher assistance (CVA) as a modality for livestock-based livelihood responses in emergency situations. Traditionally, responses to livestock-dependent households affected by disasters have been through the provision of in-kind inputs, such as fodder, water, or provision of livestock or veterinary services. However, there is increasing evidence that using CVA as a tool for emergency programming can improve the quality and effectiveness of such programmes, while allowing affected households greater choice and dignity, and the ability to set their own priorities. CVA has been shown to be effective in increasing household purchasing power, improving access to livestock inputs and protecting livestock assets.

The third edition of the LEGS Handbook provides not only comprehensive guidance and tools to ensure the option of using CVA to support livestock-dependent households during emergencies, but also an endorsement of the validity of using CVA as a tool to protect, support and rebuild livestock-based livelihoods after a crisis.

Here are some of the key changes that were made to the LEGS Handbook in the third edition in relation to CVA as a modality:

- Chapter 3: Emergency Response Planning provides information on using CVA as an emergency response modality, explains terminology and provides a response options decision tree.
- Each technical chapter (feed, water, veterinary support, shelter, livestock offtake and the provision of livestock) has integrated explanations of how CVA could be used as a response modality. Each of the five key tools for analysing the suitability and feasibility of the selected intervention(s) and option(s), included in all the technical chapters, now integrates CVA alongside in-kind options, as well as providing guidance on monitoring.
- Case studies have been updated to include more examples of successful CVA programmes.

The third edition of the LEGS Handbook is available as a free download from the LEGS Project website: <https://www.livestock-emergency.net/legs-handbook-third-edition>



Photo credit: Kelley Lynch - Save the Children

## Why use cash CVA rather than in-kind assistance?

CVA has been used throughout the history of humanitarian response but has increasingly been seen, since early 2000, as an essential tool for emergency programming. Whilst there is growing utilisation and evidence in sectors such as food security and basic needs, CVA has not been so widely used to support livestock-dependent households in emergencies. The enhancement of the CVA content in the third edition of the LEGS Handbook serves to change this paradigm and promote quality responses that routinely consider CVA as an option to protect, sustain and rebuild livestock-based livelihoods.

These are some reasons why CVA should be included in response planning for livestock-dependent households affected by crises:

**Flexibility and empowerment:** CVA provides recipients with the flexibility to prioritise their immediate needs. Livestock-dependent households can use cash or vouchers to purchase essential items like animal feed, veterinary services or other urgent supplies, giving them a sense of empowerment and choice.

**Dignity and decision-making:** CVA respects the dignity of beneficiaries by allowing them to make decisions about how to meet their own needs. This approach recognises the knowledge and capacity of the affected population.

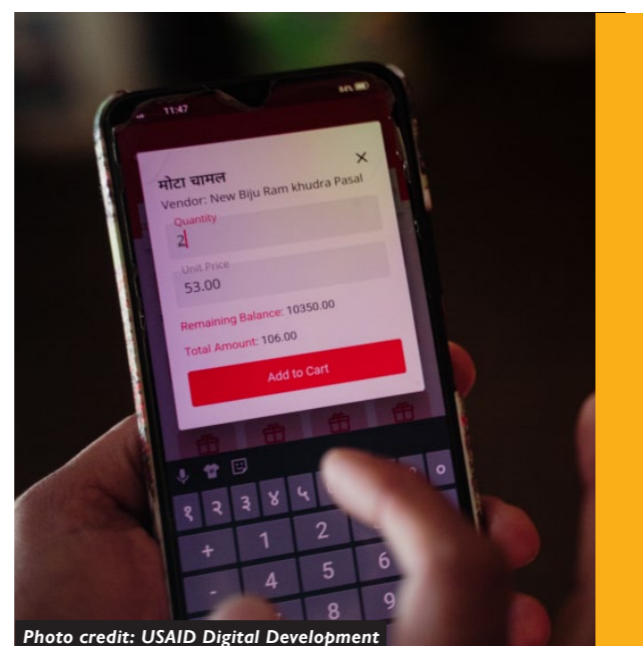
**Preserving livelihoods:** In emergencies, livestock can be a critical source of income and sustenance for vulnerable populations. CVA, as opposed to in-kind assistance, allows households to make choices on how to maintain and care for their livestock, thus preserving their livelihoods and long-term resilience.

**Local markets and economy:** By providing cash or vouchers, local markets can be stimulated, and small businesses and the broader economy can be supported. This can have a sustainable positive impact on the communities where livestock-dependent households reside, particularly post-emergency.

**Diverse needs:** Households may have varied needs beyond livestock-related expenses during emergencies, such as food, shelter and healthcare. CVA enables them to address these diverse needs effectively.

**Cost-effective:** CVA can be more cost-effective than traditional in-kind assistance because it reduces the logistical challenges of procuring and distributing physical goods. This efficiency allows humanitarian organisations to assist more people with the same resources.

**Adaptability:** Programmes using CVA as a modality can be adapted to various contexts and scales, making them suitable for both sudden-onset emergencies and protracted crises. The use of CVA offers precision, adaptability and the capacity for households to make informed decisions about how to address their specific livestock-related needs.



Here are some ways that CVA can be used as a programme modality in the specific LEGS technical areas:

<b>Feed</b>	<b>Customised Feeding Solutions:</b> CVA enables households to purchase feed tailored to their livestock's specific dietary needs. This customisation is crucial for maintaining the health and productivity of the animals.	<b>Timely Response:</b> During emergencies, the availability and accessibility of feed can become a critical issue. CVA allows households to quickly procure feed of their choice, where supplies are locally available, preventing malnutrition and livestock loss.
<b>Water</b>	<b>Access to Clean Water:</b> In many emergencies, access to clean water can be compromised. CVA is a cost-efficient way for households to secure clean water for both themselves and their livestock, reducing the risk of waterborne diseases.	<b>Infrastructure Improvements:</b> Cash can be utilised for repairing or enhancing water infrastructure, ensuring a sustainable water supply for livestock.
<b>Veterinary Support</b>	<b>Prompt Healthcare:</b> CVA can be used to cover veterinary expenses, ensuring that livestock receive timely medical attention in emergencies. The veterinary needs may be different for different livestock owners, so CVA allows livestock owners to select the services they need.	<b>Preventative Care:</b> Cash assistance allows households to invest in veterinary support and preventative measures to safeguard their livestock against common diseases and pests.
<b>Shelter</b>	<b>Critical Shelter Repairs:</b> Livestock shelters may be damaged during disasters. CVA can help households repair or reinforce these structures to protect their animals from harsh weather conditions.	<b>Temporary Shelter:</b> In the immediate aftermath of emergencies, cash can be used to set up temporary shelter solutions for livestock until more permanent arrangements can be made.
<b>Livestock Offtake</b>	<b>Market Access:</b> CVA allows households to sell livestock when market conditions are favourable, ensuring they receive better prices for their animals. This can be crucial for income generation and reducing the economic impact of the crisis.	<b>Diversification:</b> CVA can support households to diversify their income sources by offloading excess or less-productive livestock. This can be a strategic decision to adapt to changing circumstances.
<b>Provision of Livestock</b>	<b>Rebuilding Livestock Herds:</b> In cases where livestock are lost during disasters, CVA can support households in rebuilding their herds by giving them choice to purchase new animals or breeding stock.	<b>Selecting Livestock:</b> Cash allows households to select the type and breed of livestock that best suits their needs and local conditions, contributing to long-term resilience.

## What are the main CVA modalities and mechanisms?

**Cash and voucher assistance (CVA)** refers to the direct provision of **cash transfers** and/ or **vouchers** for goods or services to individuals, households or group/community recipients. CVA has several synonyms (e.g., cash-based interventions, cash-based assistance and cash transfer programming), but **cash and voucher assistance** is the recommended term<sup>1</sup>. Appendix 3.6 in the LEGS Handbook presents some of the potential CVA response modalities and delivery mechanisms that may be used in LEGS technical interventions (see Figure 3.8 and Table 3.5). These are followed by a decision tree that can help agencies identify if CVA is feasible and appropriate (see Figure 3.9).

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

A **delivery mechanism** in humanitarian CVA is a means of delivering/transferring cash or vouchers to recipients (e.g., smart card, mobile money transfer, over the counter, cheque, ATM card, etc.). Some delivery mechanisms may also facilitate receipt, storage and payments (e.g., mobile wallet, bank account, smart card, etc.).

**Vouchers** are restricted transfers by default since they are inherently limited in where, when and how they can be used. In-kind assistance is also restricted. **Cash transfers** are unrestricted and can be used as recipients choose. A **paper** or **e-voucher** can be exchanged for a set value, quantity and/or type of goods or services, denominated either as a currency value (e.g., \$15), a predetermined range of commodities (e.g., fodder or shelter materials) or specific services (e.g., veterinary services), 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.

**Digital payments (or e-transfers)** refer to electronic transfers of money or e-vouchers from the implementing agency to a recipient. They provide access to cash, goods and/or services through mobile devices, electronic vouchers or cards (e.g., prepaid, ATM, smart, credit or debit cards). Digital payments/e-transfers are umbrella terms for **e-cash** and **e-vouchers**.

**E-cash** encompasses any electronic/digital substitute for the direct transfer of physical currency that provides full, unrestricted flexibility for purchases. It may be stored, spent and/or received through various mechanisms including mobile phone/mobile wallet, prepaid ATM/debit card, smart card or other electronic transfer. E-cash (or digital cash) transfers will usually provide the option to withdraw funds as physical cash if required.

**E-vouchers** encompass cards, codes or digital tokens that are electronically redeemed at a participating vendor. E-vouchers can represent currency or commodity value, and are stored and redeemed using a range of electronic devices (e.g., **mobile phone, smart card or point of sale (POS) system**).

**Conditionality** refers to prerequisite activities or obligations that a recipient must fulfil to receive assistance. Conditions can be used with any kind of transfer (cash, vouchers, in-kind or service delivery) depending on the intervention design and objectives. Some interventions might require recipients to achieve agreed outputs (for example, buying agreed shelter materials for a livestock shelter) as a condition of receiving subsequent tranches. Examples of conditions include participating in a seasonal vaccination programme for livestock, building a shelter and undertaking work such as repairing communal storage for fodder or repairing water infrastructure, etc. Cash for work/assets/training are all forms of **conditional transfer**. Conditionality is distinct from restriction (how assistance is used) and targeting (criteria for selecting recipients).

**Restriction** refers to limits on the **use** of assistance by recipients. Restrictions apply to the range of goods and services that the assistance can be used to purchase, and the places where it can be used. The degree of restriction may vary—from the requirement to buy specific items, such as certain types of fodder, to buying from a general category of goods or services. Note: Restrictions are distinct from conditions, which apply only to activities that must be fulfilled to receive assistance.

**Transfer value** is the amount (usually a currency value) provided directly to a CVA recipient. Transfer values (along with number and frequency of transfers) are calculated based on the intervention's objectives. Transfer value typically refers to a single transfer amount, rather than the total amount transferred to a recipient over the course of an intervention (i.e., from multiple transfers). **Net transfer value** refers to the total amount transferred directly to recipients over the course of an intervention. Transfer values do not include transaction costs.

## Making the case for CVA feasibility

Whilst it can be argued that CVA can be more cost-effective, timely and provides greater dignity and choice for recipients of assistance, it is important to carry out an assessment to ensure the use of CVA as a modality is feasible. The LEGS Handbook initial assessment checklists can help determine whether CVA is feasible (see Assessment Checklist 1: The role of livestock in livelihoods; Assessment Checklist 2: The nature and impact of the emergency; and Assessment Checklist 3: Situation analysis, particularly Question 3.5.6). Appendix 3.6 also provides a decision tree that can help agencies identify if CVA is feasible and appropriate (see Figure 3.9).

There are a number of factors that should be considered to assess whether CVA is a feasible modality to use in a response, including the following:

**Context and situational analysis:** A thorough assessment of the emergency context should be conducted, including assessment of the specific livestock-related needs and vulnerabilities of the affected population.

**Livelihoods analysis:** The impact of the emergency on livestock-based livelihoods should be analysed, as should the key challenges being faced by the affected households. Assess the potential benefits of using CVA in addressing these challenges and supporting the recovery and resilience of livestock-related activities.

**Market assessment:** Assess the functionality and capacity of local markets and services to meet the needs of the affected population. Consider factors such as the supply of specific livestock-related inputs,

services, price levels and the number of market actors. Determine if markets are accessible and if there are any market distortions or risks that may affect CVA implementation. In some areas affected by disasters or conflicts, the availability of livestock-related goods and services in local markets may be limited. In this case, it may be that in the short-term services or goods can be supplied directly to recipients, whilst looking at solutions to increase supply of goods or services in the longer term. Markets can also be affected by seasonal variability in relation to goods, and CVA needs to be timed appropriately to align with these seasonal needs. A robust monitoring system will be necessary to check availability and prices and quality of livestock-related inputs (e.g., animal feed, veterinary services) purchased with CVA and to ensure that the quality is reliable and meets the necessary standards.<sup>2</sup>

**Capacity assessment:** Evaluate the capacity of the affected households and communities to effectively utilise and manage cash transfers or vouchers. Consider factors such as financial literacy, access to financial services and the ability to make informed decisions regarding livestock-related purchases.

**Financial service provider (FSP) assessment:** Identify existing FSPs, considering local, national and global options, and the regulatory considerations in the operating context to understand the effect on

<sup>2</sup> Rapid Assessment for Markets (RAM) Guidelines for an Initial Market Assessment: <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/rapid-assessment-for-markets-ram/> and Market Analysis Guidance (MAG): <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/market-analysis-guidance-mag/>.



Photo: DFID - UK Department for International Development

<sup>1</sup> All definitions are taken from the CaLP CVA Glossary: <https://www.calpnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CALP-Glossary-2023-EN.pdf>

how recipients can access cash. It is also important to understand the level of affected peoples' financial literacy, technology familiarity and preferences. Determine if an FSP has the capacity to meet the scale of the CVA modality, in terms of liquidity, physical cash access points and staff.<sup>3</sup>

**Protection and gender considerations:** In line with **LEGS Principle 6:** Supporting gender-sensitive programming, identify and address potential protection risks and gender-specific vulnerabilities associated with CVA implementation. Ensure that the programme design and delivery mechanisms are sensitive to the protection needs of vulnerable groups, including women, children and marginalised populations.

**Cost-effectiveness analysis:** Assess the cost-effectiveness of CVA compared to other forms of assistance in addressing the specific livestock-related needs and goals. Consider factors such as the availability and affordability of alternative assistance options and the potential impact of CVA on local markets and the wider economy.

**Coordination:** As mentioned in **LEGS Principle 5:** Ensuring coordinated responses, it is vital to coordinate with other humanitarian actors who may also be using CVA as a modality to ensure that transfer values are harmonious, to ensure effective implementation, avoid duplication, and leverage existing resources and expertise.<sup>4</sup> In most countries, a cash working group will be set up to manage the coordination of CVA, and it is important that livestock actors engage with this mechanism.<sup>5</sup>

**Monitoring and evaluation:** In line with **LEGS Principle 8:** Committing to monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL), it is important to develop robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the impact and outcomes of CVA interventions in livestock-based emergency responses. Regularly monitor key indicators such as livestock health, productivity, market functionality, income generation and the utilisation of CVA by the affected population.

<sup>3</sup> Financial Service Provider (FSP) Assessment: <https://www.calpnetwork.org/toolset/fsp-assessment>

<sup>4</sup> New Cash Coordination model: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/new-cash-coordination-model-all-you-need-know-about-new-model-enar#:~:text=In%20line%20with%20the%20Grand,made%20closer%20and%20with%20greater>

<sup>5</sup> Cash Coordination Tip Sheet: <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cash-coordination-tip-sheet/>

## Response options analysis

Response options analysis is a systematic decision-making process used in humanitarian and development contexts to identify and evaluate potential programme technical interventions and options and select the most appropriate response strategies. Following the LEGS approach, the process uses a participatory response identification matrix (PRIM) to establish the best way to meet the following livelihood objectives to support crisis affected communities to:

1. Obtain immediate benefits using livestock assets; and/or
2. Protect key livestock assets; and/or
3. Rebuild key livestock assets

The process should be conducted after a thorough assessment of the context using the LEGS assessment checklists has been done, to understand the specific needs of the livestock owners in the target area. Factors such as the type of livestock, their numbers, the impact of the crisis and the capacities of the affected communities should be taken into account. Additionally, a cash feasibility study needs to have been conducted to ensure that all programme modalities can be considered when making a decision.

During the process, it is important to engage with local communities, livestock owners, government agencies and relevant stakeholders to gather their input and insights. Their perspectives are essential in identifying viable response options.

It is generally recommended that, through a workshop process using the PRIM as a focal point, the six technical intervention areas (feed; water; veterinary support; shelter; livestock offtake; and provision of livestock) should be considered against the three LEGS livelihoods objectives listed above (see the LEGS Handbook page 89, Figure 3.2 How to complete the Participatory Response Identification Matrix). This process allows workshop participants to review how much impact each intervention could have on each objective. The right side of the matrix enables discussion on the best timing for each intervention.

The next step is to more carefully consider the technical options for each prioritised technical intervention area, to ensure the selected option/s will be appropriate, feasible and timely. It is at this point that a much closer analysis of the modality for the technical option needs to be considered against these criteria.

If, for example, the provision of feed and water has been prioritised, then a consideration of different options to deliver this provision would ensue. Options might include the provision of in-kind goods, cash or vouchers to enable the livestock owner to access the goods from the marketplace. If CVA is to be used as a modality, then a decision as to whether restrictions or conditionality will be imposed will also have to be taken. This decision will depend on whether there are quality concerns, when one might apply restrictions, and whether the size of the grant might introduce some conditionality to ensure the programme is meeting its objectives.

Other considerations that might influence a decision on the modality and mechanism chosen relate to the organisational capacity, the specific needs and capacities of the affected population, security risks, market volatility, environmental factors, and budget and resources. Additional guidance in the LEGS Handbook, with respect to considering CVA as a response option, can be found in Appendix 3.6, Figure 3.9 (CVA decision tree). Each technical chapter includes additional guidance on CVA; for example, the feed and provision of livestock decision trees. The Introduction to each technical chapter includes a discussion on the relevance of CVA to that particular intervention.

Once a decision has been taken, develop a detailed programme design for the selected response options. This design should include clear objectives, activities, timelines, and indicators for monitoring and evaluation.

Response options analysis is a dynamic process that should be revisited and adjusted as the situation evolves. Flexibility and the ability to adapt to changing circumstances are essential for successful programme design and implementation in livestock-based livelihood support programmes.<sup>6</sup> Chapter 3 in the LEGS Handbook contains more information on response identification, and Appendix 3.6 contains a decision tree.

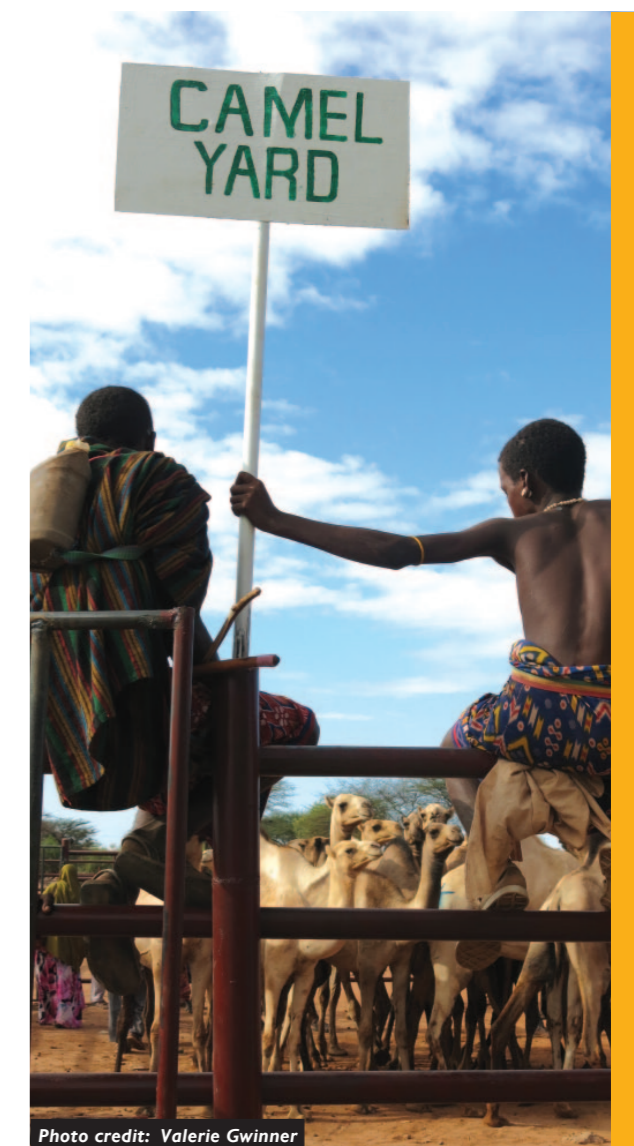


Photo credit: Valerie Gwinner

<sup>6</sup> Response Options Analysis Planning Guide: <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/response-options-analysis-planning-guide/>

## Key design considerations for programmes using CVA

Using CVA as a modality in humanitarian responses can be highly effective. However, it is not a panacea. It is important to consider the following factors when designing and implementing programmes using CVA to support, protect or rebuild livestock-based livelihoods:

**Livestock health services:** Access to veterinary services and medicines may be disrupted during emergencies. Using CVA as a modality may support the resumption of such services, although it is important to have robust monitoring in place to ensure the quality and appropriateness of services.

**Animal mobility:** In pastoralist or nomadic communities, where livestock are constantly on the move, using an electronic payment mechanism can mitigate the challenge this mobility presents, as this type of payment mechanism is not dependent on a specific geographical location.

**Cultural considerations:** In some communities, livestock hold cultural or social significance beyond their economic value. Understanding and respecting these cultural factors is important when considering the use of CVA.

**Climate change and environmental degradation:** Climate change can lead to shifts in grazing patterns, water scarcity and increased vulnerability of livestock to extreme weather events. It is important to strengthen the ability to take informed decisions when selecting, planning and implementing CVA modalities.<sup>7</sup>

**Long-term sustainability:** CVA is a useful tool to provide immediate relief, but it is important that the long-term sustainability of livestock-based livelihoods is addressed. Consideration should be given to longer-term recovery and development strategies, potentially linking with social protection or safety net systems.

**Recipient capacities:** Assessing the knowledge and skills of beneficiaries in livestock management is essential. Providing training or capacity-building support may be necessary as a supplement to programmes using CVA.

**Protection of vulnerable livestock owners:** Identifying and providing extra support to vulnerable groups, such as female-headed households or marginalised communities, is critical to ensuring equity in programmes using CVA.

**Feedback mechanisms:** Establishing feedback mechanisms specific to livestock-based CVA is essential for understanding recipient needs and addressing concerns related to their livelihoods,

as well as for increasing the influence of affected communities over programmes and enhancing programme quality.<sup>8</sup>

**Transportation:** In some cases, recipients may need to transport livestock to or from safer areas or markets. Providing support for transportation and ensuring the safety and well-being of the animals during transit must be considered.

**Disease outbreaks:** Livestock are susceptible to diseases, and the risk of disease outbreaks can increase during emergencies due to overcrowding or stress. Programmes using CVA should consider how to mitigate and respond to disease risks.

**Access to information:** Recipients may lack access to information about market prices, livestock health and best practices. Providing information and extension services as a complement to programmes using CVA is vital for their success.

**Participation:** In line with **LEGS Principle 2:** Ensuring community participation, it is important to encourage the active participation of recipients in decision-making and programme design. Doing so can be challenging, but is essential for the success of programmes using CVA.<sup>9</sup>

**Displacement and migration:** In conflict or disaster-affected areas, populations may be displaced or migrate with their livestock. Consideration should be given to designing programmes that accommodate the mobility of recipients.

**Preparedness:** Organisational preparedness in terms of the structures, systems, policies and procedures in place to be able to deliver CVA is vital for timely and effective programmes.<sup>10</sup>

Addressing these issues requires a tailored approach that takes into account the unique characteristics of livestock-based livelihoods and the specific context of the emergency. Collaboration with local communities and experts in animal husbandry and animal health is invaluable for designing and implementing effective programmes using CVA for livestock protection and rebuilding.

<sup>7</sup> Environmental Checklist Review of Environmental Impact of Cash Based Interventions and In-Kind Assistance: <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/environmental-checklist-review-of-environmental-impact-of-cash-based-interventions-and-in-kind-assistance/>

<sup>8</sup> AAP Minimum Standard for Complaints & Feedback: <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/aap-minimum-standards-for-complaints-feedback/>

<sup>9</sup> Moving the dial on participation via CVA: <https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/moving-the-dial-on-participation-via-cva/>

<sup>10</sup> Organisational Cash Readiness Tool: <https://www.calpnetwork.org/capacity-building/facilitated-training/organizational-cash-readiness-tool/>

## Four case studies on how CVA can be used for the technical interventions in LEGS

### Ethiopia:

In March–April 2023, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), supported by the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), responded to drought in the pastoral areas of Somali and Oromia regions in Ethiopia through conditional cash transfers for slaughter destocking. The planning and execution followed LEGS standards, and drought-affected pastoral communities provided live animals in exchange for 6,000 Ethiopian birr for one head of cattle or four small ruminants. In turn, the slaughtered animals' meat was distributed to the communities. 1,559 cattle and 1,364 small ruminants in Borena Zone of Oromia Region and 16,176 small ruminants in Afder and Liban Zones of Somali Region were purchased for slaughter. Digital registration with biometric data, slaughtering and meat distribution, and waste disposal followed LEGS standards.

The slaughter destocking was planned for 8, 326 households, however due to the start of the rains in East Bale Zone, 2,250 households did not take part. Once the rains started in West Bale Zones, and in line with LEGS standards, the activity stopped.

The local communities were consulted during the planning of both the slaughter destocking and meat distribution interventions through the FAO field offices. Local procurement committees, which included representatives from beneficiary communities, oversaw and managed all the activities - beneficiary selection, slaughter site selection, preparation of carcass disposal pits, monitoring payment to beneficiary households for slaughtered animals, and monitoring the slaughtering and meat distribution process. The whole process was coordinated by Oromia Regional State Bureau of Agriculture in Oromia and Somali Regional State Pastoral Development Bureau working with the local administration and the target communities.

**Source:** *Slaughter destocking and meat distribution interventions of FAO Ethiopia in drought affected areas of Oromia and Somali Region. February to March 2023.*

In April 2019, Care International opted to implement a crisis modifier intervention in Kochere Woreda, Ethiopia, where households were affected by Guji-Gedeo ethnic conflict. The project provided cash transfers to households affected by the conflict to help them resume livelihood activities.

Cash recipients were able to invest in a variety of livelihood options—which spread their risk and provided multiple income streams—and could invest a portion of the cash in rebuilding their homes and meeting other immediate needs.

The cash transfer was intended to enable livelihoods recovery, and it was effective in doing so: 73% of households participated in shoa fattening, 45% in petty trade, 31% in cattle fattening, 30% in poultry production and 11% in haricot bean production, with many households making multiple investments. Households benefited from the flexibility offered by cash. The post-distribution monitoring assessment found that 29% of the severely affected households changed their minds and engaged in livelihoods activities that were different from those in their business plans. And 55% of households used a portion of the cash for critical expenses such as food, medicine and home repairs.

The facilitation of financial literacy, livelihoods and business skills trainings before the first cash transfers was vital to help households decide on their livelihood options, and to use the cash transfers effectively. A simplified business plan that both spouses developed together contributed to wives and husbands discussing their cash investments (both expenditures and expected profits) ahead of time. This development of a business plan motivated households to plan responsibly and to invest the cash based on each spouse's interest and capacity. In the post-distribution monitoring assessment, 89% of women from dual-headed households reported having inputs in decision-making on how to spend the cash and on the choices of livelihood activity.

**Source:** *Care International (2019). Learning Brief #2: Cash Transfers for Livelihoods Recovery.*

## Somalia

In 2012, Save the Children International initiated a livestock distribution and treatment project in Somalia, with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AusAID and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) to protect and rebuild livestock assets by means of the provision of livestock and the use of veterinary support to reduce livestock disease and bolster livestock nutrition, in response to drought.

The project targeted participants using vulnerability criteria, such as the number of livestock losses by poor households and the level of child malnutrition. Following agreement on livestock age and types, traders were contracted to provide livestock through an open bidding system, and a standard veterinary kit was designed and procured. Local community animal health workers (CAHWs) were given refresher training and treatment kits.

Each participating household was given vouchers to procure 5–10 animals according to the specifications and livelihood zone; they were also given vouchers for treatment for 20 small stock. The livestock traders brought the animals to the villages where the participants could exchange their vouchers for livestock. A local 'livestock professionals association' provided veterinary teams who collected the medicines from contracted pharmacies and travelled to the villages, where the participating households could redeem their vouchers for treatment and training. The use of vouchers and local vendors was significant in overcoming some of the logistical challenges of transporting supplies in an insecure environment.

An external evaluation of the project reported some key lessons, including the importance of distributing pregnant or lactating animals for increasing access to milk within a short time period. Also, the use of vouchers enabled accountability to participants and ensured an audit trail; it also facilitated distribution in an insecure environment. Finally, a comprehensive package of livestock support—provision of livestock, treatment and training—was important for increasing impact.

**Sources:** *Save the Children International (2013) Drought Early Warning and FSL Needs Assessment in Hiran and Puntland; Livestock Baseline for Hiran, DFID Project; Evaluation of Livelihoods/Resilience Activities, Hiran; and Livestock and Cash Grants Project Baseline for Hiran, Save the Children International.*

## Zimbabwe

Livestock fairs were held between the 1–4 February 2005 by Oxfam in Zimbabwe. Advance planning included voucher preparations, beneficiary identification, and verification and information dissemination. The fairs targeted a total of 2,500 beneficiaries in four districts. The livestock at the fairs were mainly chickens (90%), while turkeys, ducks and guinea fowls made up the remaining 10%.

Price analysis revealed that most of the bigger birds (ducks and turkeys) were more expensive than chickens, and therefore households could not afford to purchase both a male and female. Veterinary department officers and AREX (Agriculture Research and Extension, of the Zimbabwean Government's Ministry of Agriculture) staff were present on the day of fairs to check the health status of the livestock and provide information on chicken rearing. The price ranges varied in different districts and ranged from Zimbabwean dollars 15,000 to 35,000 per bird. A few of the livestock sellers interviewed indicated that they had benefited from the previous year's livestock fair and had managed to rear some chickens for sale this year.

**Source:** *Ann Witteveen, Oxfam regional food security advisor, Southern Africa.*

## Further references on CVA and livestock-based livelihoods interventions in emergencies.

*The Use of Cash Transfers in Livestock Emergencies and Their Incorporation into Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS):* <https://www.livestock-emergency.net/userfiles/The%20Use%20of%20Cash%20Transfers%20in%20Livestock%20Emergencies.pdf>

*The State of the World's Cash Report:* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/state-of-the-worlds-cash-report>

*Financial Service Provider (FSP) Assessment:* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/toolset/fsp-assessment>

*FAO, Livestock-Related Interventions during Emergencies: The How-to-Do-It Manual (FAO, Rome, 2016),* <https://www.fao.org/3/i5904e/i5904e.pdf>

*Response Options Analysis Planning Guide:* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/response-options-analysis-planning-guide>

*New Cash Coordination model:* <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/new-cash-coordination-model-all-you-need-know-about-new-model-enar#:~:text=In%20line%20with%20the%20Grand,made%20closer%20and%20with%20greater>

*Cash Coordination Tip Sheet:* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/cash-coordination-tip-sheet>

*AAP Minimum Standard for Complaints & Feedback:* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/aap-minimum-standards-for-complaints-feedback>

*Rapid Assessment for Markets (RAM) Guidelines for an Initial Market Assessment:* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/rapid-assessment-for-markets-ram>

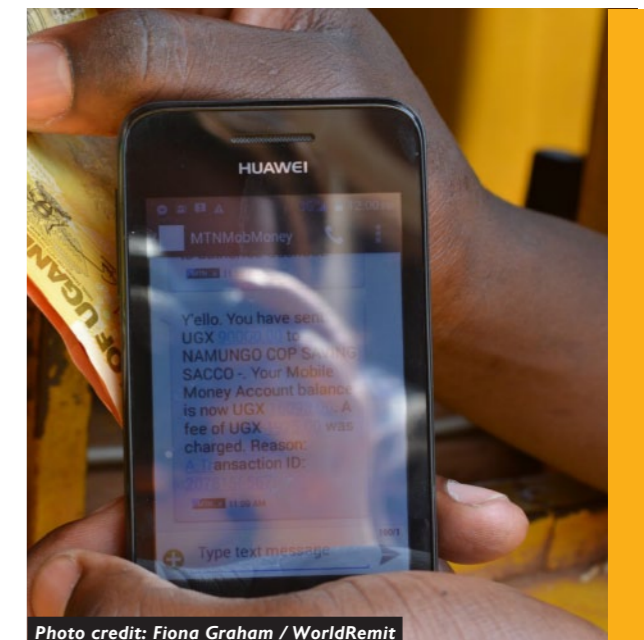
*Market Analysis Guidance (MAG):* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/market-analysis-guidance-mag>

*Environmental Checklist Review of Environmental Impact of Cash Based Interventions and In-Kind Assistance:* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/publication/environmental-checklist-review-of-environmental-impact-of-cash-based-interventions-and-in-kind-assistance>

*Moving the dial on participation via CVA:* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/blog/moving-the-dial-on-participation-via-cva>

*Organisational Cash Readiness Tool:* <https://www.calpnetwork.org/capacity-building/facilitated-training/organizational-cash-readiness-tool>

*Susanne Jaspers, From Food Crisis to Fair Trade (Oxfam Guidelines and Toolkits, 2006),* <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/from-food-crisis-to-fair-trade-livelihoods-analysis-protection-and-support-in-e-141676>





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