Background

Most people in crisis prefer cash over other forms of assistance, so maximizing the use and the quality of CVA is about responding to people’s preferences – it is also about achieving greater aid efficiency and effectiveness. The State of the World’s Cash Report 2023 highlights that preparedness and capacity at individual, organizational, and system level is vital if the ambitions to increase the scale, quality, and effectiveness of CVA are to be met. Preparedness and capacity remain a priority – and this is highly relevant to newly established cash working groups (CWG) such as the Mongolia Cash Working Group, which was formally established in January 2023.

In the current dzud early action and response in Mongolia, the government and humanitarian agencies aims to use cash assistance as a modality to meet a wide range of needs of the most vulnerable herder households. Considering the short timeframe and impact mitigation focus of the plan, most humanitarian assistance, specifically in the sector of Food Security and Livelihood, will be delivered either cash or cash+ intervention which combines cash transfer with emergency inputs for people and livestock. The Cash Working Group has agreed that the transfer of value for humanitarian assistance to vulnerable households will remain consistent during both early action and response periods. This assistance is equivalent to the government-declared minimum wage, currently standing at 660,000 MNT (equivalent to $192), for all international organizations involved.

The CWG in Mongolia was established in January 2023 to support the planning for the dzud early actions and response, comprised of national and international actors. The group adheres to the IASC model on cash coordination and is part of the coordination architecture in Mongolia, a sub-group of the ISCG and is co-led by the RCO and FAO.

In the previous dzud responses, several humanitarian agencies1 in country have recommended a few ways to do better in cash programming. The summary of their recommendation includes the following: (a) the dzud response needs to look at improving the ways of working with financial service providers specifically on data sharing; (b) revisit cash feasibility; (c) adjust the transfer value to reflect the intended coverage of needs and duration of support; (d) look at the timeliness when to distribute cash assistance; and (e) provide appropriate capacity-building support to those involved in the humanitarian responses.

With the intention to gather the learnings and reflection from the ongoing dzud early action and response, the regional CWG, Mongolia CWG, and CALP Network, felt the need to gather humanitarian agencies involved in CVA programming for a learning event. To achieve this, the CWG and CALP Network will organize a six-day learning event, with two-pronged approach: (1) Lessons learned workshop, and (2) Capacity-support through a training. The Mongolia CWG will lead the learning workshop to review, learn, and plan based on its dzud anticipatory action and responses (one day). CALP Network will deliver the Core CVA Skills for Programme Staff training.

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1 People In Need; IFRC; SC Mongolia/World Vision, and START Network
CALP will commission a certified trainer to lead the training with the support of two (2) co-facilitators. The lead trainer will also co-facilitate and document the learning workshop.

Below are the specific objectives of this approach:

**Lessons Learned Workshop on 7th June 2024**
By the end of this workshop, the CWG members are able to:

1. Identified and synthesized the enabling factors and challenges that impeded the delivery of CVA during the 2024 dzud response.
2. Agreed on plans to address the priority issues affecting planning and delivery, and coordination.

**Core CVA Skills for Programme Staff Training on 10th to 14th June 2024**
By the end of this course, the participants can:

1. Discuss the opportunities and challenges to delivering high quality CVA as part of humanitarian response.
2. Use various assessments, including market assessment tools, to inform CVA appropriateness.
3. Analyse assessment data to choose modality, delivery mechanism and transfer value.
4. Ensure accountability towards affected populations during the CVA design and implementation process.
5. Incorporate CVA and markets in monitoring frameworks.
6. Identify best practices for CVA quality and sustainability.
7. Navigate the existing tools, guidance, cases studies and research documents to find the most relevant and up-to-date information on CVA-related themes.

**Target Participants**
The CVA training and learning workshop are aiming to organize humanitarians working in Mongolia with the following profile:

- Staff responsible for designing, implementing, and monitoring CVA programmes. Local actors are highly encouraged to apply.
- Working in organizations with experiences and interest in implementing CVA in the context of humanitarian response.
- Can speak and understand English as it will be the language of instruction.

**Language Requirement**
Both the training and learning workshop will be delivered in English.

**Location**
The training and learning workshop will be organized at the UN House in Ulaanbaatar as it is more accessible for most of the CWG members.

**Co-hosting Arrangement**
As Action Against Hunger – CALP’s host – has no legal entity in Mongolia, the CALP team will liaise with the co-chairs of the Cash Working Group to co-host this in-person training. This co-hosting will not involve financial obligations from CALP and CWG. On the other hand, CALP will request the safety and security management plan of the CWG co-chairs as compliance to the BHA requirements. Specifically, CALP team will request for the non-sensitive version of the security
plan such as the basics of the context, risks, basic protocol, and contact details that can be shared with visiting consultants and staff.

**Management/Task Team**
The Deputy Regional Representative will liaise with Mongolia CWG in terms the overall conduct of the training and learning workshop. Below is a list of tasks for CALP Network and the CWG:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CALP Network</th>
<th>Mongolia CWG</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Management of the consultancy with the lead trainer, and selection of co-</td>
<td>1. Lead in participant selection, sharing of event details to selected</td>
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<td>facilitators. For this training, the Asia-Pacific team is looking at involving</td>
<td>participants, and addressing inquiries.</td>
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<td>the support of IFRC and World Vision for the co-facilitators, which is in line</td>
<td>2. Selection of venue, meals, and training materials.</td>
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<td>with the CALP-certification.</td>
<td>3. Issue visa supporting documents to identified trainers and co-facilitators</td>
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<td>2. Facilitate receiving applications from potential participants mainly using</td>
<td>as needed.</td>
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<td>the CALP website.</td>
<td>4. Provide safety and security support to facilitators’ team.</td>
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<td>3. Co-lead (through the certified trainer) with the CWG in facilitating,</td>
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<td>documenting, and sharing the report of the learning workshop.</td>
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**Cost and Budget**
CALP Network will cover the expenses related to the consultancy of a lead trainer and his/her travel expenses (airfare and accommodation), and the travel expenses of CALP staff to support in-country.

Meanwhile, FAO (co-chair of the CWG) has expressed that along with Mongolian Red Cross Society (MRCS) and World Vision Mongolia they will cover the venue, food, and training materials during the training and workshop as these 3 organizations are going to implement ECHO funded joint programme.