



# COVID-19 GUIDANCE

## Food security and livelihoods activities during and after Covid-19

Covid-19 will have a deep long-term impact on the global economy, which could lead to worldwide socio-economic disruptions. This could negatively impact the following:



**Economic safety nets**



**Livelihoods and access to markets**



**Food security and well-being**

Those who are likely to be impacted most are those who are already economically challenged and food insecure. Because of this, cash and voucher assistance (CVA) could be an important programmatic response to a secondary impact of the Covid-19 crisis. CVA provides income where it's been lost, and can also be distributed digitally to lower the risk of infection. Cash has also been proven to help people access basic services including health services. This guidance provides information on the different phasing for this type of intervention, for those wishing to implement CVA to a Covid-19 response. Below are the different phases to consider for a CVA response:

### Preparedness phase

- Monitor the ongoing situation, using available secondary data to do this.
- Continue basic needs assistance by ensuring food needs are met.
- Adapt current programmes to ensure food security and livelihoods recovery (eg changing long-term support programmes to emergency response programmes)
- Update targeting data to include groups who've become more vulnerable as a result of the pandemic.
- Revise your procedures for food, CVA and agricultural distributions: plan alternatives to mitigate disruptions in the supply chain.

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- Budget for livelihoods recovery programmes.
- Advocate to institutions and donors for increased support for food security, livelihoods protection and livelihoods recovery.
- Link with and refer to existing social protection programmes and advocate for greater flexibility in them.

## Emergency response

- Provide food assistance through CVA and/or in-kind.
- Support food production and promote gardening activities by providing seeds, tools and natural fertilisers through CVA and/or in-kind.

Support self-help groups (SHGs) and saving groups providing assistance for basic needs and work to prevent the depletion of assets (eg livestock). Consider the role of SHGs in distributing cash: use digital transfers to avoid unnecessarily physical contact. Advise SHGs to adapt their ways of meeting to protect themselves but to ensure the continuation of these groups and their activities.

- Support small businesses through cash grants and help them move to digital transactions.
- Support vendors' and local markets' value chain.
- Where markets are still functioning, provide advice to workers, vendors and consumers on how to protect themselves from the virus and prevent its spread.

## Medium/long-term recovery response

- Support the increase of local food production, storage capacity and food processing to minimise food losses and waste.
- Provide cash grants for assets replacement or capital start-up to restore livelihoods activities.
- Understand how employability needs to be adapted to the new context.
- Support small businesses in finding innovative ways to reach their customers.
- Help people access financial services, including saving groups that provide microloans.
- Promote cash grants to provide funds to communities and so stimulate the local economy.
- Target areas known to be highly vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity before the crisis.

Adapted from Livelihoods Centre:

[Food security and livelihoods: Interventions for preparedness, emergency response and recovery](#)

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