



July 2019

Evaluation of ADRA-Afghanistan CTP Winter Relief Project for IDPs, Refugees and Disadvantaged in Bamyan, Afghanistan

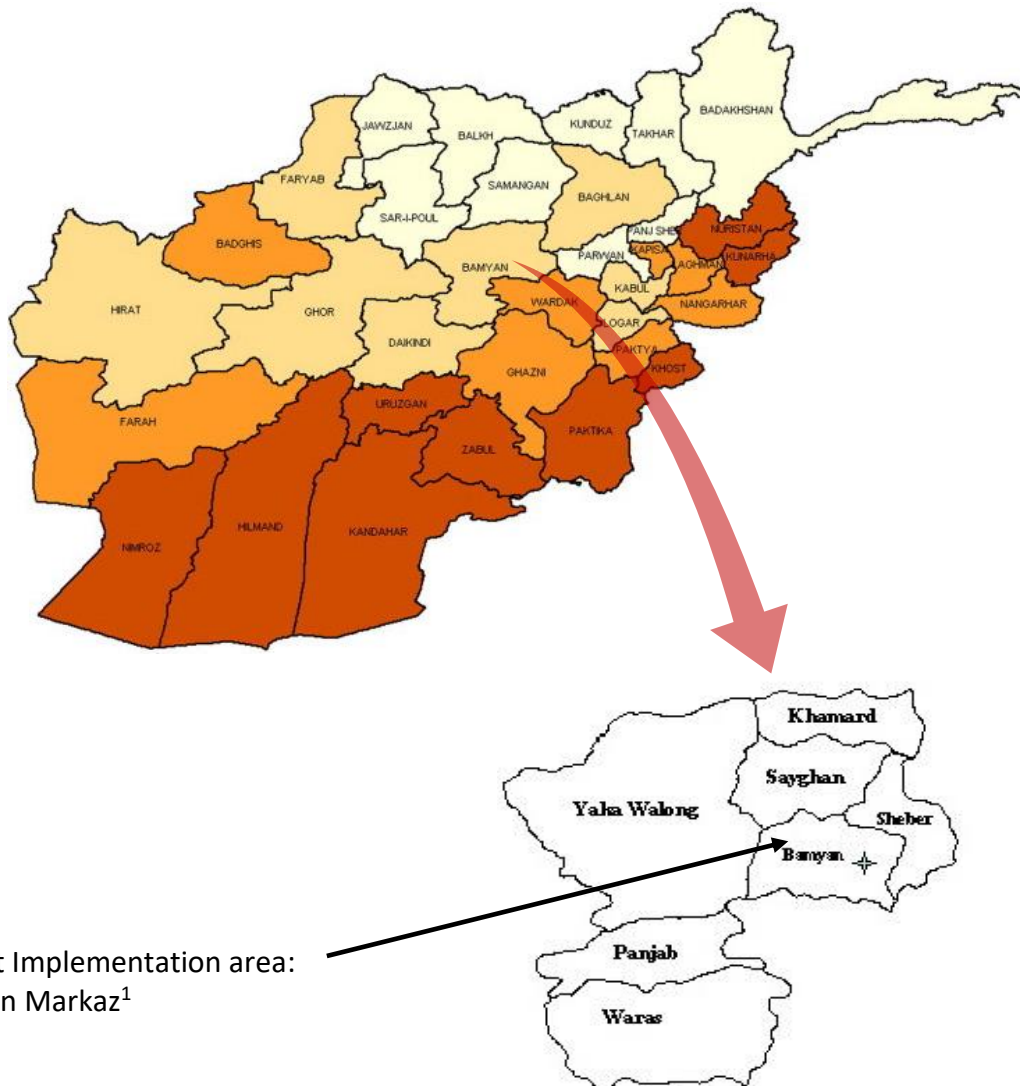
Final Report

Submitted to ADRA – Afghanistan

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| Title | ADRA-Afghanistan CTP Evaluation Report |
| Project Region | Bamyan – Afghanistan |
| Evaluation Period | June 10 – 13, 2019 |
| Date of Report | July 06 th 2019 |
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| Reviewer | Abdullah Munib of Waras Star Management Consultancy Services Co. |
| Organisation Commissioning the Evaluation | Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Partners |

COUNTRY MAP

Figure-01: Country and Provincial Map



Project Implementation area:
Bamiyan Markaz¹

¹ Source: "Afghanistan" "Bamiyan" Google images.

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

| | |
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| ADRA | Adventist Development and Relief Agency |
| ALNAP | Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action |
| CSI | Coping Strategies Index |
| CSO | Central Statistics Office |
| EHA | Evaluation of Humanitarian Action |
| FCS | Food Consumption Score |
| FGD | Focus Group Discussion |
| KII | Key Informant Interview |
| MEB | Minimum Expenditure Basket |
| NSIA | National Statistics and Information Authority |
| RICAA | Rapid Information Communication Accountability Assessment |
| SMEB | Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket |
| WFP | World Food Programme |
| WSMCS | Waras Star Management Consultancy Services |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A cash transfer program (CTP) was designed and implemented by ADRA-Afghanistan to provide winter relief to IDPs, refugees and other vulnerable communities in Kabul and Bamyan provinces. The project aimed at removing financial bottlenecks for IDPs, refugees and poor to access food and heating in the winter months of 2018-19. This evaluation was conducted in June, 2019 in Bamyan where ADRA assisted 958 household beneficiaries with cash transfer & heating material (Coal).

The project was overall successful in achieving its objectives of increasing food consumption of the beneficiaries via cash transfer modality. The cash calculated for each household was based on World Food Programme (WFP) Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) calculation but only the calorific requirement was picked up. The household size was capped at seven members and each member's cash size was rounded off to 858 AFN per month.

The ADRA-CTP project was found relevant to the most urgent needs of the said disadvantaged group of people with regard to attaining food security by increasing their FCS and access to heating material. The cash was found very relevant and most preferred mode of assistance by all types of stakeholders over in-kind assistance. This is because the cash gave them a choice to choose their needs and spend towards it. In terms of FCS, a significant two to three-fold increase was recorded in all the interviewed beneficiaries, yet 49% of the beneficiary households were still on the border line of food insecurity. Furthermore, in terms of diversity of food items consumed by beneficiaries, small and large households consumed less diverse food items than the average households where they consumed more diverse food items. It could be argued that cash itself wasn't sufficient because beneficiaries reported to have spent their cash on various multiple other basic needs.

Additionally, the evaluation revealed that the heating material wasn't sufficient for all beneficiaries, the maximum period that the heating material lasted for was one month and ten days. It was found out that the heating material (coal) was the most preferred type of heating material but all types of interviewed beneficiaries reported that it was incomplete assistance without woods. Practically, the coal doesn't catch fire without woods thus complementary woods should have been added to the heating assistance.

The cash expenditure varied for different sizes of households. Small (<4 family members) & large size households (>7 family members) spent most of the cash on food and purchasing

further heating material (coal & woods) only, where average size households (5 – 7 family members) spent their cash on food, heating material, paying bills & rent, debt repayment, clothing and health fees. This variation of cash expenditure between the different household was due the cash insufficiency for small and large households. Overall quantitative evidences suggest that on average 46% of the total cash was spent on food followed by 28% spent on rents & bills and 18% to 20% was spent on purchasing and transporting further heating materials.

In terms of project processes, the cash was supposed to be transferred on monthly basis starting from October to March, however due to so some technical problems the beneficiaries received their first transfer in the month of December for two initial months and subsequently a joint two months' transfer was made in January followed by a single month payment in February. This evaluation didn't find the delay in cash transfer to be of any major concern to the beneficiaries. It is assumed that because of a strong acquiescence bias among poor households and beliefs they felt that if they complain they will be deprived from any future assistance.

Overall all the beneficiaries were content with the distribution site, travelling to and from the distribution site and waiting time within the distribution site. Travelling to and from the distribution site was only found problematic to the most vulnerable (elderly and widows), beside this the waiting time at the cash distribution point (bank) was also found difficult experience for elderly. This demonstrates exclusion of most vulnerable in the project processes.

Moreover, transporting heating material was found a major concern for all types of beneficiaries as they would almost incur 1 – 3% (150 – 350 AFN) of the total cash transfer for transporting heating material to home. The most vulnerable (elderly & widows) also reported transporting heating material was a problematic process as they had to rely on others' help in loading and unloading and placing the heating material at the right spot at home.

In terms of efficiency, the bank as a financial service provider proved to be efficient in cash disbursement, as the bank had added benefit of security to the process. No security concerns were recorded during the cash disbursement and after the cash receipt by beneficiaries. One problem that caused delays during the cash distribution was that people would show up with the registered beneficiary ID document and convincing them that only registered person can collect the cash was delaying cash distribution process within the bank.

Targeting vulnerable households for project beneficiary was found a time-consuming process, physical inspection was paid to each potential household. Small disruption during the beneficiaries' selection were reported but resolved through consultation and convincing of non-eligible households by relevant government bodies who were involved in the selection of beneficiaries.

The project was lacking the mechanism for information dissemination and feedback, it relied on traditional mechanism of face to face meeting. Ample time shall be allowed before the start of distribution to ensure all measures for setting mechanisms and effective implementations has been taken.

Preparedness, is key to effective implementations and setting various mechanisms such as feedback and complaints, monitoring and evaluation could further enhance the implementation efficiency in achieving the desired objectives. The qualitative evidence suggests that project was rushed through in the beginning.

Monitoring & evaluation framework was very basic and no regular data collection of important indicators such as cash uses, market dynamics & response and price inflation was undertaken by ADRA.

The evaluation didn't find any significant study for the comparative analysis to examine the value for money of the project. Moreover, the evaluation didn't find any significant findings on supporting local production which must be one of the many objectives of the CTP projects.

Based on the findings, conclusions, and lessons learned the evaluation arrived at the following recommendations for future similar projects.

- 1. Reassess the cash size:** The cash size shall be reassessed and should be based on the actual needs of beneficiaries and vulnerability risk factors.
- 2. Reassess the Heating material:** The project shall calculate the heating material requirement based on actual consumption of the households regardless of household size. Heating a single room of two people and seven people consumes almost the same amount of heating material.
- 3. Mixed Design (Conditional & unconditional) :** For the future similar projects, ADRA shall impose condition on beneficiaries, and it should be record keeping of beneficiaries' cash uses to have access to the real figures on cash uses.

- 4. Inclusive participation:** The project processes, shall adopt inclusiveness in terms of participation of most vulnerable in the project activities.
- 5. Targeting Vulnerable:** ADRA shall develop detailed guidelines and test the assessment questionnaire in the field so the staff can get trained on targeting vulnerable in a time-efficient manner.
- 6. Monitoring & Evaluation:** Robust M&E mechanism shall be incorporated into the project activities. Regular data collection on significant indicators is highly suggested to track the outcomes and project's impact in an effective manner.
- 7. Feedback and Complaints Mechanism:** Mechanism for feedback and complaints shall be developed by conducting exercises with beneficiaries.
- 8. Agency Staff Training:** Training of ADRA staff in the areas of M&E and data analysis and CTP related topics is suggested as this can ensure the robustness of any future evaluations and recording of lessons learned.
- 9. In Depth Market Analysis:** Market capacity to respond to cash injection play a vital role in CTP oriented project. Therefore, conduct of in-depth market analysis and regular monitoring of the market is suggested for future projects.
- 10. Exit Strategy:** ADRA shall develop exit strategy early in the project design stage and work on discouraging dependency of beneficiaries on these kinds of short term assistances. As most beneficiaries interviewed were reluctant to express any grievances on the project activities due to the belief that complaining might deprive them from future CTP.
- 11. Promotion of Local Production:** ADRA shall protect the local production of food commodities against any negative effects of CTP and shall work closely with producers and wider sectors.