



CaLP Case Study
**Non Food Item (NFI) voucher fairs in
Walikale Territory, North Kivu,
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

**A UNICEF and Solidarités
International programme**



In response to a rapid-onset emergency, UNICEF and Solidarités International utilised a cash-based voucher approach in Nyasi and Bobolo villages, in Walikale Territory, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As part of a larger multi-province, multi-partner response programme in DRC known as RRMP (Rapid Response to Movements of Population), the project used cash vouchers at fairs to provide recently displaced families with access to essential non-food items (NFIs). This case study is one example of hundreds of NFI and shelter voucher fairs which have been organised by UNICEF partners and other organizations in DRC since 2008. Between 2008 and 2011, the fairs have provided NFIs to 157,000 emergency-affected families (some 785,000 people) in the DRC. As of late 2011, the approach had been expanded to six provinces and is now used to deliver more than half of NFI assistance in the country.

1 Humanitarian context

Background

While much of North Kivu province has been affected by waves of population displacement and return since the early 2000's, Walikale territory had not experienced significant population displacement compared to other territories until early 2009¹. Throughout that year and 2010 there were multiple waves of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from conflict-affected areas further south who fled to Walikale centre, Mubi, Nyasi and surrounding villages. In the majority of instances, families were fleeing from direct attacks by militia groups in their villages, and as such they were forced to flee with few if any possessions. All displaced stayed with host families; there were no self-settled or organised camps.

Assessment

At that time heightened insecurity and almost impassable road conditions made mobilizing humanitarian interventions in Walikale extremely difficult. Following various humanitarian alerts concerning the situation in Walikale and surrounding villages, Solidarités International sent Multi-Sectoral Assessment (MSA) teams to conduct needs assessments and market analysis in the area in May and October 2009. The needs analysis was based on the RRMP Multi-Sectoral Assessment frameworks and NFI Score-Card, and revealed significant needs in multiple sectors, with critical needs in particular to assist nearly 4,000 newly displaced families (around 20,000 people) with non-food items (NFIs) such as essential household and personal items.

MSA teams used a basic market assessment tool to determine the capacity of the local and district level commercial sector to source and provide NFI and shelter materials that affected communities indicated were their priorities. Market survey questions included issues of access to credit as well as analysis of traditional supply chains and market systems. The assessment also included discussions with military and civil authorities to ensure security on the roads and determine whether vendors were prepared to travel to the affected areas.

2 Programme Overview and Rationale

Rapid Response to Movements of Population (RRMP)

RRMP (and its predecessors RRM and PEAR³) is a multi-partner, multi-donor, multi-province, multi-sectoral assessment and intervention mechanism that has existed in the DRC since 2004. The programme was originally created to respond to the continuous need for assistance to new waves of displaced people in eastern DRC to access essential household and personal items, commonly referred to as 'NFIs' (non-food items) and emergency shelter materials. While the assistance component of the programme has expanded to include two other areas of response—Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Education, NFI remains its core component.

For this particular intervention in Walikale, UNICEF and Solidarité International's overall objective was to contribute to improving the living conditions of vulnerable populations affected by the conflict in DRC; the specific programme objective was to assist emergency-affected households in accessing essential personal and household supplies. The Walikale intervention was directly implemented by INGO partner Solidarités International, and was facilitated by the active presence of the local branches of the national commercial association Fédération des Entrepreneurs au Congo (FEC).

Using voucher fairs for NFIs

Initially UNICEF and partners were uncertain that the voucher fair approach would work in an area as remote and cut-off as Walikale. But initial experiences in April 2009⁴ were quite successful, with vendors from Mubi, Walikale and other participating towns able to provide essential NFIs in the quality, quantity and variety necessary for the fairs. As such, Solidarités was comfortable in proposing the fair approach to meet the needs of the new IDPs.

Why not use direct distribution?

While direct distribution of food, NFI and other relief items was possible in Walikale, logistically it would have been time-consuming and expensive to bring relief supplies to Walikale zone by road. The nearby markets were able to ensure sufficient diversity and quality of supplies that were identified as priorities by beneficiaries, making a cash-based approach a viable option. This mechanism also provided many advantages in terms of beneficiary choice, appropriateness of the response to meet diverse needs and stimulating the local economy.

Why use voucher fairs - why not give cash?

The voucher mechanism was considered a safer alternative to cash transfers, as it limited risks associated with distributing and transporting cash for both beneficiaries and implementing partners. Assessments showed that the local markets did not offer a wide selection of the goods beneficiaries needed. In the case of this programme where the objective is to meet essential NFI needs by presenting a wide variety of choice, a cash option would have limited many families' options to what was available locally. By mobilising vendors from the territory's commercial centres to participate in fairs in more remote areas, voucher fairs provide beneficiaries with a wider array of choice than they might have on the open market: in post-fair surveys across multiple provinces, 65% of families reported that the items they purchased at the fairs are not easily available in their local shops or markets.

Why use value-based cash vouchers at the fairs?

Value-based cash vouchers provide a significant advantage over direct NFI distribution or commodity vouchers in that they allow beneficiaries to choose any combination of items that meet their specific needs. This flexibility would not have been possible with an in-kind or commodity voucher approach..

3 Implementation

Beneficiary targeting and registration

A total of 2,360 households or 11,800 people were assisted during the Nyasi and Bobolo fairs. All beneficiaries were recent IDPs. The voucher fairs were held on four separate days over the course of 2 weeks with each fair day typically reaching 500-600 households.

Within the RRMP there are several possibilities for targeting beneficiaries for NFI assistance: (1) A blanket intervention for the entire population in a given zone; (2) Targeting socially vulnerable people; (3) Targeting material vulnerabilities related directly to possession of or access to essential NFIs (4) Targeting by status (for example only IDPs), or (5) combinations of these different approaches.

During this particular intervention in Nyasi and Bobolo villages, the NFI score-card had revealed consistently high levels of vulnerability in terms of access to NFI among recent IDPs. As such, a status-based targeting was used whereby only recent IDPs (defined as having been displaced and in the host community less than 3 months) were identified as beneficiaries. A preliminary beneficiary list was compiled by the authorities and verified by the NGO team by random spot checks, and then a final registration list was issued. Partner teams then distributed fair registration cards to the female adults in registered families. RRMP practice is to always issue registration cards to the female adults in a household. This ensures that in polygamous families,

second wives and their children are not excluded. The registration card entitles the bearer to enter the fair grounds and receive their cash vouchers. The women are also permitted to bring their husbands or a child, who can assist in using the vouchers, negotiating with vendors, and selecting and carrying items.

Selecting vendors and setting prices

The identification and selection of vendors was facilitated by the local branch of the FEC (Fédération des Entrepreneurs au Congo), an association of traders and businesses. Vendors signed an agreement acknowledging full understanding of the fair process, including that: (1) There would be no guarantee of sales; (2) Vendors would provide their own transport of merchandise to and from the fairs; (3) Vendors would ensure security of their own merchandise; and (4) Vendors understand the humanitarian nature of the intervention and are expected to show respect for and assist the beneficiaries during the process. While elsewhere in eastern DRC, some RRMP partners bring together vendors and beneficiaries to fix price ceilings on certain key items, this method was not used for the Nyasi/Bobolo fairs. Instead Solidarités made sure there were sufficient quantities of vendors and items to ensure that bargaining between vendors and buyers kept the prices reasonable. Further analysis of the advantages and disadvantages of establishing price ceilings vs. free markets is currently underway by UNICEF and partners to determine whether one approach is more advantageous for beneficiaries.

Setting voucher values

In general for RRMP, each family receives a sheet of 14 detachable vouchers totalling \$60-75. This value was determined based on calculation of the total cost of a standard UNICEF family relief kit for RRMP including transport costs to eastern DRC and minus the cost of a mosquito net which was given to families through a direct distribution. As UNICEF and partners have become more sophisticated in market analysis and determining purchasing power in different areas as well as in making decisions to combine the fairs with the direct distribution of certain items, the total voucher amounts at different fairs has ranged from USD \$40 to \$100 per family. For the Nyasi and Bobolo fairs, a sheet of 14 detachable vouchers totalling \$60 was provided to the woman representing each family as she entered the fair. All the vouchers had to be used on that day.

Purchasing patterns

During the course of the 2009 and 2010 expansion of the fair method, UNICEF and partners conducted intensive data collection and analysis of what types of items families were purchasing at fairs including the Nyasi and Bobolo fairs. Among 1,688 families monitored, there were more than **800 distinct combinations** of purchased goods, demonstrating

the true complexity and variety of beneficiaries' needs. The compiled average of cash vouchers spent on different items breaks down as follows:

Category	% spent
Clothing	31.3
Bedding (mattresses, sheets, blankets)	17.2
Metal roofing sheets	16.2
Kitchen utensils	12.1
Other household items including suitcases, radios, doorlocks	8.1
Shoes/sandals	5.1
Plastic sheeting (tarpaulin)	3.0
Soap	2.0
Washing materials/ containers	2.0
Jerry cans/ water barrels	1.0
Other livelihood related items (eg. bicycle parts)	1.0
Agricultural tools	1.0



A vendor sells mattresses at a voucher fair

Intra-household decision-making

Households were encouraged to discuss what to buy and to make consensual decisions prior to the fair day. In compiled data gathered from post-fair monitoring (including the Nyasi and Bobolo fairs along with others), 76% of families reported that the women were involved in the decisions on what to buy,

64% indicated that the men were involved, and 28% said the children had been involved. In cases where the man represented the family at the fair because the wife was ill or otherwise unable to attend, sex-disaggregated analysis of purchasing patterns did not reveal significant differences in items bought by men compared to women (see Figure 2).

Figure 1. Beneficiary fair purchases
Percent of beneficiaries who purchased at least one article in the categories

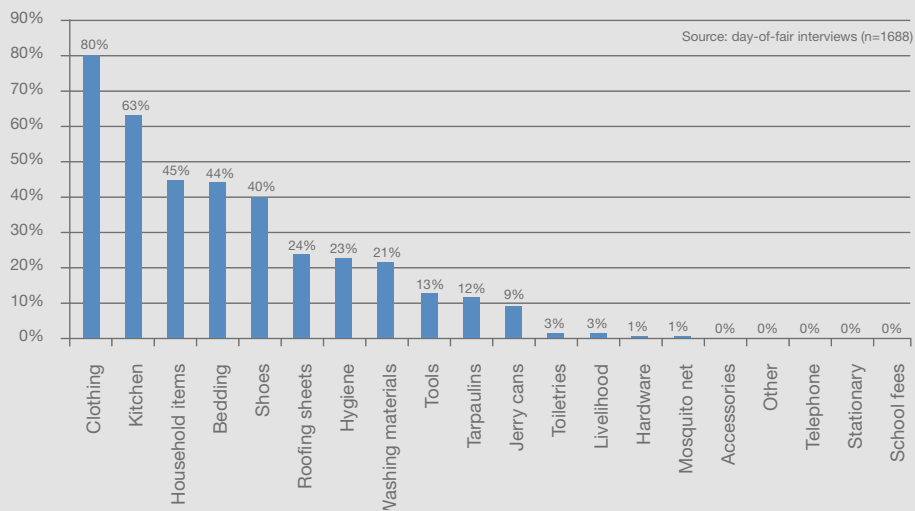
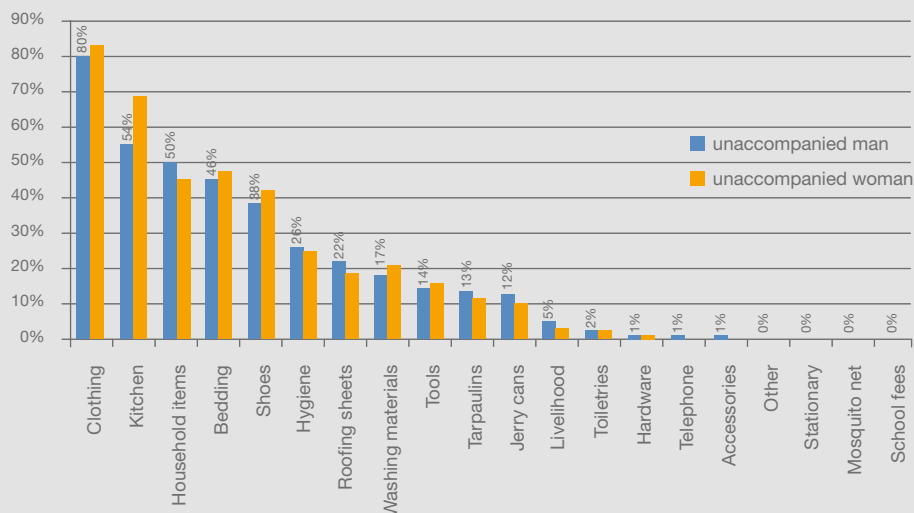


Figure 2. Beneficiary fair purchases by sex of beneficiary
Percent of beneficiaries who purchased at least one article in the categories



Aside from women's slightly greater propensity to purchase clothes and kitchen items, the type of items purchased by men and women were similar

Payment method

The general operational context of the programme in Walikale was characterised by insecurity in many parts of the territory, difficulty accessing the programme sites, and the absence of a formal banking system. The existence, however, of savings and loan cooperatives operating in the commercial centers facilitated payment of vendors. Solidarités and other partners who have executed fairs in Walikale have been able to use a local savings and loan cooperative called the COOPEC to transfer funds safely from North Kivu's capital city, Goma, to Walikale and to pay vendors via cheque rather than transporting large quantities of cash. While this approach required significant coordination with the COOPEC to ensure sufficient liquidity on the days of payment, the possibility to make transfers through them and use of cheques to pay vendors was critical to the success of the fairs, as cash flow management and insecurity are constant issues in North Kivu.

Reconciling vouchers

Since the fairs ran for up to two weeks, each day there was a new colour or symbol stamped on the vouchers to avoid fraud. Vouchers were provided on the day of the fair and had to be used that day. At the end of the fair, vendors and NGO teams tallied each vendor's individual vouchers and checked them for validity. A 'fiche de paie' (payment sheet) was then signed by the designated NGO fair president and given to each vendor indicating the exact amount of his/her earnings for the day and guaranteeing subsequent payment. In Nyasi and Bobolo, vendors were not paid on the day of the fair, but received cheques they could cash in at the COOPEC⁵. Although initially some vendors were wary of the system, once they became familiar with it, many preferred to receive payment by bank, money transfer or cheque rather than directly in cash.

Quality and pricing of goods

Implementing partners put in place a system of vendor registration in order to guarantee that beneficiaries received good quality items at reasonable prices. At the beginning of the day, each vendor was required to register his/her merchandise and the proposed asking price for each item on a Vendor Registration sheet. The registration process served as a method to vet any items which might not be allowed at the fairs (medicines, food, seeds, livestock, etc.), to ensure that merchandise is of acceptable quality, and to identify any proposed pricing that is not in line with local market prices.

Costs and cost-effectiveness

In 2010, the total RRMP budget for UNICEF and partners was USD \$30 million, with approximately USD \$6 million designated for NFI/Shelter fairs and associated costs. The total budget for the voucher fairs in Nyaisi and Bobolo villages was approximately USD \$259,600. This is an approximation for the cost of this specific series of four fairs, which is based on the

overall programme estimate of USD \$110/family. This estimate includes the cost of the the \$60/family voucher value along with all other costs associated with initial evaluations, vendor identification and mobilization, beneficiary selection, fair preparation, implementation and monitoring, amongst other activities.

UNICEF and partners using the NFI fair method in the DRC found that cash-based interventions are a more cost-effective means of meeting beneficiary needs. While partners will typically require more staff at fairs to ensure smooth operations, they forego the hefty logistics costs associated with in-kind distributions including warehousing, handling, and transport. UNICEF and partners are working on detailed costing analysis to capture more precisely the cost difference per beneficiary family between fairs and direct distribution in different areas of the DRC.

4 Programme impact

Monitoring and Evaluation

For the Nyasi/Bobolo fairs and all fairs organized by UNICEF partners, 2 types of monitoring were conducted: (1) Day-of-fair monitoring; and (2) Post-fair monitoring. For day-of-fair monitoring, trained survey teams conducted exit survey interviews with pre-selected beneficiaries to look at issues of levels of general satisfaction and recommendations they might have, as well as collecting detailed inventories of purchases to better understand choice and preference. Selected vendors were also surveyed at the end of each day and teams monitored vendor inventories and sales. Finally, the implementing team completed their own debriefing after each day of the fair to discuss successes, challenges and recommendations for improvement.

Post-fair monitoring was typically conducted between one to three months after the fair. Trained survey teams conducted individual interviews with beneficiaries and vendors as well as larger focus group discussions. UNICEF and the partners designed and tested standard post-fair tools and developed a database to capture all the data from the monitoring process. The complete results of this monitoring and other analysis from pilots in 2011 will be published in 2012.

Choice and diversity

UNICEF and partners found overall that voucher fairs were an appropriate and efficient way of meeting beneficiaries' diverse NFI needs. Some families were more in need of basic household items while others purchased those items that could support income-generating activities, such as tools, fishing nets, sewing machines, or replacement parts for bicycles used to transport agricultural products to market. Through the fairs, rural populations had access to a much wider choice of merchandise than they could find in the markets.

Multiplier effects

Infusing cash into local markets as opposed to procuring relief items from large suppliers abroad may have significant multiplier effects for the local economy. Since starting the fair approach, beneficiaries assisted in UNICEF-supported programs have purchased more than US\$11 million of household and personal NFIs from local vendors. In 2011 alone, UNICEF partners paid out a total of more than US\$5 million to hundreds of local vendors. In 2012, UNICEF plans to conduct a detailed market impact evaluation to better understand and map the impact this injection of money is having on the local economies.

Some beneficiaries reported more intangible impacts of the fairs. One vendor in Ituri said that he feels that the fairs have contributed to community reconciliation, and calls the fairs 'Les Foires de la Paix' (Fairs of Peace). The vendor observed the fairs were drawing vendors from different regions and groups to areas and markets where they might previously had been hesitant to visit due to their ethnic backgrounds.

Responsiveness

While fairs can never reach the same number of beneficiaries in a single day as distributions, they can and have been used for large-scale rapid response. During a three-week period in September 2009 RRMP partners NRC and Solidarités International reached nearly 13,000 newly displaced families with NFIs through voucher fairs in North Kivu's Oicha area. The rapidity with which partners organised fairs even in remote areas has exceeded all expectations, as did their ability to meet needs after massive displacements. Partners estimate that it would not have been possible to meet the needs of so many families so quickly without using fairs, since bringing large quantities of supply into a country can be costly and slow, whereas local vendors already familiar with the method were able to mobilise for fairs in less than a week. Using standard kit distributions to meet the same needs would have nearly depleted all pre-positioned stock, which would have taken several weeks or even months to replace.

Debt repayment

While monitoring of both voucher fairs and direct distributions demonstrated that some displaced families may cede a portion of their NFIs (i.e. a blanket or a bar of soap) to their host families or others to whom they have debts of some kind, voucher fairs have allowed families to select a more appropriate



The use of cash vouchers meant that at many fairs, women were able to negotiate prices

repayment. It was common to see families leaving fairs with items they intended to give to their host families or others who had helped them during difficult times. Even among beneficiaries at the same fair, vouchers exchanged hands as one family repaid a debt to another. This can be seen as a positive impact as debt repayment may contribute to 'social capital,' and prevent other negative coping strategies such as selling productive assets.

5 Challenges, solutions and lessons learned

Implementation Challenges and Mitigation

Vendor Manipulation: One risk of using the voucher fair methodology is that some families will not receive the amount of assistance the organization intends to provide and to which they are entitled. While there was no evidence of manipulation by vendors at the Nyasi/Bobolo fairs, elsewhere partners reported that they observed and caught vendors taking advantage of beneficiaries' illiteracy and lack of familiarity with the vouchers, for example by taking a voucher worth \$10 for an item that the beneficiary and vendor had agreed would cost \$5. Indeed in post-fair monitoring, 13% of beneficiaries indicated they had some trouble in using the vouchers—although this statistic captures any difficulties linked to using the coupons, not only potential vendor manipulation. This points to the importance of ensuring multiple sensitisation sessions before and during the fairs on how to use the vouchers, as well as having sufficient staff or volunteers available on the day of the fair to monitor compliance with the rules, take complaints, and address grievances.

Vendor Participation and Diversity of Goods:

For the fairs at Nyasi and Bobolo the implementing partners relied heavily on the association of local entrepreneurs called the Fédération des Entrepreneurs au Congo (FEC). While this greatly facilitated the rapid mobilization of vendors, the role of the FEC was not always advantageous in ensuring the beneficiaries had maximum choice of items. For the four days of the Nyasi and Bobolo fairs the FEC leadership decided which vendors would be allowed to participate and permitted only FEC council members to attend all four fairs, while standard FEC members were only permitted to attend one fair. As a result, the availability and variety of NFIs was not as broad as it might have been, and the same spectrum of goods were not available at each fair. For example one vendor specializing in different types of flashlights participated at the first fair in Nyasi. Flashlights and lanterns are important items and it would have been ideal had this vendor been allowed to participate in all four fairs as he had a significant supply of this 'specialty' item. This particular type of situation is indicative of the potential risks posed by allowing trade organizations to play too significant a role in the selection of participating vendors.

Best practices and lessons learned

There are several issues that need to be considered when planning to implement a NFI fair including:

(1) Market assessment and analysis are essential to determine the ability of the local market to respond to beneficiary needs, assess local prices in order to determine total voucher value, and ensure that the programme does not create any negative impacts. In addition to supply chain analysis, market assessment and analysis should include issues such as access to formal and informal credit; many of the vendors participating in the Nyasi/Bobolo fairs were able to get loans of cash or merchandise from their informal networks which allowed them to ensure sufficient quantity and variety of NFIs.

(2) Sensitisation campaigns prior to implementation. It is vital to conduct sensitisation campaigns with communities, beneficiaries and vendors prior to implementing voucher fairs.

- **Initial consultation and sensitisation** should be conducted with different local authorities, host communities and beneficiaries including vulnerable groups to ensure that the programme can be implemented successfully. Critical issues to discuss include understanding targeting criteria and the process of the fair mechanism.
- **Sensitisation with beneficiaries** should focus on the fair rules and regulations, how to use the vouchers, and who will attend the fairs. In this case, since families were represented by female adults, another key message was the recommendation that beneficiaries discuss priority NFI needs at the household level before the fairs.
- **Sensitisation with vendors** focused on what items were allowed at the fairs, what items were requested by beneficiaries in the needs assessments conducted, how the voucher and payment system would work, respect of price ceilings (in cases where ceilings were fixed), the humanitarian element of the fair and a review of the standard clauses of the vendor agreements.
- **Sensitisation with authorities** is also of critical importance, not only to explain the reasons for the intervention and solicit potential support and information as in all humanitarian interventions, but to explain the specifics of the fair approach which is not generally familiar to them. In other provinces, some authorities have seen the fairs as an opportunity to levy non-existent taxes on vendors or the NGO's for these commercial activities. While all participating vendors need to have their legitimate registration and tax documents in order, authorities needed to be sensitised on the humanitarian nature of these fairs to discourage them from such attempts to use the fairs to get money from vendors, NGO's or even beneficiaries.

(3) Additional staff requirements and capacity.

Voucher fairs are time- and labour-intensive. Before the fairs, staff are needed to conduct sensitisation and negotiate with vendors. On the day of the fair, staff or volunteers are needed to implement beneficiary and vendor registration, to monitor the fair, and to reconcile the vouchers at the end of the day. Staff responsibilities on the day of the fairs include circulating and observing the fairs progress to ensure prices remain fixed, ensuring that beneficiaries understand the system and mediating any issues that arise between vendors and/or beneficiaries. Staff may also be required for additional services such as public information campaigns, to provide small change and/or to run a complaints stall for receiving and responding to grievances.

Implementing partners and staff may also require new skills and tools to effectively organize a voucher fair. Through UNICEF's ARCC (Alternative Responses for Communities in Crisis) programme Solidarités International has developed a standard training package for the NFI fair methodology and has conducted further trainings in four different provinces in 2011.

(4) Role of Finance and Logistics Staff: It is important that finance staff are involved to provide guidance on: (1) assessing the capacities of financial institutions in the field; (2) identification of safe payment mechanisms; and (3) ensuring that the financial documentation – for example documentation on vendor identification or payment sheets to vendors are compliant with the organization's internal rules and regulations. Logistics staff should also be involved in the organization of the fair, and can provide guidance on market analysis and interaction with vendors and commercial associations. Logistics staff can also help in developing vendor agreements.

6 Recommendations

Expanding fair use: The potential application and expansion of the NFI fair methodology is significant for other emergency and post-emergency recovery situations where dynamic markets can be mobilised or re-invigorated to provide affected families with essential supplies. The implications of the fair approach in terms of recovery and transition for both beneficiaries and participating vendors are significant. Although direct distribution remains an important intervention method, humanitarian actors in similar contexts should increasingly consider fairs or combined distributions/fairs as a preferred alternative option for emergency and post-emergency household relief assistance in rural DRC.

Vendor selection and availability of goods:

Organizations should take an active role in selecting vendors and not over-rely on commercial associations in order to ensure the widest range of vendors and goods. The decision to include particular vendors or not should be based on an assessment of their capacities to provide NFIs in line with beneficiary preferences.

Meeting multi-sector needs: UNICEF and other humanitarian actors in DRC should explore options for broadening the fairs to include other sectors so that beneficiaries can meet a wider variety of needs in one place. Inspired by a model developed by Concern Worldwide in North Kivu, implementing partners have experimented with having local primary schools present at the fairs so that families can utilise their vouchers to pay school fees. In addition in Ituri, one NGO has collaborated with local health centres for a health voucher pilot.

A challenge to more integrated cash-based response in DRC has been that coordination and programmatic response is highly sectorized or 'clusterized.' Further efforts need to be made in the DRC and specifically within the coordination of response among UN 'mandated' agencies—UNICEF for NFI, WFP for food assistance, FAO for agriculture and livelihood recovery—on bringing their expertise and the expertise of their partners together to conduct joint fairs and joint programmes which would provide families with choices across sectors. This should involve more pilots and exploration as well of the opportunities and limits that would be associated with bringing unconditional cash transfer programming to scale in the DRC.

Broadening response options: Additionally, humanitarian actors in this and similar emergencies should consider and try other cash and voucher-based forms of assistance, choosing the modality that is most suited to local conditions, and not limiting assistance to either voucher fairs or direct distributions. For example, in an urban setting unconditional cash transfers or the use of vouchers in an open market may be a more appropriate response option. A number of organizations are now implementing programs based on other models such as vouchers on open markets and direct unconditional cash transfers. The learning from these programs needs to be shared so that all organizations are equipped with a variety of options to make the programming choices which best respond to needs.

Contact details and further reading

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Further Reading:

CaLP (2011), Voucher Fairs: A Quick Delivery Guide to Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, CaLP

P. Harvey and S. Bailey (2011) Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, ODI.



Voucher fairs are a way of offering a wide range of goods that allow beneficiaries greater choice.
Inset picture: Two Solidarites staff registering a vendor's merchandise before the fair opens.



CaLP

The Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) aims to promote appropriate, timely and quality cash and voucher programming as a tool in humanitarian response and preparedness.

Originating from the will to gather the lessons learnt from the Tsunami emergency response in 2005, the CaLP is today composed by Oxfam GB, the British Red Cross, Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council and Action Against Hunger / ACF International. The five steering committee organisations have come together to support capacity building, research and information-sharing on cash transfer programming as an effective tool to support populations affected by disasters in a way that maintains dignity and choice for beneficiaries while stimulating local economies and markets.

In 2010, the CaLP partnered with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies (IFRC), with support from ECHO and Visa Inc.

For more information visit: www.cashlearning.org

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Links:

UNICEF web stories/updates

http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/drcongo_56433.html

http://www.unicef.org/drcongo/french/resources_5510.html OCHA Videos/documents featuring the Fairs:

Lien : "Cash-based Vouchers et Foires" dans le menu "Rapports/ Etudes sur la RDC" : http://rdc-humanitaire.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=563:experience-avec-lapproche-cash-based-vouchers-et-foires&catid=47:etudes-humanitaire-en-rdc&Itemid=127

Lien "Soko Muzuri" dans le menu "Centre de presse Médiathèque": http://rdc-humanitaire.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=524:soko-muzuri-nouvelle-approche-dassistance-aux-personnes-vulnerables&catid=31:mediatheque&Itemid=112

Documentaire OCHA 'Soko Muzuri' sur les foires (23 minutes)<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJrnnLcE6S8>

NGO and Humanitarian Reform Project's 'Good Practice Paper Series': <http://www.icva.ch/doc00004197.pdf>

Notes

1 Provinces in eastern DR Congo are divided into administrative units known as territories. Walikale territory is North Kivu province's largest and least populated territory. The administrative seat of Walikale territory is a town also named Walikale; the territory's commercial center and largest town is Mubi.

2 As part of the RRMP program, UNICEF and partners such as Solidarités International have developed a series of standardized Multi-Sectoral Assessment (MSA) tools which assist in orienting teams toward the areas of most critical need by highlighting vulnerabilities in key 'red flag' indicators for each sector. In 2006 UNICEF and partners developed a household survey tool known as the 'NFI Score-card' which assists to measure vulnerabilities in terms of access to NFI on a scale of 0-5 with 5 being the most acute vulnerability.

3 RRMP is a combination of two previously existing programs – RRM (Rapid Response Mechanism) which focused more on displacement in less stable areas and PEAR (Programme of Expanded Assistance to Returns) which was oriented toward more stable return areas. In 2010, UNICEF and partners combined the two programs into the single RRMP mechanism. RRMP is co-managed by UNICEF and OCHA and implemented by multiple international NGO partners including Solidarités International, AVSI, CRS (Catholic Relief Services), IRC (International Rescue Committee) and NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council). Donors who support RRMP include DFID, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Official Development Assistance, ECHO, USAID's OFDA (Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance), SIDA, the DR Congo Humanitarian Coordinator's Common Humanitarian Fund (the 'Pooled Fund') and CERF.

4 The first NFI voucher fairs in Walikale were conducted by UNICEF partner NRC in April of 2009 and focused primarily on returning IDPs.

5 In some remote areas, where no financial services of any kind are available, RRMP partners will pay cash.