

URCS Training on Market Based Programming for WASH

September 2023, Entebbe, Uganda

Training Report



Introduction

Background

The current situation shows that URCS is both experienced in WASH- and in CVA programming and has started to increasingly integrate the two (example: under the Oxfam consortium). As such, this provides fertile grounds to work towards the integration of WASH and CVA programming, where relevant. Why is it relevant?

Market based programming for WASH focuses on strengthening WASH markets in a sustainable way. This is done through providing WASH market actors -such as vendors and regional traders- with support in their ability to supply the needed WASH items before-, during-, and after a disaster, in a sustainable way (supply-side intervention). And, at times of crisis, when households are not able to procure those WASH items, through provision of CVA assistance (demand-side intervention), which will keep the supply chain intact during shocks. Market based programming integrates WASH and CVA by focusing both on supply-side interventions in the market, and demand-side interventions at household level.

Apart from this report, [a video as](#) well as a visual, comic-style summary (see Annex 1) were used to document the training.

Training Objectives

The objective of the training was:

- To equip participants with skills in Market Based Programming for WASH needs.
- To get more understanding on the linkage between Cash and Voucher Assistance within the WASH Sector.

Target audience

The target audience for the training were 23 (4 female, 19 male) URCS' CVA-, WASH-, DRM managers and project managers, with particular focus on those that will be able to integrate the learnings from the training hands-on into the projects they are involved in. A detailed list of participants can be found in Annex 2.



Delivery

Agenda

The agenda/ time table of the training-as-run can be seen in figure 1.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
9:00-10:00	Welcome; Getting to know; Expectations; Rules; Program	Recap	Recap	Recap	Recap
10:00 - 11:00		Introduction into CVA, part 2	Introduction into CVA, part 3	MBP Application for URCS projects - presentations	MBP Application for URCS projects - presentations
11:00 - 12:00	WASH Introduction	Introduction into CVA, part 2	Introduction into CVA, part 3		
12:00 - 1:00	Pre-Test	Market assessment theory & tools	Scenario Group Work about response options	MBP Application for URCS projects - groupwork	Test, Evaluation, Closure
1:00- 2:00	Lunchbreak				
2:00- 3:00	Introduction into Market Based Programming	Market monitoring simulation	Scenario Group Work about response options cont.	URCS WASH PCMA presentation	
3:00 - 4:00				MBP Application for URCS projects - groupwork cont.	
4:00 - 5:00	Introduction into CVA, part 1	Market mapping	Scenario Group presentations		

Figure 1 - Training Agenda

Methods

The training was conducted by using the following methods:

- Powerpoint presentations
- Interactive plenary discussions & quizzes
- Simulation exercises
- Scenario based group work incl. presentations of their results
- Concrete planning of piloting MBP in URCS WASH projects
- Pre- & Post-knowledge-tests



Content

Due to the mixed profiles of the participants (some with WASH, others with CVA backgrounds), it was necessary to include basic introductions into WASH and CVA (in addition to an introduction into market based programming), so that there is a common language & understanding of key concepts in the training.

After those basic introductions, the training focused on 2 aspects of market based programming: market assessments and market based response options. For each of those topics a full day was devoted. The content of those 2 days was based on a 5-days training package on MBP for WASH from the global WASH cluster, including a rich scenario.

Presentations, posters and scenario materials can be downloaded from this [shared drive](#).

Finally, a full day was devoted to adapt the learnings from hypothetical scenarios to actual projects of URCS. 3 different projects/ interventions were selected, and participants split into groups to develop ideas how to integrate market based programming. Each group included participants that are actually involved in the management of the concrete projects, so that generated ideas are relevant& feasible for the projects at hand. The selected projects and the ideas developed were:

Project Name	MBP for WASH idea
Chronic crisis	Piloting vouchers to support people suffering from incontinence in Rhino camp
ECHO PPP	Piloting vouchers to support menstrual hygiene management in Palabek camp
Mount Elgon Flood response	Adapting URCS standar baseline needs assessment questionnaire to include key market assessment details

Results

Knowledge-tests

Participants had to fill out knowledge-tests before and after the training. The questions consisted of explaining common WASH & CVA acronyms and single-choice questions about WASH, MBP and CVA. In total there were 26 questions, which can be accessed under [this link](#).

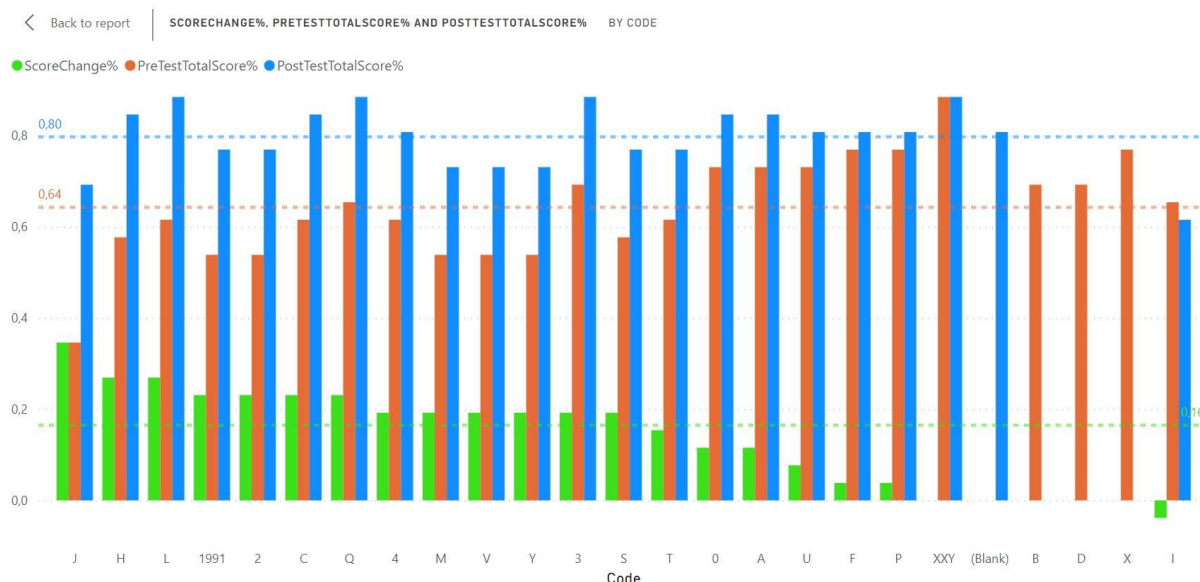


Figure 2 - Pre- and Posttraining Knowledge Test results

Figure 2 shows the results of the pre- and post-training knowledge tests. Each participant used a code so that pre- and post-training test results could be compared. Some codes were only entered before the training, and others only after the training, possibly due to a mix up of codes, late-comers or early-leavers. Before the training the average score (% of correct answers) for all participants was 64%, whereas the average score after the training was 80%. For those participants that took the tests before & after the training, 1 participant scored slightly worse, 1 participant scored equal to and 19 participants scored better after the training then before. On average, participants improved their scoring by 15% points.

Evaluation

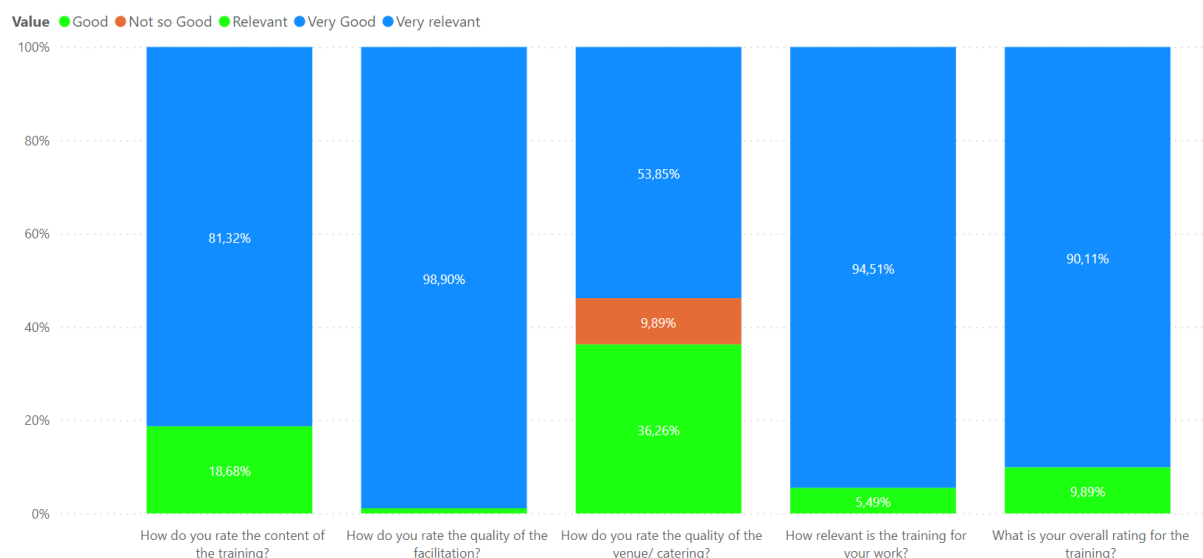


Figure 3 - Quantitative Evaluation

13 participants filled in the Kobo-evaluation survey, out of which the overwhelming majority rated all aspects of the training very good/ very relevant or good/ relevant. Only 1 participant had a slightly negative evaluation of the venue/ catering.

The free text from the survey can be seen in Figure 4.

Additionally, key learnings, positive impressions and room for improvement was brainstormed with participants in the training, and the results were more or less the same as for the online-survey.

Recurrent complaints focused on the timing of the training, with Saturday seen as impractical, especially in light of the fact that some of the participants had to travel quite far to get back to their duty station.

In terms of content, one suggestion that was repeated several times was the addition of a visit to an actual market, to gain real-life exposure to market assessments.

The concrete work on designing pilot interventions for actual URCS projects was seen as very valuable.

What is your key take-away from the training?

TYPBEZEICHNUNG: "TEXT". 13 von 13 Befragten hat diese Frage waren ohne Daten.)

Wert	F
The relationship between cash and wash is very important and should be take up in most interventions under URCS	
CvA as a response modality,how to use CVA in WASH, Criteria to use while implementing CVA for WASH, factors to consider before implementing CVA	
We can implement our interventions on both demand and supply sides in order not to harm the market.	
Using CVA in WASH Programs	
CVA can perfectly work when no step is skipped	
The final exercise on how to go about a market intervention.	
Market Assessments	
MBP should be part of my CTP work	
The response cycle, key notes for market assessment and the role of beneficiaries/POCs/communities at risk and their involvement in the whole chain of response.	
Incorporating Market Based Programming in WASH Interventions	
Knowledge in Market Assessment	
Integrating CVA into all the sectors	
It is important to focus on both the demand side and the supply side in MBP.	

What could we improve?

TYPBEZEICHNUNG: "TEXT". 12 von 13 Befragten hat diese Frage waren ohne Daten.)

Wert	
Training time should be more than 1 week	
More time is needed for the training	
More information on the supply side of the intervention	
Increase on the number of days for the training.	
Participation of all the trainees	
Enough preparatory time	
MEB policies	
Have general application of MBP in all programming not limited to WASH	
All is well	
Never include Weekenes	
Content Vs time	
We could include a field visit to an actual market for participants to appreciate more about market operations.	

What was the best thing about the training?

TYPBEZEICHNUNG: "TEXT". 13 von 13 Befragten hat diese Frage waren ohne Daten.)

Wert	
Information sharing from different projects on MBP	
Practical examples, group discussions and participatory approaches used	
Increased knowledge in Market Based Programming in WASH	
Learning, interaction with different colleagues from the WASH programs and intergrating CVA into WASH.	
Interactive approach	
It was both informative and practical/the simulations were very educative.	
It was interesting	
The practical assignments given were so engaging and making us learn more	
lots of cross learning from different projects and different departments	
The training was participatory and fan	
Interaction	
Demand and supply in implementation of CVA programming	
The content was relevant and enriching. The facilitators relayed it very well to the trainees.	

Figure 4 - Free text from evaluation survey

Recommendations

- Future trainings would benefit from earlier advance preparations, which would increase the lead times of participants and also reduce the need for last-minute time-table shifts, eg. avoiding scheduling weekends for trainings.
- Future trainings should include field visit to real markets to have the opportunity to test some of the tools (eg market actor interview forms) in a real life setting, which would greatly facilitate the transfer of skills from a controlled and safe training environment to the messy reality. Alternatively, future trainings could be followed up by an actual (pre-crisis) market assessment, which would give even more opportunity to practically apply the skills learned in the training
- The technicalities of CVA programming were only briefly touched in this training. Consequently, additional follow up in-depth CVA trainings are recommended.
- The scenario appeared to be overloaded with lots of material that had little relevance to the topic of market based WASH programming, which proved to be a barrier to study the material in-depth. Simultaneously, the information that directly related to specific markets had limited depth. Especially it provided few aspects that could trigger discussions about supply side interventions. It is recommended to adapt the scenario accordingly.