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Voucher based system for agro-input distribution and how it has allowed the clients/communities to have more wider choice.



a. What was the developmental problem?

The agri inputs included multiple choices for the clients and therefore would require multiple goods (seeds, tools etc) and livestock (goats, chicken etc) to be procured and distributed. There were risk of the following two possible scenarios:-

1. Limited choice for the clients to choose from the procured stocks of goods and livestock.
2. Clients receive the procured goods and stocks of goods and livestock which may not be according to their need.

Therefore unconditional restricted vouchers were implemented to ensure these situations were avoided allowing the clients to have complete choice and autonomy over their favored agri inputs.



b. What was the innovation?

The vouchers modality implemented were restricted vouchers i.e. it can only be redeemed at specific vendors/traders for pre-set list of items for the mentioned value of the voucher. The voucher modality was explained to both the clients and vendors. Also, all the items available with the price details were informed to clients after consultation and confirmation with the communities and local authorities. The options available did not include live stock as the required number of livestock were not available with the vendors at each community and were needed to be procured from few of the major vendors located at the main markets of the district. Because of this limitation, the vouchers were only applicable for the seeds and the tools. This adaption allowed us to meet the clients' needs and also helped us to improve the local economy by involving the vendors/traders in the agri input distributions.



(In Sindhupalchowk, electronic vouchers were used instead of the paper vouchers)

c. What or Who were the enablers?

The enabler for the voucher modality in agri input distribution were the adaptability and readiness of the partner NGO and traders/vendors.

d. What was the impact?

1. Improved flexibility and choice for the clients while preserving their dignity
2. Improved ownership of the traders/vendors who strived to deliver quality products as they wanted to make the clients as their regular clients.



e. Could this innovation be scaled up?

The scaling of the vouchers always depends upon the market and the vendors/traders available in the market. When the traders/vendors have the capacity the scaling up is always a possibility.