

Summary Note on Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting

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| Date/ Time & Venue | 21 April 2022, 10.00 – 12.00 (via MS Teams) | |
| Chair / Co-chair | Mercy Corps (John Nelson), WFP (Ria Lewis, Thin Thin Aye) and MRCS (Moe Thida Win) | |
| Participants | Action Aid, Acted, CARE, CRS, DCA, DFID, DRC, ECHO, FCA, FCDO, Help Age, Helvetas, HPA, INGO Forum, ICRC, IFRC, INGO Forum, IRC, IOM, JICA, KMSS, LIFT, Malteser International, Mercy Corps, Metta, MRCS, NRC, OCHA, Plan International, Protection Sector, Save the Children, SI, Tearfund, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNICEF – WASH, UNWOMEN, WFP, WFP – FSS, WFP – Sittwe, WFP- Myitkyina, WVI, | |
| Agenda items and summary of discussion | Action Points | |
| <p>1. Sub-National CWG updates</p> <p>Kachin</p> <p>In Kachin, banking and liquidity issues persist in Kachin which further delayed the daily life-saving activities. Transfer value needs to be reviewed due to sharp rise in commodity prices. Multi-purpose cash assistance rate requires standardization with technical support from national CWG. WFP resumed e-cash activities for March 2022 in 38 camps and will continue expanding to other camps in April using Wave Money.</p> <p>Rakhine</p> <p>WFP resumed cash activities in Central Rakhine, with 83% of overall operation experienced changes in commodity prices. Fuel prices continued to go up, and there were significant increase in oil prices, creating challenges for oil importation. There were more demands for cooking fuel and petrol due to significant power cuts. WFP resumed e-cash programme in February 2022 in Sittwe, and are expanding to Kyauk Taw and Mrauk Oo using Wave Money.</p> | | |
| <p>2. Market updates</p> <p>Mercy Corps and WFP provided market updates for March 2022 respectively on geographical areas and nationwide market price updates. Fuel prices increased by +18% in March resulting in the price more than doubled (+133%) compared to pre-crisis, driving increasing retail commodity prices further. There were increases in edible oil prices due to transportation costs and volatility in local exchange rates. Salt prices had seen increases following damaging rains to large salt farms in Mon State. Chickpea prices increased in northern Rakhine because of high demand during Ramadan. Impact of insecurity continues across many parts of the country, further restricting transportation and movement of goods.</p> <p>For more details on Mercy Corps market updates on Rakhine and Southeast, please see http://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit and refer to the attached presentation.</p> <p>For more details on WFP market updates, please see the Market Monitoring Dashboard and refer to the attached presentation.</p> | | |

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| <p>3. Gender sensitive cash and voucher assistance (CVA) guidelines</p> <p>CARE presented gender sensitive CVA guidelines for members information. While there was no common definition of gender sensitive CVA at the start of the study, there was a general consensus that gender-sensitive CVA should be: Designed to respond to the unique needs and capacities of women, men, boys, girls, and those of other genders; Developed in a manner that avoids exposing recipients to harm; Designed with a recognition of the diversity and intersectionality that exists within gender groups; and Built upon existing social norms work and research. Gender sensitive CVA also needs to be aware of the protection risks associated with CVA in every step of the programme. Members are encouraged to share good examples of gender sensitive CVA being implemented and/or recommendations with CWG.</p> <p>For more details, please refer to attached presentation.</p> | |
| <p>4. 4Ws update</p> <p>A total of 39 organisations responded to the CWG 2021 year-end 4Ws survey. A total value of USD 38.1 million were spent in cash programming which is +7% increase from 2020, reaching 1.1 million people (+10% increase from 2020 reach). Cash programmes were implemented across 13 sectors in 17 states and sub-regions and 160 townships (+22% increase from 2020), of which cash for food entailed the highest value interventions. The most utilized delivery mechanism was cash in envelope and most frequently, unconditional and unrestricted programming type was applied. After finalization of 4Ws, the infographic as well as public and protected versions of 4Ws data sets will be produced.</p> <p>For more details, please refer to the attached presentation.</p> | |
| <p>5. Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) update</p> <p>Myanmar SMEB update was provided with regards to calculation of food items, WASH hygiene kit consumables, shelter items and lump sum, as well as lump sum payment for services. Itemized SMEB option (130,040 MMK) and hybrid itemized with lump sums SMEB option (136,311 MMK) were presented for members' consideration. Suggestion was made to consider the values provided by other calculations such as Myanmar Living Condition survey.</p> <p>The SMEB presentation, together with an Excel calculation sheet will be shared with members to provide feedback. A follow-up discussion will be scheduled subsequently for members to provide more detailed feedback and further discussion on SMEB calculation.</p> | <p># Co-chair to share SMEB PowerPoint and Excel calculation with members for feedback</p> |
| <p>6. FSP indicators</p> <p>Following up from the conversation from last CWG around the presence and coverage of financial service providers, co-chair presented the topics and questions that could potentially be useful for FSP analysis when developing the database. These include questions around regulation, preparedness (geographical coverage and ability to scale up), mechanisms, Know Your Customer standards, ID and previous experiences operating in humanitarian setting. It was noted that setting and measuring of these indicators and data collection aspects still need to be discussed in future meetings.</p> | |

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| <p>7. Update on CVA TOT</p> <p>The refresher TOT trainings will be conducted in 2022 and mode of trainings will be confirmed and communicated in due course. TOTs will be organized tentatively around June 2022. As next steps, core trainers from the 2021 Cohort will be identified and outstanding training applications from the 2021 TOT session will be communicated once the training information is confirmed.</p> | <p># TOT dates to be confirmed and core trainers to be identified</p> |
| <p>8. CWG communication</p> <p>CWG created a short survey and disseminated to members to take stock of the preferred communication channel for sharing time-sensitive information and CVA related matters. So far, the majority favored to use the existing MS Teams site. Members are encouraged to check the CWG Teams site for accessibility issue and respond to the survey to indicate preferred communication channel.</p> | <p>#Members to take a short survey and access existing Teams site.</p> |
| <p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cash Programming page on MIMU Website ● Mercy Corps MAU market price report dashboard ● Myanmar: Cash Working Group (CWG) on MIMU Page ● Myanmar CWG final Terms of Reference (June 2020) ● Myanmar CWG 4Ws (as of 10 November 2020) ● Southeast Rapid Market Assessment ● WFP Market Monitoring Dashboard | |

Next CWG meeting: Thursday, 10:00 – 12:00, 12 May 2022 (TBC)