

FINAL: Summary Note on Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting

Date/ Time & Venue	6 August 2020, 14:00 – 15:45 (via Webex)	
Chair / Co-chair	WFP (Marc Gschwend), Mercy Corps (John Nelson) and MRCS (Moe Thida Win)	
Participants	ACF, ACTED, ARC, AVSI, CARE, Christian Aid, DCA, ECHO, IFRC, Koe Koe Tech, LIFT, Malteser, ModusBox, NRC, OCHA, PATH, RI, SCI, SI, Trocaire, UNICEF, WHH, WVM	
Agenda items and summary of discussion	Action Points	
<p>Social Protection Coordination Mechanisms & Nexus – including Government Cash Transfers</p> <p>UNICEF briefed on the UN Social Protection interagency meeting, which is developing an online tool and dashboard for mapping of social protection programs linked to COVID-19 response (also intended to cover humanitarian cash transfers). The interagency group is also setting up a webpage that contains key policy documents, resources and learning opportunities, and the link will be shared with CWG members. In addition, a Government-led Social Protection Sector Coordination Group meets regularly in Naw Pyi Taw and CWG leadership will engage with the group where appropriate.</p> <p>UNICEF highlighted potential opportunities for linking government social protection efforts and humanitarian cash transfer programming such as the coordinated mapping, knowledge exchange and sharing best practices among groups. The Social Protection interagency group is keen to link its ongoing mapping of UN support for Government social protection programmes with the CWG 4Ws exercises. The CWG leadership team will have a separate discussion on how to link the two mapping exercises, which recognizing the different objectives/criteria of the humanitarian programming and government led social protection programs.</p>		
<p>Update on LIFT support to social protection and DSW</p> <p>LIFT presented its cash transfers programs including cash for work interventions and support to the national programs such as MCCT, social pension, etc. LIFT’s cash transfers have been mobilized as a safety net to protect from and cope with shocks during COVID-19 building on existing systems and partnerships. The precise figures of allocation and delivery mechanisms (both regular and COVID-19 expansion) to support vulnerable group were presented. LIFT together with the Government is currently monitoring the use of cash and supportiveness towards the recipients.</p> <p>LIFT is supporting implementation of the Government COVID-19 Economic Response Plan (CERP) and other COVID-19 related plans, including the UN SERF and CPRP. To build resilience to the socio-economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, one-off cash transfers have been provided to IDP households in Kachin, northern Shan, Kayin, Rakhine and Chin states (for both government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas) through different partners/stakeholders. The program has been designed in collaboration with Department of Social Welfare (DSW). LIFT is in the process of identifying risks and designing mitigation measures. Some CWG members expressed interest in understanding more about protection risks and mitigation measures identified. The CWG members were invited to share experience and provide inputs into the mitigation measures.</p>		
<p>Cash for work (CFW)</p> <p>WHH briefed on its pilot cash for work (CFW) project in the Ayeryawaddy Region, funded by LIFT. The project was developed based on the “Delta Rapid Market Assessment”</p>		

<p>conducted by Mercy Corps and WHH, and will be implemented in partnership with Department of Agriculture (DoA), Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI). This project aims to support the establishment of infrastructure on DOA and DAR (Department of Agricultural Research) seed farms, generate employment opportunities and build capacity in CFW programs. The project duration, key targets and activities were shared with the members.</p> <p>WHH had developed selection criteria for beneficiaries for CFW programming in consultation with local authorities. CWG members were requested to provide feedback/guidance on the proposed criteria. WHH also raised its concern on setting minimum wages and suggested CWG to have a standardized rate across areas. It was mentioned that mobile payment will be used for this pilot project to avoid handling physical cash in light of COVID-19. The importance of distinguishing between CFW in an employment context versus lighter CFW models deployed as part of humanitarian responses was noted.</p> <p>LIFT clarified that the intent of the pilot project was to provide a learning opportunities to MOALI on the design, implementation, management and monitoring of the CFW programs and understand the cash transfers as an important component of the response.</p> <p>The CFW task team, consists of WHH, SI, DRC, ACTED and WFP, will have a separate meeting to agree on the minimum standards.</p>	
<p>Finalization of Cash Working Group (CWG) workplan</p> <p>The co-chair informed the group that the workplan has been revised based on the members' feedback. The members were encouraged to review the updated version and reach out to CWG leadership for any particular activities/deliverables they are ready to contribute towards. Since CFW has been a major interest of the members, the task team has been set up and the first meeting will be organized next week. It was also noted that the workplan can be adapted as/when needed.</p>	<p># To circulate the updated workplan (already completed)</p>
<p>HPC: Development of 2021 HNO/HRP</p> <p>OCHA informed the group that the ICCG had agreed on the overall parameters for 2021 HPC and provided recommendations to HCT. It was agreed to update the last year needs/severity analysis based on the latest figures, noting that while the situation had deteriorated in parts of Rakhine and southern Chin and COVID-19 had introduced new challenges, the key drivers of humanitarian need remained consistent as did the geographical areas and primary population groups affected. The HCT agreed to retain the four categories of target beneficiaries and same geographical scope from last year, potentially with some minor adjustments. One of the key priorities is to improve the integration of cash and AAP across the process. It would be opportunities for CWG leadership to better integrate knowledge and experience into the process, and to incorporate information accessibility and functionality of markets as part of broader contextual and needs analysis. The 2021 HNO is due to be finalized by 10 September and HRP is scheduled to be finalized by the end of November. A consolidated picture of the use of multipurpose cash, as well as of links between cash and in-kind modalities should be included in the HRP.</p>	
<p>Establishment of CWG online platform</p> <p>The co-chair proposed to establish an online platform to share information and discuss issues. The quick poll on the establishment of CWG online group and preferred platform will be sent out for members' feedback.</p>	<p># To send poll for establishment of online group and preferred platform (already completed)</p>
<p>AOB</p>	

Member program updates: ACF shared that they have conducted rapid need assessment in Rakhine (Sittwe and Minbya) and it was completed in June. The report will be shared with the members.

Cash and Protection issues: It was suggested the cash and protection to be included as an agenda for September CWG meeting.

Useful links

- [Resources for Cash-based Programming](#)
- [Cash preparedness profiles in disaster-prone states](#)
- [Myanmar CWG final Terms of Reference \(June 2020\)](#)
- [Myanmar CWG 4Ws \(as of 29 July 2020\)](#)

Next CWG meeting: 14:00 – 16:00, 3 September 2020