

## Summary Note on Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting

<b>Date/ Time &amp; Venue</b>	17 August 2023, 10:00AM – 12:00 PM (via Zoom)	
<b>Chair</b>	<b>Marcel Vaessen (OCHA)</b>	
<b>Participants</b>	59 participants. Attendance record stored by OCHA.	
<b>Agenda items and summary of discussion</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	
<p><b>1. Sub-national updates</b></p> <p><b>Kachin</b></p> <p>Kachin Food Security Cluster/CWG meeting took place on 25 July and the next meeting will be held on 25 August. INGOs reported that they have been facing cash transfer issues due to MoU and registration status, hence affecting the programme implementation. There were some 9,000 new IDPs in Hpa Kant, Bhamo, Moe Mauk and Shwe Ku in recent weeks. So far, emergency cash assistance was provided to IDPS by local partners. Prices are likely to increase in the coming months due to ongoing conflicts and restrictions.</p> <p><b>Rakhine</b></p> <p>Goods are still available in markets in Central Rakhine despite high prices. It was observed that cash-based transfers is a preferred modality. In Rathedaung and Pauk Taw, movement of goods is restricted, as thus, WFP shifted to rice plus cash assistance. Impact of flood was seen in Min Bya, Mrauk Oo and Kyauk Taw townships.</p> <p>Oxfam updated that the MPCA transfer will commence from the last week of August in Rakhine, covering six targeted townships including Central Rakhine and Rohingya villages. The SMEB amount will be referenced in setting the transfer value.</p> <p><b>Southeast</b></p> <p>The SE CWG meeting was held on 2 August, and various agenda items were discussed including access situation presentation by OCHA, FSP mapping and PDM reporting. FLER will be invited to present in the next SE CWG meeting.</p>		
<p><b>2. Market price updates</b></p> <p>WFP and Mercy Corps presented the market price monitoring updates for July 2023.</p> <p>Mercy Corps presented market price monitoring updates for July 2023 with the data collected from 18 markets across Rakhine, Sagaing and Southeast areas. 29 products were monitored across 270 vendors. Essential food prices were stable in July, keeping in place May's price hikes. Vegetable prices were stable or falling, which may be driven by low-quality rather than high supply. NFI prices were relatively stable, with stockouts less frequent when compared to June 2023. It is noted that while stable food and NFI prices are welcome news, rice and vegetables should be watched closely for lingering supply issues related to Cyclone Mocha.</p> <p>WFP reported that the basic food basket price went up to 5.3% compared to last month, and a staggering 73.7% compared to same time last year. Due to the depreciation of Myanmar Kyat, prices went up in July for commodities including rice, cooking oil (palm oil) and fuel. Prices were especially high in Kachin, Sagaing and Northern Shan due to the seasonal transport challenges, foreign and domestic demands and the exchange rate.</p> <p>For more details, please visit Mercy Corps Market Analysis Unit dashboard at <a href="https://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit">https://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit</a> and WFP <a href="#">Market Monitoring Dashboard</a> and refer to the attached presentations.</p>		

<p><b>3. Cash Coordination Model updates</b></p> <p>The CWG co-chairs stated that the transitioning of OCHA into the CWG non-programmatic co-chair role will commence from August 2023 in line with the new IASC cash coordination model. OCHA is currently in the process of recruiting the dedicated cash coordinator who will take on responsibility of co-chairing once onboard. The CWG Terms of Reference will be updated to reflect changes in leadership and governance, and the selection of programmatic co-chairs will also be conducted in a transparent manner. Members are encouraged to contact Marcel Vaessen at <a href="mailto:vaessen@un.org">vaessen@un.org</a> if there are queries related to the transition to the new model.</p>	
<p><b>4. Cash for Nutrition Outcomes Myanmar: Global Nutrition Cluster (GNC)</b></p> <p>The Global Nutrition Cluster Technical Alliance presented the CVA for Nutrition initiative in Myanmar. As the humanitarian operating space requires expansion of response options, CVA becomes important to reach hard to reach and underserved people. Myanmar has no prior experience in Nutrition in Emergencies and CVA, and hence Myanmar Nutrition Cluster seek technical support from the GNC Technical Alliance. The recent CVA in Nutrition webinar recommended that CVA guidelines for Nutrition in Emergencies should be drafted and sought endorsement from the cluster partners including UN, INGOs and local/national NGOs. An inception workshop will be organized in August to draft the skeleton guidance. An interim task force will be established in close coordination with CWG to validate and finalize the draft practical operational guidance.</p> <p>For further details, please refer to the attached presentation.</p>	
<p><b>5. CWG Workstream updates</b></p> <p>Basic CVA Training: The fourth batch of CVA training was organized from 27-29 July in Mawlamyine and 23 participants from various partner organizations from Southeast region participated. The training was financed by MRCS and facilitated by the WFP and MRCS trainers. Feedback from participants was mainly positive, with many of the participants achieving higher scores in the post-test. Lesson learnt and suggestions from participants involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Allowing more time between application, selection announcement and travel dates.</li> <li>- Having longer duration of the training (4 days recommended) to cover and absorb concepts better.</li> <li>- Scheduling the training on weekdays only.</li> </ul> <p>More details on participants' feedback can be found in the attached training report.</p>	
<p><b>6. AOB</b></p> <p><b>Northwest CWG:</b> CWG held the Scoping meeting with Northwest partners and CWG members on 11 August to further define the objectives and scope of NW CWG and identify next steps. The meeting note has been shared with the CWG and attendees, and the EOIs has been invited for organizations willing to chair/co-chair the group. CWG will also support in establishing the mailing list for NW CWG. Interested partners are invited to share the EOIs and mailing list subscription to John Nelson (<a href="mailto:jnelson@mercycorps.org">jnelson@mercycorps.org</a>) and Myo Thida Swe (<a href="mailto:myo.thidaswe.un.org">myo.thidaswe.un.org</a>). Further developments will be communicated to the CWG in due course.</p> <p>CALP Network updated that they have re-established their presence in the Asia-pacific region. CALP Network also provides information on the launch of a new online course named “<b>Linking Humanitarian CVA with Social Protection</b>”. Interested members are encouraged to check the course <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	

### Useful links

- [Cash Programming page on MIMU Website](#)
- [Mercy Corps MAU market price report dashboard](#)
- [WFP market monitoring dashboard](#)
- [Myanmar: Cash Working Group \(CWG\) on MIMU Page](#)
- [CALP Network's "Linking Humanitarian CVA with Social Protection" online course](#)

**Next CWG meeting: Thursday 10:00 – 12:00, 14 September 2023**