Summary Note on Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting

Date/ Time & Venue	15 December 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 PM (via MS Teams)
Chair	Ria Lewis (WFP)
Participants	Action Aid, CARE, DRK, ICRC, IOM, Malteser International, Mercy Corps, MRCS, NPA, NRC, PUI, REACH, Save the Children, UNDP, UNFAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WVI, Zig Way.

Sub-national CWG updates

Agenda items and summary of discussion

Action Points

Kachin

Monthly Food Security Cluster and Cash Working Group meeting took place on 24 November, highlighted Relief distribution status (including newly response) and Response Plan for 2023, Cash Working Group Update (SMEB & MPCA transfer values) by National CWG Coordinator, Data sharing and update FSC 5Ws, Share the findings points for an assessment of the rat-affected areas by KBC and Honorary rates for camp workers. As all participants agreed, the meeting will be skipped in December however ad-hoc meeting will be organized if needed. Next meeting will be on 24 January 2023.

Rakhine

Prices of basic commodities started to decline slightly following the informal ceasefire between AA and MAF. However, prices remain higher compared to before the military takeover. Vulnerable households were still unable to regain livelihood opportunities, resulting in limited access to basic needs including food. The ban on movement of medical drugs has caused prices to go up beyond the reach of many, making access to health services more difficult. Restrictions remained in place for eight townships in Rakhine since 15 September. OCHA has been advocating for travel authorizations and to regain access to areas including eight townships. Distribution activities and international staff movement between Buthedaung, Maung Daw and transportation of medicines, medical and relief supplies is expected to restart in near future.

Southeast

Knowledge sharing session on MEB and SMEB session and Southeast CWG meeting for December has been completed. Partners discussed planning process and noted that there has been bilateral discussion with SE CWG to avoid overlaps and duplications. As the SE CWG plan for 4Ws data collection, support on information management from national CWG will be necessary. Partners also requested to have market price data for agricultural product and FSP information shared among CWG members.

2. Market updates

WFP reached markets from 77 Township across Myanmar to collect the November market price monitoring data. Compared to October 2022, prices remain stable across different commodities except eggs and onions which saw 5% and 14% increases respectively. Overall, basic food basket price increased by 58% compared to same time last year, with significant price increases for cooking oil, mixed oil, onion and egg. Fuel

price saw 81% overall year-on-year change, although prices remain relatively stable between October and November 2022. Among key factors driving price changes, increased transportation cost, travel restrictions, and increased demand locally.

For more details on WFP market price monitoring, please visit <u>Market Monitoring</u> <u>Dashboard</u>.

3. Mainstreaming GBV considerations in CVA: key findings

GBV sub-cluster presented findings from joint GBV-CVA workshop held in October 2022. In Myanmar, over \$53M has been disbursed in CVA since Jan 2021. Despite of security challenges & access limitations, most CVA interventions have been made possible through localized, low-profile approach. Many monitoring activities have been conducted remotely over the phone. The areas of focus are 1) to increase women's accessibility to CVA, 2) to increase accountability and build more effective post-distribution monitoring and community feedback mechanisms in hard-to-reach areas, and 3) to increase inclusion of all community sectors for more effective and safe intervention. CVA actors are encouraged to liaise with specialized services on GBV and protection to enhance awareness and link to referral pathways in order to minimize risks. It is also crucial to ensure that data protection standards are in place and partners are fully trained on following these standards. The key findings will be disseminated to national and regional GBV/cash actors and follow up meetings with cash actors are planned for mid-2023.

4. Digital Platform: Nagis

Digital Platform Nagis introduced its products, features, and data protection policy for member's information. Nagis was established in Turkey as digital platform provider and has been implementing various projects across the globe. Interested CWG members can reach out to omer@ngsbulgaria.com directly for more details.

5. Workstream update

Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI)

The latest JMMI concept note has been produced in close consultation with various CWG member organization. The JMMI will be conducted through the CWG and key member organizations devoted to the task force to have recurring data collection using the common and harmonized tool. All participating partners will collect data and REACH will conduct centralized data cleaning and analysis on behalf of the group. The JMMI will track commodities in the MEB and SMEB where possible. There are 10 organizations currently collecting the market price monitoring (MPM) data and additional five organizations are interested in collecting MPM. Members are encouraged to send the feedback on latest JMMI concept note. The market monitoring task force is hoped to be set up in January 2023 and begin to connect with potential partners to kick start the JMMI.

CVA TOT

The next batch of CVA TOT training will be delivered in Sittwe, Rakhine and the national CWG is working closely with UNDP, the co-chair of Sittwe CWG for logistics and planning aspects. More details on CVA TOT will be shared with CWG in due course.

6. **CWG 5Ws**

CWG is planning to launch the 5Ws exercise at the beginning of January 2023. The updated 5Ws template allows CWG and its member organizations to report the implementation of CVA activities across the country. The 5Ws template will be shared with members for feedback following the meeting.

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
- Myanmar CWG final Terms of Reference (June 2020)

Next CWG meeting: Monday, 10:00 – 12:00, 16 January 2023