

Summary Note on Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting

Date/ Time & Venue	10 February 2022, 10.00 – 12.00 (via MS Teams)	
Chair / Co-chair	Mercy Corps (John Nelson), WFP (Thin Thin Aye and MRCS (Moe Thida Win)	
Participants	Action Aid, Acted, AVSI, CARE, CESVI, CRS, DCA, DFID, DRC, FCA, FCDO, HPA, INGO Forum, ICRC, IFRC, IRC, IOM, JICA, LIFT, LWF, Mercy Corps, Metta, MRCS, NRC, OCHA, Protection Sector, SI, SCI, Tearfund, TGH, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNICEF – WASH, UN Women, WFP, WFP – FSS, WFP – Sittwe, WFP- Myitkyina, WVI	
Agenda items and summary of discussion	Action Points	
<p>1. Sub-National CWG updates</p> <p>CWG co-chairs started participating in Chin/Sagaing/Magway coordination meetings. Key takeaway is that cash response was being implemented in the area in low profile because of difficulties securing TAs. MRCS updated that access has been approved for MRCS activities in Southern Shan, Kachin, Sagaing and Magway and discussion to be made between WFP and MRCS for food distribution. MRCS initiated new agreement with Ongo financial services for cash distribution and is possible to extend agreement with them to cover new geographical areas. The current service fees is 6% for humanitarian assistance. MRCS distributed both cash and voucher for food and cash in envelope of 25,000 MMK per household.</p> <p>Southeast</p> <p>State level coordination groups are active in the Southeast, and discussions are taking place with local partners as the coordination structure has been strengthened. CWG members are encouraged to participate in Southeast coordination group meetings to take any cash-related issues forward.</p>		
<p>2. Member updates</p> <p>AVSI Foundation Myanmar has been working to address issues regarding one of its projects in Kayah State but has managed to convince the department concerned of its legal operations in Myanmar. AVSI met with and are now waiting for a letter from the Ministry of social welfare, relief, and resettlement which will reconfirm AVSI’s application for extension of MoU with it. Upon receiving the confirmation letter from the MSWRR, we will submit it to the military department concerned, which will then inform the regional and state-level military commands about AVSI’s legal presence in Myanmar. Meanwhile, AVSI has a clearance to start field activities including cash distribution and business startup fund in Kachin, Southern Shan and Ayeyarwady and kayah.</p> <p>Care has been distributing cash assistance to 600 IDP households for the purpose of food security in Kyaukme, Hsipaw and Muse Township of Northern Shan. Cash amount is 80,000 MMK per household and distributing through their partner Meikswe Myanmar via cash in envelope. CARE has plans to do a need assessment for existing project villages and displaced camps in Kayah and Southern Shan next week. In Kayah, CARE continues cash assistance to existing project villages through KMSS. This cash amount is 120,000 MMK per household in Kayah.</p> <p>CRS partnering with KMSS Hakha distributed cash for food and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) in Mindat, Thantlang and Hakha townships and 5,000 IDPs from Mindat and Thantlang. 23,000 MMK per month for three consecutive months will be delivered until the end of May 2022.</p> <p>DRC is distributing cash assistance to 1350 households in Northern Shan, with 1170 HHs focus on food and emergency support, and the rest on development and livelihood grants of an average 400,000 MMK per household for business startup. DRC Rakhine has completed livelihood and economic recovery programme involving 250 beneficiaries. Under youth skills development</p>		

<p>programme, 100 people with disabilities, 200 beneficiaries in Maungdaw and 50 in Sittwe received MPCCA.</p> <p>Save the Children updated on following activities. In Kayah: Rice and cash was provided to 11,054 IDPs in the Demoso and Hpruso Townships. Expansion ongoing with WFP as of February aiming to support 23,000 IDPs for six months. Through FAO support also planned to provide MPCG (170,000MMK) combined with some farming goods to 1,500 HHs in Feb/Mar. In Kayin: Registered 3,100 beneficiaries for support in Kayin through internal fund mechanism. Working with local partner to conduct distributions due to new requirements on local activity approval. With FAO, additional 1,700 HHs to be supported with MPCG (170,000MMK) combined with some farming goods to 1,500 HHs in Feb/Mar. In Rakhine: Continued work with WFP on supporting 38,000 IDPs in Sittwe and Pauktaw area. Under LIFT funded Let Sunk Kann programme in Sittwe and Pauktaw, 1,500 pregnant and breastfeeding women for anticipated 24 months support in form of MCCT gap filling cash transfers. Chin: Completed distribution to 1,300 beneficiaries in Hakha under the SIDA RRM support. Registration ongoing in Thantlang for limited support to most vulnerable HHS with manual cash transfers. In Shan State: 870 IDPs supported in January. Registration started in Souther Shan state in Mongkai and Yatsauk, with 1,277 IDPs registered so far and anticipated transfers in February depending on feasibility. In Shwe Pyi Thar/Yangon: Continued monthly distributions to MCCT pilot participants – 2,178 U2 beneficiaries supported with 30,000MMK for Jan 2022. Adaptive social support pilot for U5 children continued supporting 3,256 children aged 3-5 in Shwe Pyi Thar with monthly transfers of 20,000 MMK in Jan 2022.</p> <p>UNWOMEN updated that assessments are underway to provide cash assistance to 1,500 people with disabilities. Also started beneficiary selection in Kachin state under CERF funding. Grant capitals will be delivered for women GBV survivors in Tanintharyi, Rakhine and Kachin states respectively.</p>	
<p>3. Market updates</p> <p>WFP market price report update (January 2021): WFP presented market price updates collected from over a hundred markets from 72 townships. Prices are largely stable across different commodities although they remain elevated compared to 2021. Compared to December 2021, mixed oil, rice, chickpeas, eggs, onion and salt prices were quite stable, while prices of cooking oil increased by +5%. Among the key factors driving up commodity price changes are continuing insecurity across country, disrupted transportation and deteriorating exchange rate. The month-on-month increase in fuel prices was driven by increases in global crude oil prices.</p> <p>Overall, prices have significantly increased compared to December 2021 and pre-crisis. The price of rice has particularly increased <u>compared to last year</u> in Shan and Mon (+ 29 and +26% respectively). For cooking oil, the increases are most significant with prices more than doubled. The significant increases were seen in Kayin, Magway, Tanintharyi and Rakhine with >+75%. Mixed oil prices have increased more than doubled in Mon (+122%) and Northern Sagaing (+102%). The overall price of basic food basket remained stable through Dec 2021-Jan 2022. For more details, please see the WFP Market Monitoring Dashboard.</p> <p>Mercy Corps MAU Update: Reported that price for most vegetables have decreased as winter harvest continues. In Rakhine eggplant has decreased 37% and long bean 21%. Prices for some meat proteins have decreased. Chicken in particular decreased in 8% in Rakhine and 4% in the Southeast. Prices for NFIs remained mostly stable, although some cooking preparation items saw price increases. Full report and other information can be found on the MAU dashboard site.</p>	
<p>4. Transfer Values - Discussion</p> <p>Myanmar minimum expenditure basket indicates that 314,377 MMK is required to meet multi-sectoral basic needs for household comprising 5 members. It also includes a list of items endorsed by the clusters based on priority and agencies can set a transfer value based on the cost of these items. However, it is unlikely that participants will spend the cash exactly on the items, if cash is</p>	

<p>delivered in the form of unrestricted cash. Partners should consider delivering using a voucher or restricted modality if they would like to ensure participants spend cash on items indicated in the list. According to Sphere standard, current WFP standard food basket is set to meet minimum needs of 2100 Kcal per person a day. Transfer value is calculated combining the market price of standard food basket, average national inflation rate plus minimum transportation cost of 2% and is defined in each specific local market area. Co-chair presented key questions and general considerations to be considered when calculating or revising transfer values. For more information on Survival MEB Approach, FLER Approach and Cash for Work approach, please refer to the attached presentation.</p>	
<p>5. WASH and Market-based Approached</p> <p>WASH Cluster is looking at expanding CASH and Market-based Approaches in 2022 in line with WASH Hygiene Kit Guidance, WASH MEB, and 2022 HRP. The cluster will be coordinating with WFP to see how to trial CASH programming for WASH Services and materials targeting the same groups. WASH cluster is looking at Vulnerability Targeted Assessments for WASH and want all WASH partner who are currently or planning to implement through a CASH or Market Base Approach to reach out to the cluster, so they formulate a 3Ws for this with in WASH. Indicators were also added within WASH 3Ws and 4Ws for tracking this. Please reach out to Jeffrey Silverman at jsilverman@unicef.org for more information.</p>	
<p>6. CWG priorities</p> <p>The CWG priorities for 2022 were initially identified in workplan brainstorming session followed by a short survey to partners asking to identify prioritized activities. The survey results are presented to CWG members (see presentation attached). According to observations, task teams, bi-weekly report and CWG leading on market monitoring received low scores while FSP mapping update and training of organisations received high scores. As a next step, CWG management team will take forward the observation and finalize the workplan in coming week. Final workplan will be circulated to CWG and specific actions for activities will be developed.</p> <p>WFP also expressed that they are happy to coordinate and support on the market monitoring, training and other support related to the area.</p>	<p># CWG management to arrange meetings between co-chairs for workplan finalization.</p>
<p>7. AOB</p> <p>Myanmar CWG is updating the countrywide “Who does What, Where, When (4W)” information in order to inform stakeholders about the scale and scope of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in Myanmar. This will be the only comprehensive 4Ws data collection for 2022. Partners are encouraged to ensure that the reported data are only for activities implementing during 2021.</p> <p>CWG mailing list will be cleared to compile new list for 2022. OCHA created a short survey and disseminated to current CWG member lists to check the status and confirm participation. Members are encouraged to complete the survey to remain in the CWG mailing list for 2022.</p>	<p># Members to complete 4Ws and mailing list surveys.</p>
<p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Myanmar: Cash Working Group (CWG) on MIMU Page ● Myanmar CWG final Terms of Reference (June 2020) ● Myanmar CWG 4Ws (as of 10 November 2020) ● Cash Programming page on MIMU Website ● Southeast Rapid Market Assessment ● WFP Market Monitoring Dashboard ● Mercy Corps MAU market price report dashboard 	

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