

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

<b>Date/ Time &amp; Venue</b>	20 January 2022, 10.00 – 12.00 (via MS Teams)
<b>Chair / Co-chair</b>	<b>Mercy Corps</b> (John Nelson), <b>WFP</b> (Thin Thin Aye and <b>MRCS</b> (Moe Thida Win)
<b>Participants</b>	Action Aid, Acted, AVSI, CARE, CESVI, CRS, DCA, DFID, DRC, FCA, FCDO, HPA, INGO Forum, IFRC, IOM, JICA, Mercy Corps, MRCS, NRC, OCHA, Protection Sector, SI, SCI, TGH, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNICEF – WASH, UN Women, WFP, WFP – FSS, WFP – Sittwe, WFP- Myitkyina, WVI
<b>Agenda items and summary of discussion</b>	<b>Action Points</b>
<p><b>1. Sub-National CWG updates</b></p> <p><b>Kachin</b></p> <p>Access and travel authorization issues remain in Kachin. There are cash-out and delivery fees for cash withdrawal although organizations managed to withdraw cash in three townships (Banmaw, Myitkyine and Waing Maw township) with transfer fees applied to the withdrawal. CWG technical support may be an option for organizations who are considering cash modalities. CWG is currently accessing capacity of FSPs and liquidity situation to resume e-cash activities. Next Kachin CWG meeting will be organized on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022.</p> <p><b>Rakhine</b></p> <p>Markets remain viable with stable commodity prices in Rakhine although prices are relatively higher compared to 2020/21. Fuel prices remain high and subsequently the price of transported commodities has seen increases in the past months. The price of rice went down as the new harvest seasons started. In many areas, the livelihood has not been able to restore to normal situation. Access to cash and banking withdrawal remains challenging especially for those in rural areas and is only accessible through informal market. While people opened different types of account to access cash, the confidence in banking system does not see any improvement. WFP resumed e-cash activities and are reviewing the capacity of financial service providers regarding mobile money transfer. Market situation remains strong due to cash programming; however, people are heavily reliant on aid especially those living in IDP camps and those who lost livelihoods. CWG will continue monitoring the situation and advocate for multi-purpose cash programming to deliver cash into communities as the needs are much higher in 2022.</p> <p><b>Updates from Partners</b></p> <p><b>IOM</b> together with six partner organisations distributed multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) and for livelihood opportunities in Chin, Kayin, Mandalay, Mon, Southern Shan and Tanintharyi. Altogether 2,540 beneficiaries were reached between Aug-Dec 2021, the majority of which is cash distribution for business start-up. The transfer value for MPCA ranged from 50,000-70,000 MMK while livelihood grant varied from 250,000-300,000 MMK per household.</p> <p><b>DRC</b> updated on Economic Recovery activities from DRC Rakhine state. The project area involves Sittwe and Maungdaw where DRC distributed to 250 beneficiaries who are the participants of vocational trainings, and the amount distributed was 326,000 MMK per beneficiary.</p> <p><b>CARE</b> has planned to provide cash assistance (for food security) to IDPs in Kyaukme, Hsipaw and Muse through Meiksw Myanmar in the last week of January and February. CARE is doing Rapid Needs Assessment and Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis on humanitarian project for smallholder farmers of the current existing Rubber Project in Hpa-An and Mawlamyine. The assessment and analysis will be completed at the end of January and the report will be produced in February.</p> <p><b>Save the Children</b> updated cash distribution in December 2021. In Chin, 1,300 beneficiaries/HHs were supported with MPCG – amounting to 90,000MMK with SIDA RRM. In Kayah, 2,780 HHs</p>	

<p>(11,054 beneficiaries) in Demoso and Hpruso were supported with rice and cash (7,500 MMK per beneficiary) with WFP support. Support were provided to mothers of U2 in Northern Shan state, filling in 6 months gap and delivering to 1,602 beneficiaries at 15,000 MMK per month. In December 2021 and January 2022, U5 (Expanded MCCT) support will be delivered for 3,500 beneficiaries in Shwe Pyi Thar 4 wards with LIFT support. Registration for MCCT gap filling is ongoing in Rakhine with 800 beneficiaries under a small programme to support U2 HHs. Operations were blocked in Kayin and Kayah due to access, travel authorization issue as well as rapidly deteriorated security situation and current suspension of activities.</p>	
<p><b>2. Member updates</b></p> <p><b>Finn Church Aid</b> provided updates on cash distribution operation in Hlaing Thar Yar, Yangon region through Career Guidance and Counselling (CGC) project. 30 volunteers and 583 students for CGC were selected through non-formal education school and Sandarama monastic school in Hlaing Thar Yar. FSPs such as M-Pitesan and True Money were used to distribute various round of unconditional and unrestricted cash for curry distribution. Cash for livelihood distribution of 200,000 MMK, conditional and unrestricted was made to 100 student households based on vulnerability. 80,000 MMK cash support was given to 22 beneficiaries with disabilities to purchase support equipment. Learning kits and psychosocial books were also given to selected students. Among many challenges around cash distribution, finding reliable money transfer and withdraw agent as well as efforts to transfer mobile money to students who do not have mobile phone access were most prominent challenges. Despite many challenges, FCA was able to cooperate with reliable money transfer agents to withdraw physical cash, and completed cash and learning kits distribution safely, and helped 100 student households started own business in community.</p>	
<p><b>3. Market updates</b></p> <p><b>WFP market price report update (Dec 2021):</b> WFP updated on latest price developments. Prices are largely stable across different commodities although they remain elevated compared to 2020. Compared to November 2021, mixed oil, cooking oil, chickpeas, eggs, onion and salt prices were quite stable, while prices of tomatoes increased by +10%. Among the key factors driving up commodity price changes are transportation costs and challenges, seasonality. Moreover, travel restrictions and blocked routes in Kayah and Kayin as well as closed waterways in Northern Sagaing due to security reasons are also affecting prices in the respective areas. Fuel prices remained stable with no significant change compared to November 2021.</p> <p>Overall, prices have significantly increased compared to November 2020 and pre-crisis. The price of rice has particularly increased <u>compared to last year</u> in Kachin and Shan (+ 27-28%), Central Rakhine and Chin (+22-23%), Northern Sagaing, Southeast and Northern Rakhine (+15-17%). For cooking oil, the increases are most significant with prices more than doubled. The significant increases were seen in Central and South Rakhine, Northern Sagaing and Magway (+70%). Mixed oil prices have significantly increased in Southeast, Northern Rakhine and Northern Sagaing while Shan North and East and Magway Kachin see +82-85% increase. Overall price of tomatoes increased by 10% in November-December 2021 with 46% increase in Northern Sagaing and Yangon. The increase in price was due to seasonality (reduced production) and transportation constraints. For more details, please see the <a href="#">Market Monitoring Dashboard</a>.</p>	
<p><b>4. Red Rose presentation</b></p> <p>Red Rose has been empowering humanitarian sector with Onesolution, a secure offline and online financial services for beneficiaries. Red Rose is currently operating in 50 countries giving service to 150 programs benefitting 100M+ people from cash programming including beneficiary management, assistance delivery, creating surveys and collecting feedback as well as real-time monitoring dashboards and data analytics services. Red Rose offers rapid deployment, training and support in five languages, online and on-site training and support to partners and beneficiaries. Red Rose integrates with financial service providers in various countries and offers</p>	

<p>mobile money payment services from the Red Rose platform. Interested members can reach out to <a href="mailto:julissa@redrosecps.com">julissa@redrosecps.com</a> for more information.</p>	
<p><b>5. CVA workplan and strategy recap</b></p> <p>CWG Annual planning and strategy session was held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to reflect on 2021 activities, set the priorities and strategies for 2022. In 2021, CWG held monthly meetings for information sharing among members, produced bi-weekly newsletters, created CVA 4Ws and dashboard, produced mapping of FSP with support from WFP, updated Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and guidance note, expanded market price monitoring for both food and NFIs and developed publicly available dashboards, as well as organized ToT for field staff of CWG partner agencies on basic CVA knowledge. Priorities set for 2022 include continuation of 2021 activities as well as additional training and capacity activities for local partners, developing systematic approach to market monitoring and assessments linked with MEB, expansion of sub-national CVA coordination groups to new areas, developing technical guidance for different thematic areas, innovation and utilization of digital transfers and scaling up use of multi-purpose cash transfers where appropriate. CWG considered current operating environment for CVA implementation, review activities under four strategic objectives and identified prioritized activities, level of priority and responsible parties. There will be a follow-up survey shared with members to rank priority of activities. Members suggested coordination, collaboration and negotiation to establish harmonized humanitarian cash transfer and payment mechanism in country.</p>	<p><b># Google survey to be shared with CWG members to rank priority of activities for 2022</b></p>
<p><b>6. 4Ws launch</b></p> <p>Myanmar CWG is updating the countrywide <b>“Who does What, Where, When (4W)”</b> information in order to inform stakeholders about the scale and scope of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in Myanmar. CWG Information Management Officer presented the group with the 4Ws template which will be used to collect the data which will be used to produce 4W dashboard, map and infographics. 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. The template will be shared to members after the meeting and <b>the deadline to return 4Ws template is COB 4<sup>th</sup> February.</b></p>	<p><b># Member organisations to complete 4Ws and return to CWG management team</b></p>
<p><b>7. AOB</b></p> <p>CWG mailing list will be cleared to compile new list for 2022. OCHA will create a short survey and disseminate to current CWG member lists to check the status and confirm participation.</p> <p>The 2022 Myanmar Humanitarian Needs Overview was published in December 2021. The 2022 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan will also be published around the end of January 2022.</p>	<p><b>#OCHA to send survey to CWG members.</b></p>
<p><b>Useful links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Myanmar: Cash Working Group (CWG) on MIMU Page</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Myanmar CWG final Terms of Reference (June 2020)</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Myanmar CWG 4Ws (as of 10 November 2020)</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Cash Programming page on MIMU Website</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Southeast Rapid Market Assessment</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">WFP Market Monitoring Dashboard</a></li> <li>● <a href="#">Mercy Corps MAU market price report dashboard</a></li> </ul>	

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