

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

<b>Date/ Time &amp; Venue</b>	12 January 2023, 10:00AM – 12:00 PM (via Zoom)	
<b>Co-Chairs</b>	<b>Ria Lewis (WFP), John Nelson (Mercy Corps), Moe Thida Win (MRCs)</b>	
<b>Participants</b>	CARE, CRS, CRS, FCA, HPA, INGO Forum, IOM, KBC-SM, Malteser International, NRC, Save the Children, Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster, Tearfund, TGH, UNHCR, UNWOMEN, WASH Cluster, WVI, Zigway.	
<b>Agenda items and summary of discussion</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	
<p><b>1. Market updates</b></p> <p>WFP presented on the market price monitoring updates.</p> <p>WFP collected data from 172 markets from 76 Township across Myanmar for December market price monitoring. Compared to November 2022, prices remained stable or decreased across different commodities. Prices declined for commodities such as cooking oil and mixed oil (-12%), tomatoes (-14%) and onions (-12%). Overall, basic food basket price increased by 53% compared to same time last year, with significant price increases for cooking oil, mixed oil, rice and egg. Fuel price saw 82% overall year-on-year change, although prices decreased between November and December 2022. Among key factors driving price changes are transport situation, seasonality factor and increased local production. For more details on WFP market price monitoring, please refer to attached presentation and visit <a href="#">Market Monitoring Dashboard</a>.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Mercy Corps Market Analysis Unit Dashboard</a> can be found on MIMU including access to the full reports for Rakhine and Southeast Myanmar.</p> <p>The December market price data will be used to update the survival minimum expenditure basket in January 2023.</p>		
<p><b>2. Workstream updates</b></p> <p><b>JMMI:</b> The updated concept note was shared with CWG members for final feedback and comment. The task force meeting will be subsequently set up to discuss roles and responsibilities as well as to finalize the concept note and support fundraising efforts.</p> <p><b>FSP Mapping:</b> The concept note has been presented to the ICCG and CWG and is in its final form. The CWG and REACH are currently seeking funding to initiate the FSP mapping exercise. Donors are welcomed to support the exercise to fill the funding gap.</p> <p><b>CVA ToT:</b> The next batch of CVA ToT will be delivered in-person in Rakhine in February 2023. The 4-day training will be delivered jointly by the facilitators who completed the previous ToT and the CWG core trainers. The training is financially supported by UNDP and WFP, and the call for application will be announced in second half of January. Staff from local organizations are encouraged to apply and attend.</p> <p><b>CWG 5Ws:</b> Feedback was received for the CWG annual 5Ws data collection template, and CWG will incorporate these in coming day. The 5Ws exercise is expected to be</p>	<p><b>#CWG to disseminate TOT call for application in January.</b></p> <p><b>#CWG to launch 5Ws in January</b></p> <p><b>#Co-chair to communicate to establish the task force on cash for</b></p>	

<p>launched in the following week and is aimed to fill the reporting gap and to accurately capture the cash activities done in 2022.</p> <p><b>Cash for work/casual labour rate:</b> There has been variations among organization providing casual labour rate for different kind of work, and CWG is tasked to provide more information on rates to partners to harmonize the rate where possible. Thus, CWG conducted a short survey to understand the scope of cash for work activities CWG partners are implementing, development of standards and guidance and members' interest to join the task force on the issue. There appears to be an interest to restart the task team focused on cash for work. Co-chairs will update on the forming of related task force in due course.</p>	<p><b>work/casual labour rate</b></p>
<p><b>3. Sub-national CWG updates</b></p> <p><b>Kachin</b></p> <p>Aid distribution may be delayed in IDP camps in NGCA areas in Kachin state due to the ongoing conflict, restrictions on TA approval and delays in cash flow. Food basket price decreased in December, and subsequently, food cash transfer value will be reviewed in January for CWG members' reference in programming and distribution. Next CWG meeting is scheduled to take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January and interested members are welcomed to attend.</p> <p><b>Rakhine</b></p> <p>Prices of basic commodities started to decline slightly following the informal ceasefire between AA and MAF and the roads reopened and are expected to continue decreasing in coming weeks. However, prices remain higher compared to before the military takeover. WFP maintained the full cash implementation since November 2022 and are looking at means to support sub-retailers with the supply chain linkages to keep cash implementation feasible. Prices in Kyauk Taw is much higher than other areas due to the cost of moving commodities being relatively high. Level of migration among youth and able bodies are starting to impact the labor force and CWG has been watching its affect to cash interventions. Despite ceasefire, people in six townships are facing food insecurity as access to livelihood was not viable amidst heavy military and AAP presence. Humanitarian community is trying to get full access to operational areas and managed to reach 100% of targeted areas for the first time since October 2022.</p> <p><b>Southeast</b></p> <p>The financial service provider ONGO provided a presentation in SE CWG about their services. Regular FSP presentation will be arranged to take place in next CWG meeting. SE CWG will work together with national CWG on 5Ws data collection. Cash transfer value survey has been shared with members and results will be presented in next CWG meeting. The SE CWG ToR will be developed once the national CWG ToR is updated in line with global guidance and ToR.</p> <p><b>Member updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRS is piloting the CVA toolkits under Reach-to-Response programme. The toolkit will be piloted in Bamaw area using ONGO service to 300 households, half of them to receive e-money and the other half through door-to-door service as one-time distribution. Nssp cash assistance to PLWs and mother with CU2 in 90 villages funded by LIFT will start from March 2023. This will be quarterly cash distribution until end of December 2023. With CRS own private fund, CRS is planning to</li> </ul>	

<p>support conflict affected HHs in East Bago, Sagaing, Magway and Kachin targeting around 7000 HHs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CARE and partner have been distributing cash assistance to 500 households for the purpose of food security in Northern Shan State (Muse, Hsipaw and Lashio township) in January 2023.</li> <li>• PSEA Network: Members are encouraged to use and share the following email with partners and within organization for any incident reporting <a href="mailto:mmrpsea@unfpa.org">mmrpsea@unfpa.org</a>.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4. Impact of Registration Law on CVA</b></p> <p>In light of recent new organization registration law (ORL), CWG conducted an anonymous survey to identify impact of ORL on the CVA programs and the support CWG can provide to navigate around it. Overall, the new ORL will have impact on partnership, fund liquidation, and operational capacity. This could result in limited partner capacity and field implementation, as well as suspension of activities due to restriction and funding insecurity. In terms of support, members asked for common donor advocacy on the law regarding possible flexibilities for partners with valid reasons for no registration, guidance and navigation on how to manage CVA under the changed circumstance, and dedicated session and information sharing on ORL.</p>	
<p><b>5. AOB</b></p> <p><b>Mailing list:</b> CWG will conduct the annual mailing list clean-up in the coming week and will communicate with members for mailing list update. Members are also encouraged to reach out to <a href="mailto:myo.thidaswe@un.org">myo.thidaswe@un.org</a> for update or connecting new members.</p> <p><b>CWG Workplan:</b> CWG workplan update session will be planned in the first quarter of 2023 and invite will be sent in following week.</p> <p><b>CWG newsletter:</b> CWG will restart its monthly newsletter in 2023 to provide members with latest cash programming updates.</p>	<p><b>#CWG to update the mailing list</b></p> <p><b># CWG to set the date for dedicated workplan session in 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter.</b></p>
<p><b>Useful links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Mercy Corps MAU market price report dashboard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">WFP market monitoring dashboard</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Myanmar: Cash Working Group (CWG) on MIMU Page</a></li> </ul>	

**Next CWG meeting: Thursday 10:00 – 12:00, 09 February 2023**