

FINAL: Summary Note on Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting

Date/ Time & Venue	9 July 2020, 10:00 – 12:15 (via Webex)	
Chair / Co-chair	WFP (Thin Thin Aye), Mercy Corps (John Nelson) and MRCS (Moe Thida Win)	
Participants	ACF, ACTED, ActionAid, AVSI, CARE, DCA, DRC, HPA, IFRC, IRW, Koe Koe Tech, LIFT, Malteser, NRC, OCHA, Plan, PUI, SI, Trocaire, UNICEF, WHH, WVM, Save the Children	
Agenda items and summary of discussion	Action Points	
<p>Review of action points from previous meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWG members to share their organization's COVID-19 cash tip sheets: <i>Ongoing</i> • CWG members to share their existing market assessment tools and other useful related documents: <i>Ongoing</i> • Cash Emergency Preparedness Tools: <i>Finalized and shared with ERP working group.</i> 		
<p>Information sharing on market monitor</p> <p>WFP mVAM markets monitor report: WFP briefed on its monthly remote market monitoring which assesses market functionality and retail prices in light of COVID-19. The mVAM (mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping) mainly focuses on food items and covers 60 townships in 10 states/regions. The information is collected by WFP and cooperating partners using MFI (Market Functionality Index) questionnaire and main food commodities price information. Data is available in near real time, and the exercise is low-cost and flexible, although the phone-based approach means that surveys need to be short and focused. Moving forward, reports will be shared with CWG members.</p> <p>DRC Rapid Market and Need Assessment: DRC provided a brief summary of the key findings from a recent Rapid Basic Needs Monitoring (RBNM) exercise in Kachin and northern Shan, including in NGCA areas. It involved 75 household interviews and 54 KIIs. The RBNM was conducted to better understand the impact of COVID-19 among the communities and identify the needs, vulnerabilities, market functionality, etc. Based on the findings, it was recommended to include other monthly costs (e.g. transport and priority services such as healthcare, education and water/sanitation) when setting Minimum Expenditure Baskets (MEBs). During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is also important to support economic recovery, including by using unrestricted/unconditional cash to provide a flexible cushion for affected people to withstand the impact of the crisis. Regarding preferred assistance modalities, most people from GCA areas in Kachin and northern Shan indicated a preference for cash modalities (mobile transfers) whereas people in NGCAs indicated an increased preference for in-kind support due to the challenges in accessing markets. The full RBNM report will be shared with the CWG members.</p> <p>It was also shared that DRC has developed CVA guidance during COVID-19 and SOPs for Mobile Money Transfer (MMT). DRC also plans to conduct a separate Rapid Market System Analysis (RMSA) to assess the impact of COVID-19 on market systems.</p>	<p># WFP to share mVAM report with CWG members</p> <p># DRC to share the final report of the Rapid Basic Needs Monitoring (RBNM)</p>	

Update from the sub-national level cash working groups

Rakhine CWG: Rakhine CWG (co-chaired by WFP and UNDP) is organized bi-monthly to update on different cash interventions in central Rakhine, streamline operational standards, provide technical guidelines for cash programming and facilitate information sharing (e.g. updated daily labour rates) among members. The Rakhine CWG is working closely with the government on its cash-based initiatives such as Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme and the use of mobile money platforms and electronic vouchers has been increased gradually. However, cash-in-envelope remains as a main modality currently. It was also noted that access, security concerns and limited mobile network coverage are some of the key constraints to implementing CBT programmes in Rakhine. There is also a need to strengthen private sector partnerships and advocacy with the government to increase acceptance. The Rakhine CWG is currently collecting 4W information from its members. It was suggested to have a mapping identifying the different context in central Rakhine, noting that feasibility of different cash approaches (mobile money, cash-in-envelope, etc., varies significantly from place to place).

Kachin CWG: Kachin CWG was established in March 2016. The monthly meetings are organized together with Food Security (FSS) meeting since July 2017 to share updates (including on technical support needs, challenges, gap), identify local resources and coordinate responses. The group’s focus is on food and cash. There are two different forums (one with and one without Government counterparts) for Government Controlled Areas (GCA) and Non-Government Controlled Areas (NGCA) in Kachin. There is a challenge while shifting transfer modality from in-kind to cash in NGCA areas due to access constraints, limited telecommunication as well as beneficiaries’ preferences. There is also a need for increased research capacity. WFP and its partners covering GCA areas currently, with NGCAs is covered by LNGOs/INGOs directly funded by different donors. Partners have expressed interest in increased use of multipurpose cash and other joint approaches. There was also a question on the linkage between CWG and the government’s durable solution/ return and resettlement efforts, and it was shared that the six months return package (mainly food) has been provided.

Cash Working Group (CWG) workplan

The co-chair informed the group that the workplan has been designed the strategic objectives set out in the CWG ToR. A draft was shared with the members for comments/inputs. It was highlighted that there are two different sets of activities in the work plan. One covers issue such as strengthening the linkage with ICCG/ sub-national working groups, 4Ws data collection, and will be led by the CWG leadership group (Mercy Corps, WFP, MRCS). However, a second set of more technical activities, e.g. defining CFW rates, setting MEBs, mapping financial service providers, etc., would need to be taken forward by technical task teams composed of CWG members volunteering to do so. The workplan will be re-circulated for members’ feedback.

Secretariat to re-circulate the CWG workplan for members’ feedback

(already completed)

CWG members to indicate interest for volunteering in the specific task teams (cash-for-work has been proposed as a first task team)

(already completed)

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4W data collection: The Kachin CWG inquired the possibility to combine the CWG 4Ws and Food Security 5Ws, and requested the CWG leadership to review the

existing templates. UNICEF also informed about its efforts to map current social protection programs being implemented by the Government with support from UN agencies. It has been seeking to gather information on both development and humanitarian cash programming. It was noted that the CWG is already collecting 4W data and that it would be important not to duplicate this process, but it was noted that the results of CWG 4W data collection could be shared. It was agreed that the alignment of the two process would be discussed further between UNICEF and the CWG chair.

MHF: first standard allocation of 2020: The co-chair informed that the MHF first standard allocation will provide about US\$7 million to support coordinated humanitarian assistance with the Kachin, northern Shan, Rakhine and Chin being prioritized. The CWG leadership group had provided inputs into the strategy and cash-based programming will be considered more favorably as compare to previous allocations.

Development of 2021 HNO/HRP: OCHA informed the group that the 2021 HNO/HRP process will start in the coming weeks. It would be opportunity for the CWG to better integrate knowledge and experience into the process, and to generally increase the profile of cash programming. The HNO will be launched by end of August and should incorporate information accessibility and functionality of markets as part of broader contextual and needs analyses. The HRP will be finalized by the end of November and should include a consolidated picture of the use of multipurpose cash, as well as of links between cash and in-kind modalities. It was also noted that, unlike previous years, the 2021 HRP process may include registration of projects, which will allow for a clearer overview of the extent to which cash is being employed under the HRP framework.

Cash for work (CFW): WHH shared an update on its recent work on data collection around beneficiary preferences in a number of locations. The process has included development of a checklist which will be shared with the CWG for feedback. Key questions have included how to set minimum wages for CFW and how to classify work categories for CFW programming. It was suggested that WHH share a brief note highlighting the issues and questions with the members to enable further discussion. It was also noted that a distinction should be maintained between cash for work in humanitarian settings and development activities including employment generation. CWG members were invited to indicate their interest in participating in a task team on CFW given the technical nature of the topic.

CWG members to express interest in joining cash for work (CFW) task team by Friday 24 July

(already completed)

Useful links

- [Resources for Cash-based Programming](#)
- [Cash preparedness profiles in disaster-prone states](#)
- [Myanmar CWG final Terms of Reference \(June 2020\)](#)
- [Myanmar CWG 4Ws \(as of 5 July 2020\)](#)

Next CWG meeting: 14:00 – 16:00, 6 August 2020