

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

<b>Date/ Time &amp; Venue</b>	14 July 2022, 10.00 – 11.00 AM (via MS Teams)	
<b>Chair / Co-chair</b>	WFP (Ria Lewis)	
<b>Participants</b>	Action Aid, CARE, CRS, ECHO, Food Security Cluster, German Red Cross, IOM, JICA, Malteser International, Mercy Corps, MRCS, NRC, OCHA, Oxfam, Plan International, PUI, REACH, Save the Children, UNDP, UNFAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WASH cluster, UNWOMEN, WFP, WFP – FSC, 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>Cash from partners to beneficiaries has become more challenging as there are increasing number of checkpoints and movement restrictions in place. Kachin CWG is updating its member list and will share with National CWG to provide members with access to CWG Teams site. CWG, in collaboration with CCCM and Protection working group and DSWG provided resettlement packages for small-scale return and resettlement of IDPs in Kachin State.</p> <p><b>Rakhine</b></p> <p>Prices of basic food commodities and NFIs continue to be on the upward trend in Central Rakhine, however, the rise is not as sharp as Feb and March 2022 when the increase was 17% for food basket alone. It was noted that the fuel suppliers are selling only for cash and are not accepting credit terms, thus affecting people relying on credit terms to do business. There were increased reports of people injured and killed by landmines in the area. Access to livelihood remains challenging for people especially in rural communities, fields remain uncultivated due to fear of landmines and military presence. The prices of firewood, cooking fuel and charcoal went up as the demand and supply ratio is unbalanced due to military presence in the mountain areas. With the increases in price of other essential household items, multi-sectoral approach is necessary to fully cover the beneficiaries' needs which are greater than food and cash, although in some camps, access to cash from WFP and other actors provided liquidity to maintain markets in the area. WFP is conducting the cash feasibility assessments to check the growth of potential markets. The impact of cash-only purchase is yet to see in the markets.</p>	<p><b># Kachin CWG to share member list with national CWG</b></p>	
<p><b>2. Market updates</b></p> <p>Mercy Corps and WFP provided market price updates for May 2022 respectively on geographical areas, and nationwide market price updates.</p> <p>Overall, basic food basket prices increased by 4% in June compared to May 2022. Fuel prices rose again (23-24% for diesels; 13-14% for octanes) which affected retail costs of items that are sourced from different areas of the country. Edible oil prices increase despite global downward trends due to domestic stocks, transportation costs and high fuel cost in June 2022. Retailers around the country mentioned higher prices for oil in supply markets (Yangon and Mandalay). Onion prices surged due to lost production</p>		

following damage in March causing low domestic supply and are expected to continue upward due to export demand and low stocks.

In general, prices for essential foods, vegetables and NFIs rose in nearly all markets in June and remained well above 2021 levels, according to Mercy Corps market price report for Rakhine. Most markets experiences similar trends in June, and prices varied more by product than by market. Rising vegetable prices are likely to climb higher during monsoon season, and elevated NFI prices could push higher although reason for increases remains unclear.

For more details on WFP and Mercy Corps MPM, please refer to attached presentations. Please visit [here](#) for WFP market monitoring dashboard and follow this [link](#) for Mercy Corps MAU dashboards and reports.

### **3. CVA TOT training updates**

The second round of basic CVA TOT training was delivered face-to-face from 29 to 2 July in Yangon for a total of 27 participants from NGOs, CSOs/CBOs, INGOs and UN agencies who had experiences in cash and market-based programme and showed commitment to deliver CVA related trainings. The training was funded jointly by MRCS/GRC and UNICEF. Overall evaluation result of the training was positive, and most participants displayed interested to become facilitators in subsequent trainings. For more details, please refer to attached presentation.

### **4. Scope of cash in HPC 2023**

The role of cash and the guidance for cash in the HPC, the role of CWG and the timeline of HPC process were presented for members' information. Cash should be reflected as cross-sectoral and multi-functional in HPC and not in a separate cash chapter. However, if cash is provided under a specific sector, it should be reflected in the narrative of that chapter within the HPC. Unrestricted cash assistance can be considered MPCA, as the use of it is unrestricted to certain items. CWG leadership and partners who have strong expertise in CVA are invited to be members of Needs Monitoring and Assessment Working Group (NMA WG) to inform the scope of analysis, undertake secondary data review and collect primary data where feasible. CWG will also take active role in reviewing HNO, propose prioritization areas for HRP and analyse response options, approach and modalities. CWG will also work on strengthening cash coordination across the response and continued information management for data sharing among partners.

OCHA noted that clusters have been working with their members on reporting for HPC 2023, and the information will be gathered and analyzed for situational developments. In the planning for HPC 2023, it is important to include the work around cash and integration of cash effectively into the HPC process. CWG is expected to provide inputs both at cluster level discussions and upcoming HNO/HRP discussions. HPC kick-off meeting will take place on 19<sup>th</sup> July involving clusters, working groups and take stock of current situation and scope for HPC 2023. OCHA invited partners with strong expertise in CVA to participate in NMA WG.

Food security cluster (FSC) presented the outcomes of recent FSC workshops and 5Ws data analysis. The 2021 FSC 5Ws analysis has shown that the FSC response is broad but with little depth and that the most the action is concentrated in limited number of areas.

<p>Recent FSC workshop involving donors, implementing partners, coordination team, MIMU, UN agencies and Nexus group indicated that it is necessary to improve responses in FSC in 2023. Further discussion is anticipated in the frame of HPC 2023 on geographical coverage (peri-urban, hard-to-reach areas), targeted population, costing, methodology, cross-sector programming, integration of protection and GBV and nexus programming. FSC will start conversations with partners and connect with other clusters in preparation for HNO/HRP 2023.</p> <p>Partners then discussed the challenges around lack of implementing partners in the main conflict areas, and the impact of low-profile approach on data and information sharing and channeling data and information within the different groups from different areas. Several partners are asking for anonymization due to high sensitivity and data security, which further imposes challenges on information sharing and coordination of responses. It was noted that the information sharing protocol (ISP) will be a useful tool in increasing data and information sharing among partners.</p>	
<p><b>5. HCT Key messages</b></p> <p>CWG chair noted that in light of the development of HPC process, ensuring all information is integrated across sectoral programming is integral for cash as the prominent role in HPC process. For more information on HCT key messages, please refer to attached document.</p>	
<p><b>6. AOB</b></p> <p>OCHA is putting together an article on cash, inflation and CVA activities for upcoming Monthly Humanitarian Update (MHU). Members who are willing to contribute to MHU with partner cash studies and human-interest stories related to cash response, please reach out to <a href="mailto:patricia.freels@un.org">patricia.freels@un.org</a> .</p>	
<p><b>Useful links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="#">Cash Programming page on MIMU Website</a></li> <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> <li>● <a href="#">Myanmar CWG final Terms of Reference (June 2020)</a></li> </ul>	

**Next CWG meeting: Thursday, 10:00 – 12:00, 11 August 2022 (TBC)**