

Summary Note on Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting

Date/ Time & Venue	20 July 2023, 10:00AM – 12:00 PM (via Zoom)	
Chair	Thin Thin Aye (WFP)	
Participants	50 participants. Attendance record stored by OCHA.	
Agenda items and summary of discussion	Action Points	
<p>1. Sub-national updates</p> <p>Kachin</p> <p>Kachin Food Security Cluster/CWG meeting took place on 27 June and the next meeting will be held on 25 July. INGOs reported that they have been facing cash transfer issues due to MoU and registration status, hence affecting the programme implementation. WFP revised the transfer value for relief assistance and the new value will be applied starting from July 2023. The new value will be shared with partners in the next CWG meeting. WFP expands e-cash transfer to Bamaw, Wine Maw and plans to expand to other townships in next months. CWG has been collecting the Cash for Work rate from partners and will share with the national CWG once the data collection has been completed.</p> <p>Rakhine</p> <p>It was reported that markets in Sittwe restored quickly for both Food and NFIs compared to other townships where Mocha impact is greater. Major markets are up and running and cash is feasible across all townships in Central Rakhine. However, cash for rice is not feasible in Rathedaung and Pauk Taw townships. As such, CWG encourages partners to consider market dynamic during rainy seasons. Demands for NFIs are still high, and Mocha emergency response remains suspended, so MPCA is encouraged across the response. Dengue and other diseases are taking toll in Kyauk Phyu, with food and mouth disease leaving people with losses of their cattle. Full market functionality survey focused on Mocha impacted regions has been started in Rakhine. Protection, Gender and AAP Unit are looking at the disability top-up pilot programme which will last until Dec 2023. As most people lost livelihood in addition to usual restriction, CWG encourage cash modality to fulfill major requirements and unmet needs of affected population.</p> <p>Southeast</p> <p>The CWG meeting was held with 23 organizations attended. Members requested the market monitoring for Bago region to be included in the regular market monitoring initiative. The CWG also discussed the needs and gaps in Southeast region, including the new IDPs in Yay and Thanphyuzayat region. CWG is also planning to conduct a survey to invite EOIs from partners who are willing to co-chair the SECWG in coming months.</p>		
<p>2. Market price updates</p> <p>WFP and Mercy Corps presented the market price monitoring updates for May 2023. WFP collected data from over 300 traders in 100 markets which are still functioning in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha landfall. The rice prices went up significantly in Magway (11%) and Sagaing (18%) due to low stock, increased production cost due to electricity shortages. The price of chickpeas went up to 7% and the key factor driving price is increased transportation cost, as well as low yield and stock while the demand is strong. Palm oil prices saw decreases in Kayah (-14%) and Mon (-13%) and increase in Mandalay (13%). Due to rising animal feed prices, egg prices also went up in most states and regions. Fuel prices also increased by average 4% in the reporting month.</p>		

<p>Mercy Corps presented market price monitoring updates for June 2023 with the data collected from 14 markets across Northwest and Southeast areas. 29 products were monitored across 210 vendors. In the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha, most markets in Rakhine and Chin saw rice prices stabilized in June after two months of rising prices, while vegetable supply remained poor and saw volatile prices due to crop damage. Soap prices rose 10% in June, while price of other hygiene products was stable. The NFI prices were stable or rising in June, and the stockouts were common.</p> <p>KMSS mentioned that once the Bago region market price monitoring initiates, KMSS can contribute to the data collection and updates.</p> <p>It was also noted that differences in WFP and Mercy Corps market price data for May are attributed to the different time of data collection. For more details, please visit Mercy Corps Market Analysis Unit dashboard at https://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit and WFP Market Monitoring Dashboard.</p>	
<p>3. Cash for Nutrition: Save the Children Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) Programme</p> <p>Save the Children presented an overview and experiences from Myanmar’s Maternal and Child Cash Transfer Programme. MCCT was designed with the aim of including all mothers and pregnant women with children in critical 1,000 days, with focus on nutritional outcomes. The MCCT cash transfer element targets from second trimester to 23 months of age, with transfer value of 20,000 ks per month. In some areas, changes such as transfer modalities and changes in basic amount were introduced.</p> <p>Some of the lessons learnt are.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash transfers aiming to benefit nutritional outcomes of young children must be combined with Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) • Length of exposure to programme is important for impacts, best results shown among participants with longest exposure. • Digital cash transfer attached with SBC seems to be one of the best solutions. <p>Challenges are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash transfer challenges – increased control over cash transfers across country • Pressing socio-economic conditions cause the use of funds for debt repayment and basic needs – prioritizing caloric quantity over quality of foods. • Access challenges can hamper SBCC interventions and limit the time with beneficiaries / need to further advance digital elements. • Health system challenges – both screening, AN care and treatment affected by the challenges of the health system. 	
<p>4. Integrating Cash into Shelter</p> <p>Shelter Cluster presented recent developments on cash for Shelter, NFIs and CCCM. Key considerations shared from partners collected from community leaders includes: who should receive the cash and have control, how to deliver cash, who have difficulties using cash or vouchers, risks involved, and mechanisms to increase financial inclusion. Reporting will be done through cluster’s 5Ws exercise, PDMs and surveys. The Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster also created a survey to collect information on key challenges and experience from partners related to cash activities. CWG members are encouraged to fill and share the survey with relevant partners. Link to the survey can be found here.</p>	
<p>5. CWG Workstream updates</p>	<p>#</p>

<p>CVA Training: The fourth batch of CVA training will be organized from 27-29 July in Mawlamyine and partners from Southeast region (mainly Kayin and Mon) are invited to share the application form with the training team for the basic CVA training. The training will be funded by the MRCS with support from Southeast CWG. Training report will be shared with CWG in due course.</p>	
<p>6. AOB</p> <p>Northwest CWG: CWG conducted a short Mentimeter survey to collect views from the members regarding the establishment of Sub-national CWG for the Northwest region (Sagaing, Magway, Chin). Results and recommendations will be used to further guide the discussion with interested organizations and Northwest partners.</p> <p>CALP Network provides information on the launch of a new online course named “Linking Humanitarian CVA with Social Protection”. Interested members are to check the course here.</p> <p>Learning and development: CALP Network will be offering a training on “Core CVA skills for programme staff” and Myanmar is one of the priority countries. The training will be held around late October or Early November. More details will be shared with Myanmar CWG in due course.</p>	
<p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cash Programming page on MIMU Website ● Mercy Corps MAU market price report dashboard ● WFP market monitoring dashboard ● Myanmar: Cash Working Group (CWG) on MIMU Page 	

Next CWG meeting: Thursday 10:00 – 12:00, 17 August 2023