

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

Date & Venue	11 June 2020 (via Webex)	
Chair / Co-chair	WFP (Marc Gschwend), Mercy Corps (John Nelson) and MRCS (Moe Thida Win)	
Participants	ICRC, Koe Koe Tech, IFRC, ACTED, CARE, WVM, Malteser, IRW, WHH, Helvetas, RI, ActionAid, German Red Cross, DRC, AVSI, IRC, AcF, Plan, SCI, HPA, PUI, DCA, NRC, OCHA, UNICEF	
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> • CWG members to provide information for the Cash 4W exercise: <i>Ongoing</i> 		
<p>Update on the CWG ToR and Cash Preparedness Tools</p> <p>CWG ToR: The final version of the CWG ToR, which was reviewed and commented by CWG members and sector/cluster coordinators, was shared with members in advance of the meeting. The group was informed that this ToR can be reviewed/amended every six months, if necessary. It was also highlighted that Yangon CWG will be working closely with sub-national CWG in Myitkyina and Sittwe as well as the regional CWG.</p> <p>Cash Emergency Preparedness Tools: The small group on updating cash preparedness tools met on 26 May to discuss and amend the existing feasibility checklist, SOPs and Minimum Expenditure basket (MEB). The draft version of the revised cash preparedness tools was shared with CWG members ahead of the meeting. The CWG members were requested to provide feedback by COB Monday 15 June.</p>		
<p>DSW and agencies' cash support on social protection during COVID-19</p> <p>WFP updated on the government's cash transfer support during COVID-19. The Government developed the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), detailing 7 goals to mitigate the economic and social impacts posed by the pandemic. One of the actions under Goal-4 (Easing the Impact on Households) is to establish cash transfers (with an appropriate amount) to most vulnerable and affected households including IDPs in the most vulnerable areas (through mobile financial services transfers).</p> <p>It was shared that DSW is currently providing regular cash transfer (plus COVID-19 awareness raising) in existing Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) areas, one-off cash to pregnant women and children (under two) and one-off social pension cash assistance to elderly persons (70 – 84 years) in different states/regions with government budget. DSW is also covering the costs of testing and food for COVID-19 affected populations and persons in quarantine.</p> <p>It was also confirmed that DSW will provide one-off cash "top-ups" to MCCT and SP beneficiaries using LIFT funds in June. They are also exploring the opportunity to assist persons with disabilities and families with children (2 – 5 years) in the IDP camps in different states/regions.</p> <p>The group was updated that the General Administration Department (GAD) is exploring the use of cash transfers for households affected by COVID-19 and the Department of Rural development (DRD) is planning to establish cash-for-work programs.</p> <p>SCI raised concern about the cost-efficiency of the current one-off cash transfers, given start-up costs. Challenges were acknowledged and it was stressed that the CWG should</p>		

<p>explore opportunities to contribute to more sustainable approaches. It was also noted that a number of the new initiatives were built on existing programmes, reducing start-up costs. The lack of a government system for registration of recipients of cash support was noted as a challenge.</p> <p>WHH enquired about the CWG’s approach on monitoring mechanism of cash programming. It was recognized that obtaining data and designing indicators on outcomes and effectiveness were challenging, particularly in relation to multi-use cash, but that this will be addressed through the CWG workplan.</p> <p>MRCS asked about cash programming in urban communities (e.g. Yangon and Mandalay) since there are places with hunger problems. It was noted that this will be addressed as part of the GAD cash transfers programme.</p> <p>OCHA sought the clarity on the figures (number of IDPs) to be used for planned cash assistance for IDPs, since there appear to be a number of discrepancies between the government (MoSWRR) figures and those in the HRP. WFP replied that they did comparison between the different lists and have usually been able to use the higher figures as a basis for assistance.</p> <p>MRCS updated that they are aiming to scale up support to women-headed households, with cash grants (200,000 – 300,000 Kyats) based on the market assessment results through mobile transfers. MRCS will work together with WFP to define the target areas and population. They are also updating/finalizing SOP with financial services provider (AYA Bank).</p> <p>CARE informed the group that they are providing cash support (such as hostel fee, meals) to most vulnerable migrant workers who are losing jobs and income from some townships in Yangon.</p> <p>SCI proposed to share agencies’ post-distribution monitoring (PDM) data with CWG members. WFP undertook to share PDM results from Kachin, Shan and Rakhine camps last year.</p>	
<p>Agency updates</p> <p>WFP’s mVAM markets monitor report: WFP is carrying out remote market surveys in light of COVID-19 and the results will be shared monthly. WFP is also carrying out regular market monitoring and the results can be uploaded on the MIMU website. However, WFP surveys mainly focus on food items and it was recognized that there are gaps in data on prices for non-food items and services such as health, education. WFP suggested to expand the minimum expenditure basket in the CWG workplan, to provide a basis for more decision making on unrestricted/multi-purpose cash.</p> <p>WHH stated that they are currently designing a program together with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and collecting information on beneficiary preferences. An update can be shared at the next CWG meeting.</p> <p>SCI is working on a program focused on garment industry workers who lost their jobs and collecting income data. This will be expanded to another affected sectors in next month and the full data can be shared by end of July.</p>	
<p>Revised 4W data collection</p> <p>A revised, more focused 4W matrix was shared with CWG members for inputs. About 15 organizations have provided data and Mercy Corps (CWG co-chair) will be working together with OCHA (CWG secretariat) to consolidate the information. Those organization who have yet to respond are requested to do so.</p>	

<p>WFP sought the clarification on the “amount” column in the template (whether total amount of the whole project or ration size) and suggested to standardize the currency as well. Some of the members recommended to use Myanmar Kyats as a standard. It was also suggested to use P-code while providing information. It was noted that 4W data collection will be on ongoing process.</p>	
<p>Cash Working Group (CWG) workplan</p> <p>The co-chair informed the group that the first draft of the workplan has been developed and is centered around the strategic objectives of the ToR. The draft workplan will be shared with the members for comments/inputs. The members were also requested to indicate interest for volunteering in the specific activities/deliverables/task teams, to ensure a collaborative approach to taking the CWG’s work forward.</p>	<p># To circulate the draft version of CWG workplan</p> <p>(already completed)</p>
<p>AOB</p> <p>Information-sharing and knowledge management: Members were requested to share any useful information with OCHA and/or CWG chair and co-chairs to circulate among CWG. Any final/approved documents will be uploaded in the MIMU website. The working version of the documents can be shared among members using Google Drive.</p> <p>Webinar on e-vouchers in Rakhine State: Mercy Corps will be hosting a webinar presenting the findings from the e-voucher pilot on Tuesday 23 June. The invitation will be sent out to the members.</p>	
<p>Useful links</p> <p>Resources for Cash-based Programming: http://themimu.info/emergencies/cash-based-programming-resources</p> <p>Cash preparedness profiles in disaster-prone states: https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Core_Doc_Cash_Preparedness_Profiles_in_Disaster-Prone_States_Jun2019.zip</p>	
<p>Next CWG meeting: 10:00 – 12:00, 9 July 2020</p>	