

Summary Note on Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting

Date/ Time & Venue	9 June 2022, 10.00 – 11.00 AM (via MS Teams)	
Chair	OCHA (Marcel Vaessen)	
Participants	Action Aid, AVSI, CARE, CRS, DRC, ECHO, German Red Cross, ICRC, INGO Forum, IOM, JICA, Malteser International, Mercy Corps, MRCS, NRC, OCHA, Oxfam, Plan International, Protection cluster, PUI, TGH, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WASH cluster, UNWOMEN, WFP, WFP – FSC, WFP – Sittwe, WFP- Myitkyina.	
Agenda items and summary of discussion	Action Points	
<p>1. Sub-National CWG updates</p> <p>Kachin</p> <p>Private banks have resumed operations in Kachin; however, many partners are still facing banking and liquidity issues, which further delay the distribution activities especially in remote areas. In some cases, partners were able to take out cash for distribution with one to three per cent cash withdrawal fees. Transfer of cash from partners to beneficiaries has become more challenging as there are increasing number of checkpoints and staff reporting security concerns over scrutinization.</p> <p>Rakhine</p> <p>In Central Rakhine, especially in Ann and Kyauk Taw townships, both food and NFIs saw the upward trend in prices since February 2021 due to increase cost of production and fuel price. WFP continues to review the beneficiaries’ cash entitlement to reflect the price changes. During February - March 2022, the food basket increased by 17 per cent, and the cash entitlement was set at 18,000 MMK per beneficiary per month. WFP is carrying out market price monitoring at 29 markets in nine townships using remote data collection due to movement constraints. Access has been improved in some area, however, access to cash has still been very low at household level especially in conflicted-affected areas. Livelihood activities in conflict areas has been limited and crops production decreases in areas where farmers are in displacement.</p>		
<p>2. CWG member updates</p> <p><u>CARE</u>: has been having ongoing discussion with the True Money FSP for the purpose of the cash transfer program in Northern Rakhine, Mon, Kayin and Northern Shan State. True Money will apply estimated three per cent service fees including transition and cash withdrawal fees. CARE will use mobile cash transfer modality, sending messages to beneficiaries so they can withdraw from respective agents/mobile agents as per phone messages. In Northern Rakhine (Buthidaung Township), CARE has planned to provide cash assistance to over 1,300 beneficiaries (households) for livelihood, income generation activities and vocational training. In Mon and Kayin (targeted townships to be confirmed), CARE has planned to provide cash assistance for food security and livelihood activities in line with the existing GRO Myanmar rubber project. CARE is conducting the Rapid Market Analysis with field team and two local partners in Kayah and Southern Shan State. CARE will share the report with CWG members once completed.</p> <p><u>OXFAM</u>: is planning for emergency response project in Kachin supporting food security and livelihood to some 5,600 IDPs in the form of cash in envelope. By using local financial service provider, partner will carry cash directly to the targeted areas for distribution.</p>	<p>#CARE to share RMA reports with CWG members</p>	

<p>Oxfam also asked if there is any specific instruction on emergency food basket cash transfer value.</p> <p><u>UNWOMEN</u>: is continuing support for migrant women in Kayin and Tanintharyi region in the form of unconditional and unrestricted cash support and are also planning for small grant covering 100-300 beneficiaries in second quarter or early third quarter of 2022.</p> <p><u>WFP</u>: that WFP will be launching a call for proposals for livelihood activities (FFA) in Central Rakhine State. Interested partners can reach out to Nyo Nyo Tun at nyonyo.tun@wfp.org for more details.</p>	
<p>3. Market price updates</p> <p>Mercy Corps and WFP provided market price updates for May 2022 respectively on geographical areas, global and nationwide market price updates. According to global food prices indices, overall FAO food price index dropped slightly for May 2022. FAO vegetable oil price index dropped 5.7 per cent month-on-month. Global prices reduced in part due to demand rationing and removal of Indonesia’s short-lived palm oil ban. With the conflict in Ukraine and ongoing concerns over supply, oil prices projected to remain well over 2021 prices.</p> <p>Oil prices were stable overall in May but vary at stage and region level. While Regulatory Committee has announced caps on cooking oil prices, it was still unclear how effective these are in stemming price increases in retail shops as prices monitored this month were higher than stated caps even in source markets. Palm oil prices remained nearly double but there were few signs of further increases. The driving factors for rising oil prices are lower availability and high transportation costs. Egg prices continue to rise due to high costs of chicken feed (linked to declining availability of livestock feed in wake of the Russia-Ukraine conflict). Wa region markets continue to be affected by COVID lockdown, increasing prices. Some shops have been closed for nearly two months.</p> <p>In general, township-level price shifts may be visible again in June 2022 as markets correct for broad increases or decreases in May. Traders are commenting more on high mobile cash transfer fees. High transport costs continue to be a major issue mentioned by traders across monitored markets. Insecurity continues to deteriorate in the Northwest, affecting access to markets, transport costs, and ability of shops to re-stock the commodities.</p> <p>Members asked if it is possible to obtain contacts of suppliers across the states, which are reliable and suitable to be used for further activities. As it is not easy to travel and there is frequent internet shut down in some regions, having reliable sources will be useful for partners. WFP co-chair will reach out to VAM team and get back to members with more information. CARE also mentioned that they have the bi-weekly sitrep report and market price update from the field team for Lashio, Loikaw, Maungdaw and Mawlamyine townships and can provide the market information as necessary.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>#WFP co-chair to reach to VAM team for supplier information sharing</p>
<p>4. CWG Workstream Updates</p>	

CVA TOT: The Co-facilitators from the 2021 Cohort has been identified for the refresher TOT trainings. The invitation has been sent to the selected co-facilitators and provided information regarding TOT. The second round of basic CVA training will be delivered face-to-face from 29 June to 2 July in Yangon for selected participant number up to 25 participants. MRCS will fund the training and the refresher course and are developing the concept note and agenda. The call for applicants will be disseminated to both national and sub-national CWG member organization in due course.

CWG Information Management and Teams Site: By now, members should have received the email invitation to join the CWG MS Teams site. Members who have not yet received the invitation and experience any technical difficulties, please reach out to Chantal Zimmermann at Chantal.zimmermann@un.org. Members will be asked to switch to MRCS profile once they access to CWT MS Teams site. Members are encouraged to regularly switch to the MRCS profile to check on updates as well as upload any market and CVA related updates on MS Teams site, as the site does not send the automatic notifications for any recent uploads and updates.

4Ws Infographic: After substantial 4Ws data collection for CVA activities implemented during 2021, the datasets have now been released and shared with CWG partners and agencies who submitted the information. Infographic 4Ws has also been published and shared with members. The dashboards and Power BI are aimed to be rolled out in June 2022.

Survival MEB: The final SMEB technical note, together with the Excel calculation sheet has been shared with members to provide final feedback and comment. SMEB summary note has also been developed which summarizes proposed methodology, its advantages and disadvantages, key consideration as well as outcomes from different consultation organized for the development of SMEB.

5. AOB

ICRC asked which organizations are providing support to SMEs and the amount provided/ceiling. if there are any reports about SMEs in Myanmar, please share to Micheline Kharma at mkharma@icrc.org.

Useful links

- [Cash Programming page on MIMU Website](#)
- [Mercy Corps MAU market price report dashboard](#)
- [Myanmar: Cash Working Group \(CWG\) on MIMU Page](#)
- [Myanmar CWG final Terms of Reference \(June 2020\)](#)

Next CWG meeting: Thursday, 10:00 – 12:00, 7 July 2022