

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

<b>Date/ Time &amp; Venue</b>	8 June 2023, 10:00AM – 12:00 PM (via Zoom)	
<b>Chair</b>	<b>John Nelson (Mercy Corps)</b>	
<b>Participants</b>	40 participants. Attendance record stored by OCHA.	
<b>Agenda items and summary of discussion</b>	<b>Action Points</b>	
<p><b>1. Sub-national updates</b></p> <p><b>Kachin</b></p> <p>Kachin Food Security Cluster/CWG meeting took place on 30 May. Partners CWG and INGOs facing cash out challenges due to the recent instruction from CBM which includes cash withdrawal limits and only to those with valid registration. This is causing difficulties for office running to beneficiary cash distributions and need to find better options from e-cash to FSPs. Cash for Work (CfW) rate for livelihood activities collected and can share with national CWG once consolidated the CfW rates for Kachin as well as other areas. Next meeting will be 25<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p><b>Rakhine</b></p> <p>It was reported that WFP is providing assistance to 120,000 affected people in Rathedaung, Sittwe, Pauk Taw, Ponnagyun and Kyauk Taw townships in response to the Cyclone Mocha. The monthly distribution was also made to nearly 90% of the existing IDP caseload in Central Rakhine. WFP is currently considering shifting to cash implementation to regular and existing caseload starting from July 2023. In terms of Cyclone Mocha caseload, the most feasible modality option will be considered. Essential needs are food, shelter and WASH as there are water shortage in some areas.</p> <p>CWG also alerted partners to closely monitor the situation and take extra care in coming weeks as the travel authorization for response activities in Rakhine has been called off.</p> <p><b>Southeast</b></p> <p>CWG meeting was held on 5 May and they invited M-Pitesan to present for members' information as the FSP resumed operation in Myanmar. The GBV mainstreaming tips in CVA programming was also presented and discussed. The next meeting will be on 15 June.</p>		
<p><b>2. Market price updates</b></p> <p>WFP and Mercy Corps presented the market price monitoring updates for May 2023. WFP collected data from 180 markets which are still functioning in the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha landfall. The rice prices went up in most States and Regions due to low stock and high domestic and international demands especially from China and India. The price of chickpeas went up to 7% and the key factor driving price is low yield and stock while the demand is strong. Onion prices dramatically increased by up to 30% due to damage in plantation areas during the Cyclone landfall. Overall, basic food basket prices went up 6% compared to last month due to high transportation charges and wholesale price increases in different areas.</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 increase from 10-20% depending on the quality of the rice. Vegetables logged a third month of share price increases in May with up to 30% price increase, and many common items were unavailable due to crop damage. Meat and fish prices also saw significant increase, however, the</p>		

<p>prices of hygiene products and other NFIs returned to pre-cyclone level despite many goods remaining out of stock.</p> <p>It was noted that greater attention to food security and nutrition will be needed in Rakhine State due to spiking rice prices and poor supply of vegetables. In addition, access to shelter and NFIs still remained a major concern, particularly in Sittwe where prices remain high and goods remain unavailable.</p> <p>For more details, please visit Mercy Corps Market Analysis Unit dashboard at <a href="https://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit">https://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit</a> and WFP <a href="#">Market Monitoring Dashboard</a> .</p>	
<p><b>3. Cyclone Mocha updates</b></p> <p>CWG held an ad-hoc meeting last week to seek partners input in sharing any information on implementation of cash programmes in Cyclone Mocha response, as well as general information including issues around travel authorization, security, transfer values and market information. Market assessment and MPCA implementation trackers have been developed to inform and track response activities. CWG encourages partners to take time to update the trackers once a week. Updates will also be circulated to the CWG members.</p> <p>In terms of food assistance transfer values, CWG recommended to base any cash for food value on the food component of SMEB. If markets are functioning, in-kind, cash or full cash modalities can be considered. Higher transfer values for newly affected populations are not recommended due to likely market stabilization, pipeline breaks, and difficulty justifying a reduced value in a few months' time.</p> <p>With regards to MPCA, CWG recommended providing Rakhine SMEB amount of 175,000 MMK<sup>1</sup> per household based on average household size of 5 people. CWG recommended only providing more or less than the SMEB amount on situations where assessed needs justify a deviation. SMEB will be updated based on the market prices at the end of May 2023. A significant increase is expected as the last update was made in January 2023. CWG recommended partners who are planning new projects to align the programming with the new SMEB value. It is expected that there will be a phased approach as it will be difficult for many organizations to make changes after submitting the funding proposals.</p> <p>In terms of other sectoral specific cash assistance, partners are encouraged to refer to the breakdown of Shelter and NFI, with more detailed sectoral breakdown can be found at the full MEB.</p>	
<p><b>4. DRA Mocha Consortium</b></p> <p>Care International presented the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) for partners' information. The objective of DRA is to provide 121,284 affected people with live-saving and live-sustaining humanitarian assistance. The response will use the multi-sector approach with a holistic intervention including MPCA, and with Protection being mainstreamed across programming. Partners involve CARE, Plan, Oxfam, Save the Children, IRC and TearFund in collaboration with local and national partners. Members will take responsibility for internal monitoring at the implementation level to track progress and quality of delivery. For more information, please refer to the DRA presentation material.</p> <p>Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster asks if there are any specific Shelter/NFI/CCM activities involved and about coordination. CARE clarified that the programme coordinator/focal will take on coordination role to communicate with clusters. It is also noted that the MPCA- covered township will be shared with the CWG later.</p>	

<sup>1</sup> Note that the updated SMEB has been released and the amount for Rakhine is now 235,000 MMK.

<p><b>5. CWG 5Ws dashboard and infographic updates</b></p> <p>CWG Information Management Officer informed that the 5Ws Dashboard has been published and available on MIMU and thanked partners who took their time to report to the 5Ws exercise. The Dashboard can be accessed at <a href="http://themimu.info/sector/cash-programming">http://themimu.info/sector/cash-programming</a>.</p>	
<p><b>6. AOB</b></p> <p>Sub-national CWG will be established for the Northwest region (Sagaing, Magway, Chin). Interested organizations who would like to participate or co-lead the NW CWG are encouraged to reach out to national CWG and complete this <a href="#">short form</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> </ul>	

**Next CWG meeting: Thursday 10:00 – 12:00, 13 July 2023**