

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

<b>Date/ Time &amp; Venue</b>	09 March 2023, 10:00AM – 12:00 PM (via Zoom)	
<b>Chair</b>	<b>John Nelson (Merch Corps)</b>	
<b>Participants</b>	55 participants. Attendance record stored by OCHA.	
<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>Commodity prices significantly increased in Kachin between February and March, especially rice price which saw 27% increase compared to January 2023 mainly due to low productivity and high demand from international trade such as China. There is consideration for providing assistance to IDP returnees with the basic kits upon their return. CWG is working on collection of casual labour rate and will share the data with national CWG once completed for further technical support. The next CWG meeting will be held on 23 March.</p> <p><b>Rakhine</b></p> <p>Rakhine saw unusual increase in rice price by up to 30% within three months. There's been procurement from other regions of rice produced in Rakhine due to disrupted agriculture and other factors. The spike in prices affected some areas especially Sittwe, Kyaut Taw, Minbya and partners may need to push for increase in cash entitlement. WFP will monitor the market situation weekly going forward to stay on top of price changes. There has been concerns over how cash assistance has been utilized, and thus, monitoring of cash assistance will begin to ensure the assistance reach to the right people. Forced returns has also been occurring and require close watch on returnees and the potential needs. The 600,000 MMK one-off resettlement fees are planned to provide to the returned households; however, the situation is still fluid as some households tend to return to displacement site after a period once cash is exhausted and guaranteed help is not delivered. It is noted that when return is not voluntary, and de-mining is not completed, it is difficult to help restart the livelihood activities.</p> <p><b>Southeast</b></p> <p>Southeast CWG meeting was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March and partners provided regular market price information and updates. During the meeting, SE level cash transfer value survey and key cash activities in specific targeted locations was also discussed including key findings and next actions. Next SE CWG meeting will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.</p>		
<p><b>2. Market price monitoring</b></p> <p>WFP presented the market price monitoring updates with the data collected from the 70 townships across the country.</p> <p>The overall commodity prices increased in February 2023 due to combination of factors. Compared to Jan 2023, basic food basket price saw 8% increase, with mixed oil, rice and eggs prices went up by 6%, 12% and 8% respectively. Fuel prices saw some decrease with diesel prices went down by 8%. Among key factors driving price changes are lower production and import of rice while having high demands from international trade, transport cost and fuel price, disruption of transportation route due to insecurity subsequently affecting the trade flows, and seasonal availability driving price decreases for commodities such as onion and tomato. For more details on WFP market price monitoring, please refer to attached presentation and visit <a href="#">Market Monitoring Dashboard</a>.</p>		

<p>Member inquired if WFP is monitoring market situation in the Southern Sagaing region. WFP noted that discussion has been ongoing with cooperating partners for coverage to the area.</p>	
<p><b>3. MPCA presentation</b></p> <p>The co-chair presented the concept of MPCA including the current scope and scale of MPCA in Myanmar, rationale behind the push for MPCA, and key considerations for MPCA implementation. Cash deep dive in Sept 2022 with cluster coordinators led to development of cash section of HRP. It was observed that partners have been distributing the unrestricted cash, but there was a lack of uniformity to meet multi-sectoral needs. It was agreed to work towards a systematic implementation in transitioning to MPCA in 2024. The co-chair noted that the transition will begin with the development of guidance for MPCA in consultation with relevant stakeholders including national cluster coordinators. As such, CWG will call for the first MPCA task team meeting in coming week to kickstart the discussion and reach consensus on the following key considerations; beneficiary identification; MPCA transfer value; frequency and duration of support; transition and referral pathways (linking up with cluster responses, nexus, social protection through referral pathways); monitoring and indicators; the key outcome for MPCA as well as reporting. It is anticipated that members would report MPCA regularly (quarterly) to CWG as well as seek guidance in proposal development and vetting (according to ICCG endorsed standard). Capacity strengthening steps will also be identified to help smooth transition from sectoral cash to the MPCA.</p> <p>Members suggested to integrate approach of coordinating with partners regarding the MPCA reporting for HPC 2024. There is a need to differentiate between sectoral cash reporting and MPCA reporting. Co-chair noted that awareness-raising and training should be happened between March to August 2023 to socialize with partners regarding transition to MPCA.</p>	<p><b>#CWG to set up MPCA task team meeting</b></p>
<p><b>4. ICCG retreat takeaways</b></p> <p>The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) retreat was held face-to-face from 21-23 February as the annual planning for ICCG to set priorities for 2023. Co-chair briefed the member on the recommended new coordination architecture resulted in from the recent Peer-to-Peer Mission to Myanmar. There will be sub-national ICCGs and Area HCTs for sub-national regions including Northeast, Northwest, Rakhine and Southeast. In terms of CWG discussion with different clusters/AoRs, co-chair briefed on the following; education cluster is coming up with a list of standard education items for price monitoring; Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster proposed to expand the market price monitoring to cover items included in the updated Shelter/NFI kit guidance; Protection cluster focuses on more analysis on disability top-up payments, specific CVA risks of child-headed households, and follow up on GBV risk mitigation paper; WASH cluster plans to analyze and report how beneficiaries are spending their cash assistance. Other key topics discussed included how CWG could support the HPC 2024 and involve in the early stage of consultation with clusters, localization strategy and key enablers to promote localization and avoiding risk transfer, protection strategy, Nexus and Access.</p>	
<p><b>5. CVA ToT debriefing</b></p> <p>The third batch of CVA ToT completed as the face-to-faced training involving 36 participants from Rakhine and funded by the UNDP and WFP. Train qualified participants contributed as co-facilitators in both 2nd and 3rd batches, with a total of 5 participants joined as co-facilitators during the training. The training received the positive feedback from the participants, with 94% of participants voted that the training demonstrated the good facilitation skills. Participants suggested for future trainings to consider different context of different ethnicity, extend the training period and provide separate training for CSOs. It is noted that 65.6% of respondents said they are willing to participate as co-facilitator in upcoming CVA training and majority of</p>	

<p>participants have a plan to provide in-house training. The CWG aims to organize the fourth batch training in Southeast and will form core trainer group. Interested CWG members can reach out to <a href="mailto:im.specialist@rsp.one">im.specialist@rsp.one</a> for more information.</p>	
<p><b>6. CWG workstream updates</b></p> <p><b>JMMI-</b> REACH had discussion with Shelter/NFI/CCCM and potential funding may be on the way for monitoring items involved in new Shelter Kit.</p> <p><b>MSNA:</b> REACH started discussion with clusters/working groups including with CWG to see which indicators could be added and to identify additional question for MPCA. Current consideration is to include additional questions on households’ income. Training for MSNA data collection will commence in coming month and volunteers from CWG are welcomed to participate.</p> <p><b>5Ws-</b> Most member organization reported against CWG 5Ws and co-chairs encouraged those who haven’t reported yet to reach out and submit the report. Cleaning up and analysis of data will start the following week, which will lead to development of Dashboard and the infographic.</p> <p><b>Cash for nutrition:</b> Global work ongoing for cash for nutrition with good recommendation of incorporating cash into nutrition activities. Co-chair will share the presentation with CWG members.</p> <p><b>Cash for work:</b> Members are encouraged to let CWG know if there are any organizations who completed assessment/analysis in this area.</p>	<p><b>#CWG to share the cash for nutrition presentation</b></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, 20 April 2023**