

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

Date & Venue	12 May 2020 (via Webex)	
Chair / Co-chair	WFP (Marc Gschwend) and Mercy Corps (John Nelson)	
Participants	ACF, ACTED, ARC, AVSI, CARE, CDN, Christian Aid, CRS, DCA, DRC, ICRC, IFRC, IRW, KoeKoeTech, LIFT, Malteser, Metta, MRCS, NRC, OCHA, Plan International, PUI, RI, Save the Children, SI, Trocaire, UNICEF, WFP, World vision	
Agenda items and summary of discussion	Action Points	
<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The CWG chair (WFP) introduced the new co-chair (Mercy Corps) and the secretariat (OCHA) that has been suggested for the revised CWG structure.</p> <p>The co-chair, explained his supporting role to enhance Cash-Based Programming (CBP) in Myanmar. He is a cash and market advisor for Mercy Corps and HARP facility; position funded by DFID. DFID is a key actor in the Grand Bargain agreement and supporting strengthening the CWG in Myanmar is one of its' priorities. Mercy Corps has ongoing CBP in Rakhine and experience on cash interventions in the Southeast and Ayeyarwaddy in response to past flooding. Globally, Mercy Corps plays a major role on cash-based programming as a key member of the CaLP consortium.</p>		
<p>Presentation of the revised CWG ToR, proposed structure and expected new dynamic</p> <p>WFP, Mercy Corps and OCHA worked together to refined the CWG ToR based on lessons learnt and experiences from CWG in other countries. The revised ToR has been shared with the CWG members ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>The co-chair briefed on the objectives of the revised ToR as well as the membership and structure of the CWG. On the governance structure of the CWG, it was suggested a national organization (encouraging MRCS) to take the co-lead role along with Mercy Corps. It is important that national organizations take an increasing leading role since the aim is to handover the CWG to the Government in the longer term. Those national organizations interested in becoming the co-chair of the CWG will send a message to OCHA by COB Tuesday 19 May.</p> <p>It was also highlighted that the chair/co-chair will participate at the Inter-Cluster/sector Coordination Group (ICCG) meetings representing the CWG to ensure strong linkages with the ICCG and the HCT. The chair/co-chair will also attend as many relevant sector/cluster meetings as possible to mainstream CBP across the different sectors/clusters.</p> <p>The CWG meetings will be convened monthly (every first Friday of the month) and the ToR can be reviewed/ amended every six months, if necessary.</p> <p>One agency raised its concern on the linkages between the Yangon CWG and the sub-national CWGs. It was clarified that the sub-national CWGs will be members of the national CWG since they play an important role on coordination and ensure integrated approaches at the field level.</p> <p>The members were asked to provide feedback on the ToR to OCHA by COB Tuesday 19 May. The ToR will be sent to the ICCG once finalized.</p> <p>There was a question regarding establishing a repository of documents related CBP and participants were informed on the available section on cash in MIMU website. On the other hand, an information management officer is being recruited to support and improve the CWG sharing mechanism and data management.</p>	<p># CWG national organizations interested in taking the CWG co-lead role to send a message to OCHA by 19 May</p> <p>(already completed)</p> <p># CWG members to provide feedback on the ToR, including clarifying the linkages between the national and sub-national CWGs to OCHA by 19 May</p> <p>(already completed)</p> <p># To send the final ToR to the ICCG</p>	

<p>There was also a discussion on the involvement of the private sector in the CWG. The co-chair mentioned that the inclusion of social enterprises, transfers service providers (e.g wave money), etc would be valuable for the CWG. However, the role of these entities in the steering committee must be discussed further.</p>	<p># To share the link to Cash section on MIMU website</p> <p>(already completed)</p>
<p>Latest on COVID-19 and use of cash in this context and possible opportunities</p> <p>The chair shared that the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) has received funding to address the special needs of IDPs and other vulnerable population mainly for Mother and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme. However, the channel is cash-in-envelop that brings the challenge of COVID-19 transmission in IDP camps (similar to in-kind distributions). Electronic cash is not feasible in Myanmar yet. There are also movement restrictions imposed by the Government impacting cash programming.</p> <p>A participant asked about WAVE money working with the Government on electronic cash transfers but details are not known. WFP will try to obtain more information and will inform this group. At the moment, the Government is still using paper-based registration of population to receive cash. WFP has established strict measures to minimize the risks when channeling cash or food by distributing two months in one go to reduce the interactions with communities.</p> <p>Some of the participants raised their concerns on Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and market monitoring especially during the COVID-19. WFP stated that they are doing regular market surveys and it was noticed market fluctuation in some areas.</p> <p>The members were asked to share their organization’s COVID-19 cash tip sheets and Mercy Corps will share its’ tip sheets after the meeting.</p>	<p># WFP to follow up on the government and WAVE money’s electronic cash transfer and share with the CWG</p> <p># CWG members to share their organization's COVID-19 cash tip sheets</p>
<p>CWG Brainstorming Session</p> <p>The co-chair informed that the objective of this session was to gather ideas and inputs from the members on the support needed from the CWG and identify key issues to prioritize in the upcoming workplan (e.g. joint market survey, linkages with social protection schemes, etc).</p> <p>LIFT highlighted the need to have data and information available to help decision making on cash transfers for IDPs and/or other vulnerable groups. LIFT provided some funding to DSW for MCCT and social pension programme across the country. One of the challenges is the lack of data on markets and the need for more information to make decisions on the transfers. Further analysis of the markets would be very useful.</p> <p>SI echoed that it will be useful to coordinate market surveys to avoid duplicating the work done by different partners (including on the supply chain), especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Mercy Corps shared that they are working on market monitoring and market analysis. However, it needs a more systematic and common approach rather than worked at organization level. It would be good if the CWG consolidates the information to be shared amongst its members.</p> <p>WFP mentioned that past experience showed that each cash organization has its own approach on using cash and harmonizing tools was a challenge. It is important to have an agreement on the MEB. Save the Children stated that it is critical to agree on minimum standards and principles to be applied on cash programming since different agencies will have different protocols and ways of implementing them. IRW suggested to set standard minimum and maximum cash amount for different scenarios and advocate on the use of cash with local authorities.</p>	

<p>WFP shared that MEB (2019 data) is available on MIMU website and will share the link after the meeting. WFP also stated that the government is not against the use of cash; however, a bit reluctant to implement cash interventions in areas with ongoing conflicts.</p> <p>The members were asked to share market assessment tools and other useful related documents they may have.</p>	<p># CWG members to share their existing market assessment tools and other useful related documents</p>
<p>Updated 4Ws and template</p> <p>The co-chair informed the members about the relaunch of the 4W exercise and briefed on the new 4W template. The template will be shared after the meeting and members are requested to fill in to the best extent possible, acknowledging the possible difficulties in completing the details of some fields.</p>	<p># CWG members to provide information for the Cash 4W exercise by 27 May</p>
<p>AOB</p> <p>Preparedness: With the upcoming monsoon season, OCHA reminded the need to revise the cash tools (Cash feasibility checklist, SOP for using CASH, minimum expenditure basket – MEB, monthly packages, etc) included in the ERP Plan and asked for volunteers to work on this by COB Tuesday 19 May.</p>	<p># CWG members interested in updating the cash tools on preparedness to communicate to OCHA by 19 May</p> <p>(already completed)</p>
<p>Next CWG meeting: 10:00 – 12:00, 5 June 2020 (TBC)</p>	