

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

<b>Date/ Time &amp; Venue</b>	10 November 2022, 10.00 – 12.00 AM (via MS Teams)	
<b>Chair</b>	<b>John Nelson (Mercy Corps)</b>	
<b>Participants</b>	ADRA, CARE, CESVI, DRC, Euracific Strategies, FCA, German Red Cross, IFRC, IOM, LIFT, Mercy Corps, MRCS, OCHA, Oxfam, PUI, REACH, UNFAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, WFP, WFP – FSC, WFP – Sittwe, WFP- Myitkyina, WFP-Naypyitaw, WVI	
<b>Agenda items and summary of discussion</b>		<b>Action Points</b>
<p><b>1. Sub-National CWG updates</b></p> <p><b>Rakhine</b></p> <p>Importation remains big challenge for shop owners. Food commodities and NFI import are still very difficult and pose serious challenges due to checkpoint scrutiny. Cash interventions are affected by increased price and restricted supplies; however, WFP is pushing for resumption of e-cash intervention despite issue with eKYC regulations. Currently it is becoming riskier to carry money in large sums through checkpoints in conflict areas. Recent suspension of assistance in six townships in Rakhine affected almost 40,000 beneficiaries who are relying on humanitarian assistance. WFP has done surveys on feasibility survey for e-cash activities in areas where the travel authorization had not been approved and will provide updates once available.</p> <p><b>Kachin</b></p> <p>Commodity price became mostly stable except the increase in fuel price due to concerns around shortage. Liquidity issue persists with difficulty to withdraw cash for interventions. Ongoing armed conflicts, movement restriction and China border closure resulted in delays in distribution of assistance. Partner organizations are considering shifting modality from in-kind to commodity vouchers or 100% cash assistance in areas with movement restriction. Emergency food and cash assistance has been provided to some 1,000 new IDPS in three townships. The updated MEB has been shared with Kachin CWG, further igniting discussions around transfer value and MEB.</p> <p><b>Southeast</b></p> <p>The SE CWG was established in October 2022 with the chairmanship by CARE for an initial period of six months. CARE presented the results of survey data for SE CWG initiative for members' information. Total 56 respondents from 43 organizations participated in the survey, and there was unanimous interest from respondents to participate in the SE CWG. The SECWG will be held monthly on every Wednesday of the first week of the month and will develop the draft ToR in line with National CWG.</p>		
<p><b>2. Market updates</b></p> <p>WFP provided market price updates for Aug 2022 collected from 125 markets in 70 townships. Overall, basic food basket prices increased by 56% compared to same time last year. On a month-on-month basis, the overall commodity prices were either stable or lower. Rice prices increased by 2% month-on-month, while cooking oil and mixed-oil</p>		

<p>saw decreases by 17% and 12% respectively. Price of onion rose 6% compared to September, mainly due to high export demand and increased transportation costs.</p> <p>For more details on WFP market price monitoring, please refer to attached presentations. Please visit <a href="#">here</a> for WFP market monitoring dashboard.</p>	
<p><b>3. Briefing on cash options and impact of FATF</b></p> <p>A financial service provider (FSP) provided a briefing on cash options, including overview of current situation, changes in the banking regulation, and implication of FATF decision to re-blacklist Myanmar. The most experienced cash management issues are delays and blockages of international transfers to and from Myanmar, liquidity issue and increasing demand for cash from various stakeholders. Subsequently NGOs are struggling with cash liquidity to pay costs locally, while multi-national companies struggle to transfer funds out of Myanmar for payments offshore. In addition, FATF decision will have implications on international trade, investment, aid and foreign currency flows, as well as increase costs for cross-border transactions. The blacklisting will have impacts on KYC, contracting, operations and banking. For more information on cash options and contacts of the FSP, please contact the CWG.</p>	
<p><b>4. Transfer value setting and FSP contracting</b></p> <p>With regards to the request made during the October CWG meeting, CWG developed a guidance document on how to develop transfer values including how to use the SMEB in developing transfer values for multi-purpose cash assistance. The document laid out the current SMEB methodology, means to calculate and review the transfer value, and include state level SMEBs, MPCA transfer value recommendation and MEB resources as annexes. The guidance document will be widely shared with CWG members once finalized.</p>	
<p><b>5. CWG IM strategy</b></p> <p>CWG presented its information management strategy including the standard 4/5Ws data collection, document repository, Cash Dashboard and CWG regular and ad-hoc updates while providing good examples from elsewhere. Members are encouraged to provide feedback and suggestion on the proposed strategy. For more details, please refer to attached presentation and strategy document.</p>	<p># Feedback to be provided to CWG members by Friday 25 November.</p>
<p><b>6. HNO/HRP Cash inputs</b></p> <p>OCHA is in the process of putting together all assessments done by different clusters/sectors/working groups for Humanitarian Needs Overview 2023. Humanitarian Response Plan 2023, which is a planning document for upcoming year is currently a work in progress for various clusters/sectors. HRP 2023 will have dedicated session on cash as the cash assistance has been playing a crucial role in humanitarian response in Myanmar. OCHA will be working closely with CWG co-chairs to set out key priorities in the next few days. Members are encouraged to reach out to co-chairs with any inputs on key priorities, issues and concerns that needs to be reflected in the HRP 2023.</p>	
<p><b>7. CWG workstream and other updates</b></p>	

#### CVA TOT

The next round of CVA ToT for 2022 will be looking closely at sub-national options and discussion has been ongoing with sub-national CWGs. Updates on progress will be shared in next CWG meeting.

#### JMMI

Additional consultations have been ongoing to inform the updated version of concept note which will be finalized and ready for fund-raising in next few weeks.

#### FSP Mapping

Concept note has been circulated to CWG and presented to ICCG last week for feedback, which will be followed by fund raising once the budget is finalized.

#### GBV prevention in cash interventions

The key findings from GBV risk mitigation in cash interventions has been produced as 2-pager document. The document has been shared with CWG members for feedback. The final version will be translated in next few weeks.

#### Useful links

- [Cash Programming page on MIMU Website](#)
- [Mercy Corps MAU market price report dashboard](#)
- [WFP market monitoring 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, 8 December 2022**