

Summary Note on Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting

Date/ Time & Venue	13 October 2022, 10.00 – 12.00 AM (via MS Teams)	
Chair / Co-chair	Ria Lewis (WFP)	
Participants	Action Aid, ACF, CARE, CRS, DRC, Help Age Myanmar, Helvetas, HPA, IFRC, LIFT, Malteser International, Mercy Corps, MRCS, NPA, OCHA, PUI, REACH, Save the Children, Shelter/NFI/CCCM, TGH, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, WASH Cluster, WFP, WFP – FSC, WFP – Sittwe, WFP- Myitkyina, Wave Money, WFP-Naypyitaw, Zigway	
Agenda items and summary of discussion	Action Points	
<p>1. Sub-National CWG updates</p> <p>Rakhine</p> <p>In Rakhine, prices of commodities remain high and out of reach for majority of people who are in rural area and who rely on daily casual labor. More people have been having challenge in accessing food at the end of rainy season due to decline in cost of labour wages, and movement restriction resulting from ongoing conflicts around Rakhine state. There are increase in checkpoints and restriction of commodities movement especially rice, and therefore shops closed or are operating below normal level. Displaced and non-displaced households (HHs) are affected by restrictions, and access to food remains a major concern.</p> <p>Southeast</p> <p>A main new development in cash coordination is the establishment of the SE CWG chaired by CARE for an initial period of six months. The mobilization process was presented at SE ICCG and NGO platform and received positive feedback from members. CARE is collecting a survey data for SE CWG initiative to other coordination bodies for their feedback. The SE CWG will meet monthly in the Myanmar language commencing in late October.</p>		
<p>2. Market updates</p> <p>Mercy Corps and WFP provided market price updates for Aug 2022 respectively on specific geographical areas, and nationwide market price updates.</p> <p>Overall, basic food basket prices increased by 14% compared to August 2022, and 64% compared to same time last year. Rice prices increased by 17% month-on-month, while cooking oil and mixed-oil saw increases by 10% and 7% respectively. There are significant increase in the price of onion at +47%, mainly due to high export demand and increased transportation costs.</p> <p>In Rakhine and Chin state, further price increases were seen across all product categories, especially in Maungdaw, Rathedaung and Sittwe townships. It is anticipated that road closures and other complications form rising tensions in the regions may increase prices particularly in Maungdaw, Rathedaung, Kyawktaw and Paletwa townships.</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>3. Update on FSP Mapping</p> <p>See ppt</p> <p>To keep up with the rapidly changing financial landscape and better understand the needs and perspectives of the beneficiaries, REACH developed a concept note to support CWG with the FSP mapping across the country. The concept note, including research methodology, timeline of activities and expected outcomes were presented for CWG’s feedback. Members raised questions on the coverage and components of the mapping, and the difference between comprehensive report and quarterly factsheet. REACH answered that FSP mapping can potentially cover nationwide or all townships for formal providers, while the areas of operations of implementers will be covered with regards to informal FSPs. REACH also noted that comprehensive report will serve as baseline and quarterly factsheet will focus on easily updateable quantitative online surveys.</p> <p>As next step, the concept note will be presented to the ICCG for formal endorsement. For more information on FSP concept note, please refer to attached presentation.</p>	
<p>4. GBV Cash Toolkit Debriefing</p> <p>GBV experts held a dedicated session with CWG members on 11 October 2022, with a focus on integrating GBV risk mitigation measures into cash and voucher assistance activities. Discussion covers the type of cash intervention in Myanmar, access to market, mobility of beneficiaries, as well as various CVA programming components. For more information, please refer to attached presentation.</p> <p>As next step, a document with key recommendations around post-distribution monitoring, community feedback mechanisms and best practices for Myanmar will be produced.</p>	
<p>5. Discussion on inflation Rate</p> <p>CWG co-chair raised questions on member organizations’ means of calculating inflation for transfer value, standard operating procedure (SOP) for transfer value setting and whether partners are using consumer price index. Members shared different means of transfer value calculations, including market price and SMEB based calculation.</p> <p>As an action item, CWG propose to provide some tips on how to develop SOP for transfer value setting and revision for partners’ reference.</p>	<p>#CWG to provide tips on developing SOP for transfer value setting and revision</p>
<p>6. MSNA Finding presentation</p> <p>REACH shared the consolidated MSNA key findings on cash and market for members’ reference. Overall, 5% of IPD household respondents reported not having access to financial service provider of any kind. 14% of non-displaced stateless population households reported physical or social barriers to consistently accessing markets in the 30 days or prior to data collection. The most reported physical or social barriers reported were: “Markets is too far away to access regularly”, “Insecurity or danger travelling to or from market” and “Local or traditional authorities restrict access/travel”. It was noted</p>	

<p>that the results presented are indicative with some level of representation for the wider population groups.</p>	
<p>7. Updates on KYC regulations (WAVE MONEY)</p> <p>WAVE MONEY provided briefing on the current enforcement of KYC regulations. It was noted that biometric facial recognition will be introduced at cash-out points within the next 12 months for all FSP agents.</p> <p>Members discussed the potential for practicing exemption on recipients who do not have national registration card (NRC), and concerns around data protection and security for options around issuing functional IDs.</p> <p>Consultations are ongoing in how best to address the restrictive KYC regulations by providing a functional ID to beneficiaries without a national registration card.</p>	
<p>8. AOB</p> <p>Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMIMI)- REACH is having ongoing bilateral conversations with partners to check how to build on existing initiatives and systems. Partners are encouraged to reach out to Darrel Flores at (Darrel.flores@reach-initiative.org), or to CWG co-chairs to set up bilateral discussion. The updated concept note will then be produced and endorsed at the next CWG meeting.</p>	
<p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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, 10 November 2022