

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

Date/ Time & Venue	3 September 2020, 14:00 – 16:00 (via Webex)	
Chair / Co-chair	WFP (Marc Gschwend), Mercy Corps (John Nelson)	
Participants	ACF, ACTED, CARE, Christian Aid, DCA-NCA, DRC, ECHO, HPA, ICRC, IRC, IRW, Malteser, OCHA, RI, SCI, SI, Trócaire, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHH	
Agenda items and summary of discussion	Action Points	
<p>1. Cash and Protection issues</p> <p>WFP Senior Protection and Gender Advisor briefed on the protection considerations in Cash-based Interventions (CBI) including safety and dignity, impacts on community/household dynamics and practical actions to mitigate risk. The discussion was focus on the Gender-based violence (GBV) in CBIs and WFP Sittwe shared its Cash-based Transfer (CBT) experience in central Rakhine. As of August 2020, cash-in-envelope was provided to more than ten thousand households and 40 percent were unconditional cash assistance. There were some challenges to establish mobile money modality and it includes low rate of cellphone ownership, lack of service providers in the camps, etc. The remote monitoring and community engagement mechanism (CEM) is currently active and the respondents are aware of it. According to the recent Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM), 77 percent of the beneficiaries prefers full cash modality and 20% prefer rice plus cash, owing to the quality of rice. It was also shared that there is no reported correlation between the transfer modality and GBV prevalence. The GBV/protection component is incorporated into the CBIs activities in consultation with UNFPA.</p> <p>UNFPA Sittwe briefed on the guidance note on GBV in CBIs developed by WFP and UNFPA, in consultation with PWG, CWG Sittwe and MIAG for Northern Rakhine. The guidance note provides information on the minimum actions for organizations undertaking CBIs in Rakhine State to mitigate GBV risks and avoid harm. It also highlights the three GBV risk areas i.e. exclusion and discrimination, exploitation and abuse, and engagement in unsafe livelihoods and other activities. There are opportunities for CBI partners to mitigate those risks at each stage of the programming cycle and the mitigation measures were presented.</p> <p>WFP stated that the guidance currently focuses on Rakhine and would be further expended for nationwide. There was a discussion around “Extortion” since this is one of the major protection concerns mentioned in the recent Protection Incident Monitoring System (PIMS) report. WFP would reach out to protection sector working group to provide one-pager for CWG highlighting the strategy which can be done by CWG members.</p>		
<p>2. Information sharing -- market monitoring and cash programs in response to COVID-19</p> <p>WFP Sittwe shared the update on market monitoring in light of COVID-19. The access to market had been affected by the government’s stay-home instruction and COVID-19 prevention measures. There were price increases for some essential items. Notable price increases were on rice which went up by 33% and vegetable oil 30% during the first few days of implementing the stay-home orders. The price increases were expected to be temporary as they were mainly a result of panic buying that resulted in unexpected pressure on the supply chain. The daily casual labourers had limited job opportunities due to movement restrictions.</p> <p>Mercy Corps also presented its market monitoring and analysis in Rakhine. On the delivery of assistance, some respondents reported that there was reduction in delivery of expected emergency assistance and received some new unexpected emergency support in some areas. The other findings were similar to WFP’s and the report will be shared with CWG members.</p>		

<p>3. CWG Information Management -- Including 4Ws data collection</p> <p>The co-chair introduced the new Data & Information Management Specialist from Mercy Corps who will be providing part-time information management support to CWG. It was informed that the CWG 4Ws template will be further updated to capture more details on cash transfer programming and produce the infographic as previous years.</p>	
<p>4. Task Teams</p> <p>Update on Cash for work (CFW) task team: The CFW task team, consists of WHH, SI, DRC, ACTED, WFP, Mercy Corps and OCHA had an initial meeting on 12 August to exchange current CFW activities, discuss around the areas of collaboration and define the objectives of the task team. The summary of the meeting will be shared with CWG members. Members are requested to share the existing tools related to CFW.</p> <p>Potential to set up a task team on Minimum Expenditure Baskets (MEB): The CWG leadership group had a discussion to update the Minimum Expenditure Baskets (MEB) for Myanmar. The last MEB assessment was conducted by WFP in disaster-prone areas in late 2018/ early 2019. WFP suggested to firstly update the content of the MEB in consultation with sector/cluster coordinators and look at the current market situation and supply chain. CWG members were invited to indicate their interest in participating in a task team on MEB given the technical nature of the topic.</p>	
<p>5. Establishment of CWG online platform</p> <p>The co-chair informed the group that the quick poll on the establishment of CWG online group was launched on 6 August and CWG members indicated “Microsoft Teams” as a preferred platform. However, there were some limitations and difficulties to permit access to wider range of partners (with different domains) since the restrictions vary across the organizations. The “Google Group”, which is more flexible, will be used as a platform for CWG group and the invitation will be sent shortly.</p>	
<p>6. AOB</p> <p>HPC – Development of 2021 HNO/HRP: OCHA provided brief update on the 2021 HPC process, including changes in geographical scope and the timeline. The 2021 HNO is due to be finalized by mid- September and HRP by the end of November with the global launch in early December. OCHA will liaise with CWG for support on integration of cash both in intersectoral response analysis as well as joint response approaches.</p> <p>Webpage for the Interagency (UN & IFIs) Social Protection Group: The webpage for the Interagency (UN & IFIs) Social Protection Group is available and can be accessed at https://themimu.info/sector/social-protection. The main purpose of this webpage is to provide an updated mapping of social protection/cash transfer programmes, and easy access to key social protection resources. A slide with features available on the webpage will be shared with CWG members.</p>	
<p>Useful links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources for Cash-based Programming • Cash preparedness profiles in disaster-prone states • Myanmar CWG final Terms of Reference (June 2020) • Myanmar CWG 4Ws (as of 29 July 2020) 	
<p>Next CWG meeting: 14:00 – 16:00, 1 October 2020</p>	