

Summary Note on Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting

Date/ Time & Venue	14 September 2023, 10:00AM – 12:00 PM (via Zoom)	
Chair	John Nelson (Mercy Corps)	
Participants	54 participants. Attendance record stored by OCHA.	
Agenda items and summary of discussion	Action Points	
<p>1. Sub-national updates</p> <p>Kachin</p> <p>The Kachin Food Security Cluster/CWG meeting took place on 25 August and discussed the draft MPCA guidance to receive inputs from partners. CWG also introduced the revised coordination architecture which are in transition from August 2023 and discussed cash coordination aspect for Kachin and Northern Shan State. The next meeting will be held on 26 September.</p> <p>Northwest</p> <p>NW CWG will commence its first meeting in 21 September, covering cash coordination in Chin, Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay. Agency for Basic Community Development (ABC), Helvetas and People In Need (PiN) will be co-leading the group and taking the cash coordination forward. Interested organization who would like to sign-up to NW CWG mailing list could reach out to myo.thidaswe@un.org.</p> <p>Rakhine</p> <p>Prices of commodities, including NFIs, continue to fluctuate following the black-market exchange rate. Food prices continue to rise due to the impact of Cyclone Mocha and supply-demand imbalances especially in areas such as Minbya and Mrauk-U. In rural settings, road infrastructure damages caused transportation challenges. E-cash became an option in areas with severe access restrictions such as Rathedaung and Ponnagyun.</p> <p>Southeast</p> <p>The SE CWG meeting was held on 6 September to discuss humanitarian access, provide market updates and post-distribution monitoring (PDM) findings. OCHA Southeast coordinator provided briefing on the humanitarian access. Market information shows that basic commodities and food items increased compared to the previous month. UNHCR presented PDM findings for cash intervention in respective project areas, followed by member discussion. MPCA guidance draft was also discussed under the AoB.</p>		
<p>2. Market price updates</p> <p>Mercy Corps presented market price monitoring updates for August 2023 with the data collected from 18 markets across Rakhine, Sagaing and Southeast areas. 29 products were monitored across 270 vendors. Essential food prices rose in August while rice and pulses saw a mix of higher and lower prices. Vegetable prices rose sharply in August except in Sittwe where prices drifted lower. NFI prices also fluctuated in August with more increases seen across the markets. It is noted that the price for high and low-quality rice should be watched closely due to potential gradual rise in coming months.</p> <p>WFP report indicated that the basic food basket price went up to 9.6% compared to last month, and a staggering 66.8% compared to same time last year. Due to the depreciation of Myanmar Kyat, prices went up in July for commodities including rice (10%), cooking oil (palm oil) (17%), mixed oil (14%), onion (13%), eggs (10%) and fuel (11%). Prices were especially high in Kachin,</p>		

<p>Kayah, Kayin and Magway due to the seasonal transport challenges, foreign and domestic demands and the exchange rate. For additional details, please refer to the attached presentation.</p> <p>For more details on market prices, please visit Mercy Corps Market Analysis Unit dashboard at https://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit and WFP Market Monitoring Dashboard .</p>	
<p>3. Cash for Nutrition Inception Workshop: Outcomes and next steps</p> <p>The Global Nutrition Cluster Technical Alliance presented the outcome of CVA for Nutrition inception workshop (23-23 August) involving 16 organizations from Nutrition Cluster and CWG with the aim of developing operational guidance and capacity development plan for CVA in Nutrition. Key results from the workshop includes 1) developing tools for cash feasibility and risk assessment, 2) establishing CVA nutrition task force, 3) Defining Myanmar CVA use cases, and 4) recommendation on key action points (validation of guidance, capacity building, harmonization, identification and addressing gaps, and providing technical support to implementation partners. As immediate next steps, the draft operational guidance has been shared with the resource persons for review and comment, followed by the validation workshop on 19 September. The draft operational guidance will be submitted to the Global Nutrition Cluster on 21 September.</p>	
<p>4. MSNA cash findings</p> <p>REACH presented the preliminary data from the Multi-sectoral Needs Assessment 2023 which was conducted in 18 states and regions across Myanmar from June to August 2023, mainly focusing on the cash findings. In terms of income sources, casual or daily labour was the primary income source for all four population groups (other crisis affected people (OCAP), internally displaced people (IDPs), IDP returnees and non-displaced stateless people (NDSP). The reported average and medium income varied from 511,929ks to 165,759ks among four groups, with the NDSP group showing the lowest income among them. In terms of household expenditure, food expenditure has shown to be the highest for all population groups, followed by NFIs, fuel and other frequent expenditures. A very little proportion of households reported being able to meet their basic needs financially. In terms of availability of financial service providers (FSP), mobile money agents are the most reported type of FSP households have access to in their region/area.</p> <p>CWG iterated that the MSNA data will inform the updating of the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and drafting of MPCA transfer value and guidance note. The data will also be used in Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan 2024. The MSNA data set and analysis has already been shared with the clusters and working groups, and the factsheet will follow in due course.</p> <p>REACH also updated that the Joint Market Monitoring (JMMI) and FSP Mapping initiatives have been designed to better inform CVA interventions and CWG and REACH has been seeking funding for these initiatives to kick-start.</p>	<p>#CWG to update MEB and set MPCA transfer value based on the MSNA data</p>
<p>5. Humanitarian Child Cash Transfer: Field Monitoring Results</p> <p>UNICEF presented the key findings from the UNICEF MCT post-distribution monitoring report. Registration for MCCT was conducted through word of mouth, CFs, street leaders, neighbours and other family members and that no money was spent in the enrollment process. Many of the respondents were satisfied with the quality of the services, however, some reported delays in the enrollment process due to delayed receipt of birth certificates. In terms of cash collection, majority (94%) of respondents were notified via SMS prior to cash transfer and 99% reported that current money transfer approach is easiest for them. In terms of main expenditure, cash transfer is mostly used on the children’s food, healthcare and clothing as intended.</p> <p>For more information, please refer to the attached presentation.</p>	

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](#)
- [CALP Network's "Linking Humanitarian CVA with Social Protection" online course](#)

Next CWG meeting: Thursday 10:00 – 12:00, 12 October 2023