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

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| **Date/ Time & Venue** | 10 March 2022, 10.00 – 12.00 (via MS Teams) |
| **Chair / Co-chair** | **Mercy Corps** (John Nelson), **WFP** (Thin Thin Aye) and **MRCS** (Moe Thida Win) |
| **Participants** | Action Aid, CARE, CRS, DCA, DRC, ECHO, FCA, FCDO, Help Age, Helvetas, HPA, INGO Forum, ICRC, IFRC, INGO Forum, IRC, IOM, JICA, KMSS, LIFT, Malteser International, Mercy Corps, Metta, MRCS, NRC, OCHA, Plan International, Protection Sector, SI, SCI, UNHCR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNICEF – WASH, WFP, WFP – FSS, WFP – Sittwe, WFP- Myitkyina |
| **Agenda items and summary of discussion** | **Action Points** |
| **1. Sub-National CWG updates****Kachin**Banking and liquidity issues persist in Kachin, but some partners managed to withdrawl cash for CVA interventions. Continuing armed conflicts in the region resulting in 6,500 newly displaced people. Cash working group managed to provide cash assistance to new IDPs. WFP completed its distribution to 8,700 households (HHs) for February 2022 which included top up amounts reflecting the new transfer value. **Rakhine**CWG completed remote data collection in 29 markets and in-person interview in nine townships in Central Rakhine. Data shows that challenges are mounting for the public because of cash withdrawl difficulties, high fuel price and significant increase in basic commodities price. Increase in fuel price further restricted the movement of goods. Myanmar kyat remains weak against US Dollar and has seen 2% increase compared to same time last year for overall food basket. Markets are still viable but increasing number of people are not able to afford the level of purchasing and access to basic goods. Livelihood activities were restored compared to the last part of 2021. General food basket price remains 60,000 ks per households and are pushing for review of beneficiaries’ entitlement. |  |
| 1. **Member updates**

M-Pitesan has resumed operation in some areas. Members can reach out directly to M-Pitesan (Thet Ei Khine TKhine2@ooredoo.com.mm) for more information. CARE distributed cash assistance for food security to 631 IDP households in Muse, Kyaukme and Hsipaw in February in partnership with Meikswe Myanmar and are in the process of doing post-distribution monitoring. CARE also completed market assessment of existing Rubber value chain project in Kayin and Mon State and will share the report in next month’s CWG meeting.DRC distributed MPCA to 25 people with disabilities (PwD) in MDW in addition to the 100 PwDs who received assistance for December 2021 and January 2022, which was an increase to the target. This was a one-off distribution for two months.HelpAge is delivering assistance to 5,000 PwD in Kayin sate on a quarterly basis and working with ONGO financial service for cash delivery. MRCS has provided cash (25,000 Ks per HHs plus ricebag), mobile clinic and WASH support in camps in Chin Stat and Southern Shan State. All together 96 camps (2,625 HHs) were reached.WFP’s suspended e-cash activities since April 2021 were resumed at Central Rakhine with no additional fees for agents. WFP is planning for scale-up in Kachin and Northern Shan, targeting to reach total of 46,000 HHs and 25,000 IDPs. Save the Children is providing cash assistance in Northern Shan, Rakhine, Kayin and Shwe Pyi Thar and are planning cash assistance for Kayah state. Members also discussed and shared experience on third-party monitoring for cash assistance. Mercy Corps have community/camp committee representing vulnerable groups on a voluntary basis. They are looking at options to contract volunteers to strengthen the third-party monitoring. NRC established the system of community focal points who monitor the activities also on a voluntary basis. | **# CARE to share market assessment report in next CWG meeting** |
| 1. **Market updates**

DRC, Mercy Corps and WFP provided market updates respectively on geographical areas and nationwide market price updates. For more details on DRC market updates on Rakhine, please refer to the attached presentation.For more details on Mercy Corps market updates on Rakhine, Southern Chin and Southeast, please see <http://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit> and refer to the attached presentation.For more details on WFP market updates, please see the [Market Monitoring Dashboard](https://analytics.wfp.org/t/Public/views/MarketMonitoringDashboardv2/Overview_?:showAppBanner=false&:display_count=n&:showVizHome=n&:origin=viz_share_link&:isGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y&:embed=y) and refer to the attached presentation. |  |
| 1. **Workplan updates**

As a follow up to the discussion for 2022 CWG workplan, the priority next steps for workplan are identified as follows:* Finalization of 4Ws (Dashboard and Infographic)
* Improve information and resource sharing (Bi-weekly updates, Cash programming page on MIMU currently)
* Means to increase participation of local actors in CWG
* Mapping of financial service provider based on the information from CVA implementing partners
* Development of Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
* Additional CVA TOT Opportunities
* Market Price Monitoring Training
* Engagement with the Clusters to see how to incorporate CVA.

Meetings and discussion for relevant topics will be scheduled in coming weeks. During future CWGs the co-chairs will provide regular updates on progress of the workplan.  | **#CWG management to arrange meetings on respective topics for discussion among members.** **# CWG management to arrange meetings between co-chairs.** |
| 1. **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)’s new model on cash coordination**

Asia-Pacific regional CWG coordinator presented on IASC model on cash coordination, agreed model for cash coordination at global level. Discussion started on 2017 on where the cash coordination sits within the coordination architecture. In June 2021, 95 organizations signed a letter to ERC asking for the decision, leadership and scope of cash coordination. A model that was developed and proposed by Caucus members was endorsed by IASC and published on 18 February 2022. The model is considered predictable, accountable, adaptable to different contexts and encourage greater local participation. A global cash advisory group (CAG) will be formed to support country level cash coordination. The model outlines that IS/ICCG is accountable for overall cash coordination and day-to-day tasks are delegated to country CWGs which are accountable to Inter-Sector/Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (IS/ICCG). Globally, OCHA is accountable for cash coordination and UNHCR for refugee coordination arrangements. At country level, the co-chairing model (a programmatic and a non-programmatic chair) will be encouraged. CWGs are expected to have strong links to clusters and sectors and have clear lines of accountability with programmatic agencies. The programmatic chair will be identified through a voting system. The transition period is expected to be within two years from the date of endorsement of the model. The link to the IASC new model of cash coordination document can be found [here](https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain-official-website/model-cash-coordination-endorsed-grand-bargain-caucus-outcome-document).Members proposed to coordinate to provide feedback to the model as one CWG, instead of individual submission. WFP and Mercy Corps are suggested to consolidate the feedback.  | **#CWG to request feedback from members and consolidate information for submission to global team.**  |
| 1. **MRCS updates on FSP**

MRCS shared experiences on partnering with ONGO financial service, True Money and Wave Money for CVA activities. Wave Money is prompt in responding to queries and are reliable but was unable to change the household data and beneficiary list during one cash distribution cycle. ONGO holds mobile banking license and have door-to-door distribution service to beneficiaries through ONGO staff in line with MRCS system and procedures. ONGO, however, have high service fees (6% of total amount) and provide dashboard data for disbursement report without beneficiary IDs. True Money managed to complete cash distribution during COVID-19 pandemic in Kachin state, although there were miscommunications between True Money and MRCS resulting in delay of distribution process in some areas. MRCS also learnt that at least seven to ten days preparation time is required for one distribution process. Clear information on available FSPs is also crucial and should be received one month before the actual operation. If possible, post-operation meeting between FSPs and organization should be organized for review and further discussion.  |  |
| 1. **AOB**

**Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG)** update: Humanitarian Access Working Group just launched the Myanmar Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework which will enable us to record access constraints faced by humanitarian partners and to improve our understanding of the access environment. Going forward, humanitarian actors in Myanmar are encouraged to report their access constraints monthly. For CVA implementation, access constraints can include the ability for program participants to access cash out points and/or markets. Incidents can be reported either by using this [KOBO form](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EWLxIg6A5MmfJNaXHXWl4JtD8s3huVA6/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=101103351895609579460&rtpof=true&sd=true), or by sharing directly to Nadja Leuenberger, OCHA’s Head of the Access Unit (leuenberger2@un.org). Myanmar CWG is updating the countrywide **“Who does What, Where, When (4W)”** information in order to inform stakeholders about the scale and scope of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in Myanmar. This will be the only comprehensive 4Ws data collection for 2022. Partners are encouraged to ensure that the reported data are only for activities implementing during 2021.OCHA created a short survey and disseminated to current CWG member lists to check the status and confirm participation for CWG. Members are encouraged to complete the survey to remain in the CWG mailing list or nominate new focal points for 2022. So far, around 80 responses were received. Please reach out to Chantal Zimmermann at chantal.zimmermann@un.org for matters related to mailing list. |  |
| **Useful links*** Cash Programming page on MIMU Website
* [Mercy Corps MAU market price report dashboard](https://themimu.info/market-analysis-unit)
* [Myanmar: Cash Working Group (CWG) on MIMU Page](http://themimu.info/sector/cash-programming)
* [Myanmar CWG final Terms of Reference (June 2020)](http://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/documents/Core_Doc_Myanmar_CWG_Terms_of_Reference_Jun2020.pdf)
* [Myanmar CWG 4Ws (as of 10 November 2020)](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JktRyJl-bPSgOyGWdS28AapTGZphFVEk/edit#gid=2138367550)
* [Southeast Rapid Market Assessment](https://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/mau_public/Snapshot_MAU_Southeast_-_Oct_2021_-_RMA.pdf)
* WFP Market Monitoring Dashboard
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**Next CWG meeting: Thursday, 10:00 – 12:00, 14 April 2022 (TBC)**