FOOD SECURITY SECTOR
PALESTINE
Cash Programming Working group
Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday 11 Sept. , 2014
09:30- 11:00

Participants: ACF, ACTED, Oxfam GB, UNRWA, PU-AMI, UNRWA, IR, Mercy Corps, FAO, COOPI, OCHA

Absence: Facilitators: David Makin-Taylor and Hosne Barakat

Agenda:
1- Review the naming of the Technical Working Group
The current name is Cash for Work. This may be too restrictive a title as
the group activities are much more broad, including all elements of
Cash Programming.
2- Harmonisation of payment amount and duration for agencies
implementing Cash Programming activities
3- Beneficiary and Community selection criteria
4- Update on the UNWRA Data Base and Website for cross checking
beneficiary names
5- Potential Cash Programming interventions in Gaza (including, but not
limited to: Cash for Work, Unconditional and Conditional Cash Grants)
6- Input for the HPC_HNO document

1. **Review the naming of the Technical Working Group**

- The current name of the technical working group is – Cash for Work Technical Working Group;
- The considered view of members of the group is that this name is too specific as it implies the
only activity conducted by the group relates to Cash for Work. As we are all aware, this is not
the case as many organizations are involved with cash programming which are not Cash for
Work (for example – Unconditional Cash Transfer <UCT>);
- It was not possible to hold an in-depth discussion during the meeting due to time constraints.
The recommendation is for participant organizations should provide a written submission on
whether to retain the name Cash for Work; or to change the name which would encompass all
the activities of the group. One suggestion has been to rename the group as – Cash
Programming Technical Working Group;
- Could interested members please indicate if they wish to change the name, and change to
what? Cash Programming has been given as one example;
- Please respond to David Makin-Taylor (dmakin-taylor@pt.acfspain.org) on your input to this
discussion.
2. Harmonization of payment amount and duration for agencies implementing Cash Programming activities.

- There is a high degree of conformity between humanitarian agencies which implement a Cash for Work activity relating to payment amount and duration of payment;
- The rates paid by most agencies is:
  - Unskilled workers 60 NIS per day
  - Skilled workers 75 NIS per day
- UNRWA has a different scale:
  - Unskilled workers 35 NIS per day
  - Skilled workers 54 NIS per day
  - Professional workers 74 NIS per day
- One solution suggested has been to have a minimum and maximum payment amount with agencies determining the cash injection based on agency policy and donor budget allocation (but within the stipulated minimum/maximum figures);
- The duration of the payment varies between organizations: (ACF and Coopi – 60 days; Oxfam – 50 days; PU-AMI – 40 days);
- Agencies have discussed the rate of payment, reaching the agreed amount as indicated above (UNRWA is a special case with its own payment policy due to additional benefits received by approved beneficiaries and longer payment duration);
- However, duration of payment varies from 40 to 60 days between agencies for Cash for Work;
- The agencies have indicated the period is influenced by the number of beneficiaries (increased number of beneficiaries will receive less individual payment as the budget is mainly determined by agency policy and donor allocation);
- The amount paid for Unconditional Cash Transfers (UCT) is also largely determined by individual agencies and budget availability
- The question was raised relating to the impact of the cash injection (whether as Cash for Work or UCT). Does the cash injection raise the beneficiary from one level of poverty to a status of less poverty? And to what extent is poverty reduced?
- What is the impact on beneficiaries who receive a cash injection (Cash for Work or UCT) – do they leave paid employment (as it is often less that the Cash Injection, although employment is often for a longer period) – or do they prefer to have long term employment? Agencies have reported quite different responses by beneficiaries to this question;
- Recommended to construct a table indicating the agency policy to cash injection (amount and duration) for Cash for Work and Unconditional Cash Transfers. I attach a separate questionnaire with a number of questions which I would like agencies to answer. I will prepare a summary of the questionnaire responses and circulate to the members of the Technical Working Group;

3. Beneficiary and Community selection criteria

- Most agencies have very similar beneficiary selection criteria. I attach a document indicating the ECHO partners approach to beneficiary selection;
• Recommended that Riyadh from MoSA (or his representative) should be invited to the Cash for Work Technical Working Group meetings. If the Ministry is unable to attend, then they should be included in the mailing list to receive the minutes of the meetings. This also applies to UNICEF, FAO and WFP;
• I have included in the questionnaire a question on beneficiary selection for your completion.

4. Update on the UNWRA Data Base and Website for cross checking beneficiary names

• Discussion is still on-going relating to the UNWRA data base and website for cross checking beneficiary names;
• UNRWA has reported that there are two available options:
  - More time is needed to modify the software between the CHF model and UNRWA. It is difficult to transcribe the old data into an UNRWA readable format as the two systems are not compatible;
  - Start again and develop a new UNRWA system which would take 3 to 4 months to develop (this time period could be shortened);
  - Further discussion is required within UNRWA to make recommendations on what should be done so humanitarian agencies can have a system of beneficiary cross-checking to avoid duplication.

5. Potential Cash Programming interventions in Gaza (including, but not limited to: Cash for Work, Unconditional and Conditional Cash Grants)

• The general consensus of the meeting was that Cash for Work activities are not limited to rehabilitation of public assets only (for example: municipal assets and infrastructure), but can also apply to the private sector (for example: rehabilitation of privately held agricultural land which have been damaged due to the Israeli military actions);
• However, it needs to be clarified to whom the cash transfer is made – either to the cash for work recipients who are paid directly by the humanitarian agency under a Cash for Work intervention; or to the farmer as part of a land rehabilitation intervention which includes an element of payment for labour < in this case, the farmer receiving the payment for labour component>.

6. Input for the HPC_HNO document

• The recommendation from the Food Security Cluster is that Technical Working Groups are expected to make a significant contribution to development of the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) document;
• The Cluster will shortly circulate the 4W,s for updating in which humanitarian gaps will be identified;
• Recommended to have a Task Force within the Technical Working Group to develop input for the HNO document. I will ask for volunteers from within the group to identify members who would be willing to be part of this task force;
• Suggested that funds are available from the FSS Cluster which could be used for capacity building of the Technical Working Group.
## List of Participants

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<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hisham Salfiti</td>
<td>UNRWA/WB</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Alice REPESSE</td>
<td>ACTED</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Elena Qlebo</td>
<td>Oxfam GB</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Jamalat Ali</td>
<td>Mercy Corps</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Hasan Owda</td>
<td>Islamic Relief</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Maher Safi</td>
<td>UNRWA</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Hazem Al-Madhoun</td>
<td>PU-AMI</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Francesca Colombi</td>
<td>COOPI</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Iyad Shwaikeh</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>David Makin Taylor</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Mohammed Inshasi</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Husam Eleyan</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Azza Elhosseinin</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Anas Musallam</td>
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<td>16</td>
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