

Cash and Market Working Group

Meeting Monday 22nd August 2022

Participation: 20 people as shown on Zoom, from: PUI, CRS, WFP, gFSC, Plan International, OCHA, CWG Ukraine, WVI, Oxfam, CWW, FSC Myanmar, HI, Impact Initiative, ADRA, CWG Afghanistan

Agenda:

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Update from Ukraine and Myanmar
3. Update from partners
4. Update CAG and new coordination mechanism
5. Update operational research
6. AOB

The meeting was chaired and organised by Corrie (CRS), Aftab (Plan International) and Damien (gFSC)

1. Update from Ukraine

Paul de Carvalho-Pointillart (pointillart@un.org) (OCHA) provided an update from the CWG Ukraine about the CVA response in Ukraine. He first described the setup of the CWG in Ukraine and their strategic directions, highlighting that the CWG requested **\$1.72 Billion to assist 6.3 million people** via MPC – which was selected as the preferred response modality by the HCT, sectoral CASH is only encouraged for areas not covered by the MEB (CASH for rent, CASH for Protection etc.). The CWG covered all the oblasts, 2.64M have been assisted, mainly by UN agencies (75% of the response) but INGOs are scaling up as UN agencies were covering 90% of the response 2 months ago.

Then, he described the enrolment channels, which have also changed over the last few months. The main channel now is the referral system by the Ministry of Social Cohesion (75 to 80%). MPC response over time has scaled up from mid-end May. Until mid-May, 81% of the response was in Western Ukraine and now 55% of the response is in Eastern and Central Ukraine. The 1st priority need is cash – financial support, car fuel and medicines.

A feasibility study was conducted which indicates that markets are functioning, market system is broad and accessible and **delivery modalities** can adapt to specific vulnerabilities. Market monitoring is conducted on a monthly basis. A PDM was conducted and preliminary results are available which shows that it is protective assistance and has improved the living standards. 73% of the food needs are covered.

The CWG main focus for the coming months include:

- the revision of the MPC transfer value (due a devaluation of 25% of the exchange rate and a projected MEB increase of 34% due to the inflation),
- the **review of the vulnerability analysis and targeting criteria** to transition out of the blanket approach to specific groups and better complement social protection programs,

- the building of a common understanding on assistance potential and strategy in **NGCA** in a principled and protective manner
- ensuring adequate partner communication on enrollment and waiting times for humanitarian assistance
- the boosting the linkages/referral/coherence with **sectoral CASH** (cash for rent, cash for protection, etc.) notably to prepare for the **winterization**

Question and Answers

- Is JMMI covering all the target locations/markets in Ukraine? What is the frequency of JMMI?
 - It started in March, on a monthly basis. It covers 21 provinces
- What “cash for financial resource” refers to?
 - It depends how the question is framed and who conduct the survey
- Can you explain a little more on the linkages with the government SP system?
 - Most of the response is based on government referral. As there is a political changes at the ministry level, there may be some changes. They want to streamline the current SP which is huge in Ukraine.
- Any effort being made to measure outcome indicators?
 - Two outcomes indicators are already being collected (% of people receiving cash in safe manner and % of people recording their needs being fulfilled according to their needs). In the next HRP, the CWG can potentially include more outcome indicators.

2. Update from Myanmar

Chirine Homsy chomsy@mercycorps.org (NGO co-facilitator FSC Myanmar) presented this update.

She gave an overview of the CVA response in Myanmar. There is an increase of MP and CFW response between Q1 and Q2. The cash value for food assistance is still low compare to the MEB and it is not aligned. Most of the food assistance is in kind, CVA representing only 12%. About 30% of the beneficiaries are reached with CVA. The area and population reached with CVA are mainly IDP while host community usually receive in kind. Between Q1 and Q2, there is an increase of the cash value which was around 60-70 USD/month/HH.

IFPRI conducted a study on the “[Monitoring of the agri-food system in Myanmar: Agricultural input retailers – July 2022 survey round](#)”. Chirine presented the key results.

Fertilizers are the largest purchased input for Myanmar farmers constituting 28 percent of all inputs purchased. The second and third largest purchased inputs are machine rental and agro-chemicals at 20 and 14 percent, respectively. The quantity of fertiliser used is decreasing, as the cost is too high. Market are too far for the farmers; remoteness is a major constraint for the agricultural economy. [Mercy Corps Market analysis](#) is also available.

In addition to the increase of prices due to the inflation, lower prices of crops and lower numbers of traders available are major issues for the farmers. Finally, she presented the challenges in terms of access to finance, market system, market infrastructure and road and policy.

Questions / Answers

- The transfer value is in between 10-70 USD per person. how is it being calculated/decided?
 - There are some regional nuances. The standard is 23 USD/month/pax but discrepancies exist

- Are you facing more challenges in scaling up CfW VS MPCA, are you running into the issue of crossover between humanitarian CfW and developmental especially. Some donors don't go for humanitarian CfW while DFA might be more supportive of CfW as compared to unconditional cash
 - there is an overlap between what the humanitarian and development are doing. In Myanmar, there is no centralised database
- Does the data and analysis include NGCAs
 - There is protocol in place but still missing some data

3. Update CAG and new coordination mechanism

Aftab (part of the CAG as INGO representative from ICVA) provided an update on the new Cash coordination model and the Cash Advisory Group which aims to ensure adequate, predictable and timely capacity for cash coordination –support development of coherent tools/guidance/capacity for coordinators

So far the progress are:

- TOR finalized.
- Survey- tools finalized and administered- co-chairs of CWGs. The survey is about the functions of the CWG – which will help to find out which CWG will need more support.
- Workplan planned
- Survey – to be complete early September
- 22 Aug- Brainstorming session

4. Applied research

Corrie presented an applied research activity which the CMWG wants to conduct with the aim to assess the feasibility of CVA in the context of high level of food insecurity (in context of IPC3+).

A Task team was formed to finalize ToR – Concern, WVI, HI, ECHO, IRC. CRS is contracting the consultant (Key Aid), Plan Intl contributing. The gFSC (Damien) is leading this research.

The Primary questions focus on the response Analysis and Cash Feasibility: / Program Design (Cash+ etc)/ Outcomes and Impact and the secondary questions is about Anticipatory Action.

Three Countries were selected: Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Syria, based on the following criteria: use of cash as food security response, IPC/CH 4+, geographical diversity, activeness of FSC team

It will start in early September 2022.

If you have any document/information to share, please contact Damien, Corrie or Aftab.

5. Other updates

Guy (FSC CC in Chad) informed that they will update the MEB soon and will provide additional information when completed.

The Shelter cluster will organise a webinar on the new guidance on market based programming.

6. AOB

- New WFP global coordinator: Marie-Helene Kyprianou: m-helene.kyprianou@wfp.org
- Global Partners' meeting tentatively planned in November but no date yet