

Cash and Market Working Group

Meeting 6th October 2021

The recording is available at:

https://wfp.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/fsc_global/Ed5bqz6IPAjCs4ecoK87fAABibXKagT_Pzt2HwO4QhxCUg?e=8DSevj

Participation: around 30 people as shown on Zoom (CRS, CaLP, USAID, WHH, PUI, WFP, Plan, HI, IRC, Concern, FSC from 8 countries: WoS, Nigeria, Myanmar, CAR, Regional Pacific, Colombia, Cameroon, Ethiopia)

Agenda:

- Introduction
- Update from members & FSC
- Update Stories
- May Global Partners' Meeting and way forward
- Vendor research (IRC)
- Webinar on liquidity crisis
- AOB

The meeting was chaired and organised by Corrie (CRS), Ruco (USAID) and Damien (gFSC)

Action

Action	Timeline	Who
Webinar on cash liquidity	November	CM WG team
organise a meeting on the MPC reporting	Next CM-WG meeting	Damien

1. Update from the members/countries

- Mali: the roles and responsibility between the FSC and the CWG should be clarified
 - The CWG has a technical role, working with other clusters, working on harmonisation
 - Issue of reporting and double reporting
 - A few years ago, many CWG were part of the FSC but it is less and less the case
 - Often, the same partners are present in both forum which create some confusion
 - Reporting for cash is based on the objective of the activity. However, MPC reporting is still not clearly defined at global level – it is up to country/ICCG to decide: reported by CWG or the clusters.

- Resources are available: https://fscluster.org/sites/default/files/documents/example_and_good_practices_on_use_of_multi-purpose_cash.pdf
- Grand Bargain cash workstream closing event (Mohie):
 - 2 priorities for the next phase: Enabling priority on quality funding and Localisation
 - Cross-cutting issue on risk
 - High level caucus to discuss coordination blockage.
- Nigeria: any experience of running large scale MPC, you can contact Leslie Parker – FSC CC Nigeria
 - Mohie Alwahsh (FSC Syria) can share some information. His contact is mwahsh@wfp.org

2. gFSC stories

Stories are on the [website](#)

- REACH and the JMMI in South Sudan
- ACF's fresh food voucher programme for displaced Syrians in Lebanon
- A livelihoods initiative by PUI in Nigeria
- A digital cash revolution by Oxfam in Vanuatu

3. May Global Partners' Meeting and way forward

- 2x Breakout Sessions held : Global Dynamics and Field Support
- Questions asked in each group
- What past or ongoing support / outputs have been most useful from the WGs - for field teams / What past or ongoing support / outputs have been most useful from the WGs - for field teams

Technical support to the field – lessons learned and opportunities

What support/ outputs from the working groups have you received/seen in the past few years which have been useful

1. Capacity building/training on IPC (CO level?)
2. Shared tools for monitoring (CO level?)
3. Cooked meal distribution
4. The Cash for Work Guidance
5. During the height of the C-19 pandemic, the guidance notes and revisions to operations were very helpful from the gFSC. I believe the resources and materials, SOPs and C-19 updates were helpful to field teams.
6. Guidance : FSL selection, beneficiaries selection, review of baskets...
7. Cluster provides a high level of cooperation among all active actors in the field to avoid any possible overlapping
8. digitalizing survey
9. Indicator handbook

What should we prioritize going forwards? (rank by number of vote)

1. Ensuring docs are available in appropriate languages
2. Identifying/mapping resources to orient and guide field colleagues towards appropriate existing documents –contextualisation
3. Digitization of beneficiaries and assistance for social protection and provision of materials and equipment for field agents
4. Better ways to disseminate guidance to the field. Emails are usually not enough. Training sessions/workshops would be more engaging
5. Harmonized and systematized tools across countries
6. Linking country WG with global WG
7. Accompanying activities for emergency actions, for example, providing training and materials on the processing of agricultural products and livestock
8. Find out how could we complement existing initiatives (fora)

gFSC WGs coordination & Global dynamics – Lessons learned and opportunities

Current situation: challenges and good practices

GOOD PRACTICES:

- Good cross collaboration between WGs: Cash for seeds (CM & Agriculture); MPC outcome indicators (CM & PQWG); global clusters Cash WG chairs meeting
- Collaboration with other clusters and lead agencies: for instance PTF and Protection cluster (CoP review 2020)
- The connection between WGs and field Clusters has improved greatly and should be continued and enhanced.
- Strong connections with other global fora and platforms
- Working groups have a standing agenda in the FSC meetings - to give updates

CHALLENGES:

- Transforming WGs ToRs into practical actions
- Need to harmonise WG way of working
- Improve routine information sharing between WGs.
- WGs are generally responsive to external engagement but not always proactively seeking links.

- **Schedule quarterly cross-WGs calls / meetings to exchange (in between global partners meetings)**
- Proactively identify external global level stakeholders and initiatives to link with.
- Engage proactively with Geneva (Global) CWG
- **Joint letter on Cash coordination with CaLP**
- Ensure FSC teams and WGs leads are in all distribution lists
- Support field WGs (by organising dedicated sessions at country level)
- **WGs and PTF TORs review to be harmonised with support of SAG**
- Jointly defined priorities discussed at gFSC meeting to inform the workplan + responding to field requests
- 2021 opportunities: for instance: Year for Eradication of Child Labour (PTF and Agriculture WG)

4. Vendor experiences with humanitarian cash and voucher assistance: Findings from Chad and Colombia (IRC)

The aim of this research is to better understand how CVA affected market and how the different modalities impact vendors of different sizes. The specific research questions are:

1. What are the challenges and needs of vendors of different “sizes” after crises? What support would be the most useful?
2. How do cash and voucher assistance affect vendors of different “sizes”?
3. What are the costs (time and financial costs, risks faced) that local vendors incur in order to benefit from cash and voucher assistance?

Key findings #1: **Although humanitarian CVA benefits markets broadly speaking, most vendors don't perceive these benefits within their own businesses**

- Cash is so disbursed in local markets that it ultimately has little noticeable benefit for individual market actors
- Positive effect of vouchers is significant, but only reaches a very small, elite group of contracted vendors.

Key findings #2: **The negative effects of crises are felt by all vendors, but certain categories of vendors are less able to cope than others**

- Women were more likely than men to have young businesses, to report less-than-excellent business health, and (in Chad) to face household-related business interruptions.
- Small businesses were thought to be less resilient to economic hardship than larger ones.

Key findings #3 & 4: **Fairly robust informal support systems and strategies already exist in humanitarian contexts.**

- Taking goods on credit from suppliers (Chad); market-driven, individualized strategies (Colombia)
- Capital constraints are a widespread challenge to business survival and growth in crisis contexts.
- Financial assistance was the leading type of business support requested by all types of vendors.

Selected recommendations

1. Humanitarian actors should design cash and voucher assistance so that its economic benefits reach the broadest possible swath of local market actors, and donors should encourage this.
2. Humanitarian actors should propose standalone market support activities beyond just CVA, and donors should fund them.
3. Humanitarian actors and donors should ensure that market assessments collect adequate information for the appropriate targeting and design of market support interventions.
4. Enhance efforts to expand access to financial services, and include market actors affected by humanitarian crises in these efforts

full research presentation: <https://rescue.app.box.com/s/0l39hhwy3dpzwovswkxoljzb313w0qco>

Further resources

More about market-based/market support programming

- [CaLP's tip sheet on market support programming](#) (English only)
- [Market-based programming framework](#)

More about IRC's Cash and Markets research

- [Full report, research brief, tools & video](#) (English/French/Spanish/Arabic)
- [Blog post](#) on gender-related findings from Chad

For additional question, please contact: Clare Clingain Clare.Clingain@rescue.org

Discussion:

- The survey was not done in urban area which explains the low number o women

5. Webinar on liquidity crisis

The gFSC Cash and Market WG and Market in Crisis (MiC) are preparing a webinar following the current situation in Afghanistan on this issue. We have linked with colleagues in Zimbabwe, Syria and also the donors cash forum.

The webinar will take place in November.

6. Update on the workplan

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE & PARTNERS	STATUS
SHORT TERM PRIORITIES		

Work to support a <u>gFSC Help desk</u>	Buy in needed – but if agreed across other WGs next 6 months ; gFSC	<u>Achieved</u>
<u>Linkage with other CM-WG of other global clusters: identifying cluster counterparts, building links and sharing experiences</u>	CM-WG chairs and gFSC focal point January 2021	<i>Achieved</i>
<u>Cash and Markets</u> ‘Stories from the field’ - practical case studies across partners on a variety of CM topics + webinar on Market Based Food Security Programming adaptations and COVID19	CM-WG chairs/members May 2021	Achieved
Webinar around <u>adapting CVA delivery</u> in the face of C19	CM-WG chairs/members May 2021	Cancelled
MEDIUM TERM PRIORITIES		
Follow up with the GB /STOWC in regards to coordination and new models emerging	CaLP, GB, CM-WG chairs/members November 2021	Ongoing – still of relevance?
Cash and Social Protection guidance : practical case studies (how food assistance, via CVA has linked to existing social protection infrastructure somehow)	CaLP, GB, CM-WG chairs/members November 2021	Ongoing – still of relevance?

AOB

- Global Partners’ meeting: tentative date end November – early December
- New FAO global coordinator (Abdul Majid) starting mid November 2021
- Ruco on (paternity) leave from November until January. John Lamm from USAID to attend gFSC and CMWG
- Cash coordination: <https://www.cgdev.org/article/trumanitarian-bonus-episode-clash-coordination>