



Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) Cash & Markets Working Group (CMWG)

Terms of Reference

(Version 2nd March 2022)

Background

Market Based Programming (MBP), including Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) continues to be scaled up and used to address food security gaps during emergency and recovery contexts. With the advent of the Grand Bargain Commitments in 2016 there was the creation of a specific Cash Workstream which committed to *“Increase the routine use of cash, where appropriate, alongside other tools – ensure that coordination, delivery and monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are put in place for cash transfers”* . Furthermore, models of cash and markets collaboration and operational models at the country-level are also changing and shifting with the creation of the UN Common Cash Statement and Collaborative Cash Delivery Network.

Many of the global Food Security Cluster member agencies are undertaking market-based programming and analysis – in particular using, considering or scaling up CVA in preparedness and response activities. Hence, there is still a necessity for the Food Security Cluster to support the systematic mainstreaming process of MBP and CVA and ensure coordination of such interventions, as well as a need to strengthen the capacity of partners in this regard. The gFSC Cash and Markets Working Group (CMWG) has been operational since 2013 during the November gFSC global partners’ meeting, briefly becoming inactive by the end of 2014 after the CashCap was launched. However, the working group was reinvigorated in September 2015 to fill a gap to foster learning and collaboration amongst cluster partners, build capacity of cluster coordinators and cash and market experts, promote innovation and improve cash transfer coordination in sudden onset and protracted crises at country level. This working group will also coordinate with the Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP), other Clusters and any inter-cluster cash working groups to share learning, relevant products and experiences as well as find ways to integrate assistance when multipurpose or multi sector cash or voucher assistance is the preferred modality.

The following Terms of Reference have been revised outlining the roles of gFSC - CMWG, following the discussion between the WG chairs and the gFSC SAG members in early 2022.

Purpose

The purpose of the CMWG is to facilitate and support the use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) as a modality and other Market Based Approaches in the food security sector in close coordination with other clusters and cash and market working groups. It is a platform for members to discuss about CVA response in food security crisis, share technical guidelines to improve the quality and timeliness of CVA



responses and respond to ad hoc technical support request through the development of documents or organizing events.

Objectives

- **Objective 1: Sharing, Learning and Innovation**

The CMWG shall work to undertake knowledge management of existing resources, disseminate, and promote best practice and share learning and innovation with Food Security partners. It will do this via collaboration with other cash and market groups of other clusters, such as IASC Task Group on Cash Transfer¹, Geneva-based Cash Working Group², CaLP, WFP CBT Unit, Global Clusters (including Logistics, Shelter, WASH, Nutrition, protection etc) UNHCR, UNICEF, FAO, Market in Crisis (MiC), etc. Working Group members will be actively encouraged to share, create, and collaborate at both the field and HQ levels. The two chairs will share learning and relevant information to members from other similar working groups and platforms by promoting mutual learning and support when necessary through joint initiatives.

- **Objective 2: Technical Support and Capacity Building**

The CMWG will further provide technical support and capacity building on CVA to FSC members and Coordinators in the field and to all Food Security cluster stakeholders. This will include ad hoc direct support, sharing of useful tools and resources, linking actors for shared learning and guidance and resource creation where appropriate. Where necessary, working Group members will be encouraged to also feed into this objective through the development and revision of technical tools for Food Security actors and readiness to collaborate with other actors for capacity building and technical support in areas around CVA programming.

Working Group Structure

- The CMWG will comprise of 2 chairs and is supported by the gFSC secretariat.
- The Chair and Co-Chair shall be elected or agreed through consensus (*as agreed during the global partners meeting in December 2015*) on a two-yearly basis in the second face-to-face meeting of the year during the gFSC global partners meeting.
- Priorities will be identified on yearly basis.
- The following activities are required from member agencies

¹ This Task Group was agreed by the IASC Principles in December 2015 to be led by the World Bank

² This group is an informal cash working group currently led by OCHA, and gFSC is a member of this group.



- Help set the strategic direction of CMWG through reviewing TORs and identifying key gaps in guidance or learning.
- Provide technical input during the conceptualization, development, and dissemination of CMWG related products.
- Actively participate in the regular virtual (teleconferences) and face-to-face meetings
- Share learning to others from their CVA experiences, and analyze and compile different tools and mechanisms used in CVA by cluster partners
- Collaborate with other working group members (eg Agriculture WG, PQWG) during different capacity building initiatives (example include - hosting CVA related training for cluster partners, send participants or facilitators to Cluster Coordinators' training, include cash transfer as a module in the Cluster Coordinators' training, etc.)

Methodology

The work of the CMWG will be implemented through regular and ad hoc actions:

Regular Actions

- Regular e-mail correspondence, including updates on partners' activities, events, knowledge sharing and learning activities.
- Work-plan development and follow up
- Face-to-face meetings during the bi-annual Meeting of Global Partners.
- Meeting minutes to all members, guidelines, products, and updates on the gFSC dedicated page

Ad hoc Actions

- Teleconference/Webinars on specific thematic areas of interest.
- Products developments, follow up and coordination with the Working Group members
- Internal task forces (if/when needed) to develop ad hoc documents

The roles and tasks of the incumbent chairs and secretariat is defined in the document "SOP for WG Chairs, members and gFSC focal point"