

Cash Working Group Meeting – Somalia Drought Response
27th July 2017 –WFP Somalia, Nairobi
Meeting Minutes

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
<p>1) Follow up on action points</p>	<p>1. MEB and transfer values CWG chairs to share MEB presentation from FSNAU and revised guidance on transfer values based on the decision made in the CWG meeting. DONE. <i>The MEB changes were briefly discussed again in the meeting. It was pointed out that the MEB revision had led to some big changes in transfer values and that a ‘phase-in’ strategy could be useful. The need to review the NFI portion of the MEB to make it more current and response appropriate for multipurpose cash was also brought up, but not anticipated to happen in the next many months.</i></p> <p>2. Mobile money WB to share mobile money presentation with CWG members. DONE</p> <p>3. Cash 3W OCHA to share presentation and maps of June cash 3W plus link to HDX data visualisation, members to review against their own cash interventions. DONE</p> <p>4. Response reflection session CWG chairs to work with CaLP to identify date and agenda. ONGOING</p>
<p>2) Communication to beneficiaries</p>	<p>Following the revision of the MEB and the updated recommended transfer values which has led to a reduction in transfers for many beneficiaries, agencies are working on how to communicate these changes to beneficiaries in an efficient manner.</p> <p>WFP presented some examples of the key messages transmitted to beneficiaries through the WFP call centre and WFP partners to beneficiaries. The key messages sought to answer questions such as ‘is it true that entitlements have changed’, ‘why have entitlements changed’ and ‘how am I going to feed my family with this’. The focus was on assuring beneficiaries that the change is still in line with market assessments and as such that the amount can still buy sufficient food, and that the change is effected by cash implementing partners together. WFP pointed out that for now, the majority of the inquiries made to the call centre had more to with people suspecting that someone (e.g. an implementing partner) was taking a ‘cut’ of their transfer, rather than concerns on the actual amounts. Hence, the call centre was primarily occupied with assuring people that the amounts were correct and that no one was benefitting in their behalf.</p> <p>In the discussion following the presentation, DFID pointed out that unclarity on transfers and entitlements are not necessarily a new phenomenon, but that this has been experienced for long in Somalia as observed through the DFID call centre, and emphasized the importance of consistent communication at all times. Concern WW pointed out the importance of consistently communicating the number of months of assistance beneficiaries are entitled to in order to enable their own planning, and furthermore argued that referring to MEBs may not be useful as people generally does not understand the concept of MEBs while referring to resource constraints could more accepted. It was also emphasized that community meetings could help people understand their entitlements and changes to them.</p>

	<p>The overall consensus in the meeting was that for communication of entitlements to be effective, it is important to communicate right from the beginning of an intervention (maybe even at registration), and communicate consistently and pro-actively.</p>
<p>3) June cash 3W data</p>	<p>OCHA presented the June cash 3W data. Some key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall reduction in the volume of cash delivered from May to June – 2.6 million reached (compared to 3 million in May) - Reductions driven by overall reductions in WASH assistance because of funding shortages (604,000 → 321,000). Education and multipurpose beneficiaries also halved. Small reduction in food security: 2.4M → 2.3M. - Proportion of cash for objectives other than food reduced from 24% to 15% - Some reduction in transfer values (7% average reduction in FS transfers) but transfers exceed recommended values across the board. - OCHA had reached out to the local cash focal points to review and approve of the data to make sure it reflects accurately what is ongoing in the regions. <p>As a big portion of the drop in cash transfer from May to June stems from fewer people reached with water vouchers, the WASH cluster was asked to provide some background for this. It was explained that water trucking had gone down quite substantially, and that overall, the WASH sector is continuously not adequately funded in the response, leading to fewer people supported with water vouchers. ECHO furthermore inquired about how WASH needs can be covered through multisectoral baskets.</p> <p>OCHA pleaded with partners to consistently ensure better reporting so that the cash data continues to improve – clusters still report using different templates, making compilation of the data difficult. OCHA is also working on a more detailed guidance for clusters/partners on how to classify and report different types of cash interventions.</p> <p>Lastly, the issue of multipurpose cash was also discussed briefly. OCHA raised whether a separate reporting line for MPGs would be useful (as per now, it is integrated in the sectoral 3Ws), but not firm conclusion was reached.</p>
<p>4) Feedback from workstreams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk Management - M&E/feedback mechanisms 	<p>The workstreams for Risk Management and M&E/feedback mechanisms provided feedback on progress.</p> <p><u>Risk Management</u></p> <p>The Risk Management workstream had worked on a matrix of various risks related to cash programming and asked for members to help rank these risks and provide possible mitigation measures. Feedback from the CWG had been less than hoped, and members were handed out the risk matrix in the meeting to provide direct feedback for the group to further work on.</p> <p>With the feedback received thus far, however, one of the key risks emerging as concerning most partners is diversion. To spur the discussion and sharing on this issue, three different partners presented how they had encountered the issue and what they had done about it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CESVI had encountered an issue of the mobile money provider issuing duplicate SIM cards, making it impossible to ensure that the money transfer was sent to the correct beneficiary. The organization had solved it by simply checking through all SIM cards provided, eventually identifying 50-60 duplicate SIM cards. The CWG

- members using mobile money were encouraged to go back and check whether the same issue had been happening in their operation, to learn from CESVI's experience.
- IRC spoke about the issue of **deliberate inclusion of non-targeted beneficiaries**. In order to mitigate the possibility of this happening, IRC has been working with communities to identify the beneficiaries that should receive assistance. When it had been detected that a few households were wrongly included, IRC had worked with the community, through strong engagement and mobilisation, consultation with elders and committees during registration, to avoid the issue from happening and to enable the community to identify instead the households that should receive the assistance. ADESO shared that they had been using the same mitigation measures, identifying selection criteria together with the communities.
 - Concern and PAH shared their experiences with **gatekeepers**. It had been found that the prevalence of gatekeepers is higher in Mogadishu (as found through the DFID third party monitor). In the Afgoye corridor, landowners had been found to pay to get IDPs to relocate there, as it could potentially be profitable. Concern pointed out that it seems as is the role of gatekeepers is changing because of cash –it is potentially easier for them to claim payment. Both Concern and PAH had positive experiences with simply telling beneficiaries in the IDP camps that they are free to move and not obliged to pay to gatekeepers. In addition, PAH had held several rounds of meetings with the gatekeepers to foster the understanding that it is unacceptable to ask payment from beneficiaries' transfers. The CWG discussed how defining a 'social tax' can be very complicated and that the money paid to gatekeepers sometimes is indeed used for community purposes, e.g. building a school. The role of the local governments in controlling the gatekeepers in the IDP camps was also raised.

The CWG discussed these examples, which appeared to not be exclusive to the presenting agencies. The CWG was encouraged to learn from the mitigation measures taken up by the presenting organisations.

OCHA reminded the CWG that on August 2, a workshop will take place in Mogadishu where results of a large survey on gatekeepers will be presented.

M&E and feedback mechanisms

World Vision presented the draft M&E proposed indicator framework, which builds heavily on CaLP's and the CVMG frameworks. It was emphasized that the framework was not meant to set a standard for all organisations to adopt, but rather work as an inspiration for which indicators to monitor. Generally, it had been relatively straightforward to identify indicators at process level, while the impact level was harder to identify. Another challenge is the overwhelming focus on food security indicators in existing frameworks. The workstream had reached out to cluster leads for cash indicators for other sectors, but had not received any feedback.

The workstream will share the framework and request members' feedback on two issues:

- is the framework useful?
- how many of the indicators is already monitored by each organization?

OCHA emphasized that it had to be very clear that this is not a binding framework, but rather meant to capture best practice for partners. CaLP pointed out that a lot of existing

	<p>M&E practices on cash are already well established and is there room to tweak a little bit what we are doing to align better.</p> <p>OCHA presented the methodology on common feedback. The overarching idea is to look across feedback mechanisms used by partners to be able to pick up on issues most pertinent to the population. There is no new data collection involved, rather capturing what is already compiled. The feedback project is not meant to replace the existing M&E initiative, and the feedback data is qualitative in nature and should supplement quantitative data M&E data. The feedback will not zoom in on locality or specific agencies, but rather aim to take a broader look for the collective level. The idea is to ultimately inform the CWG on arising issues and help with advocacy.</p> <p>OCHA kindly requested members to provide feedback on the suggested format for issues sharing.</p>
<p>5) Proposed/planned evaluations of cash in the drought response and possible coordination</p>	<p>The issue of planned/upcoming evaluations was raised, in order to get an overview of what is planned and gauge the scope for any cross-learning and coordination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OCHA raised that a real-time evaluation (RTE) may be coming and encouraged the CWG to make sure cash is properly reflected if/when such an RTE takes place. - DFID mentioned that they are planning a comparative analysis of 15,000 HH that have been receiving 60 USD transfer from DFID partners, plus a control group. This will be done through the MESH call centre. The analysis should start by defining what to measure and it is planned to gather all key actors to collectively decide on the questions for the analysis. Results may be expected by end-year. In addition, DFID will conduct an impact evaluation of their multi-year programme with expected results coming out in January. DFID also mentioned the High Frequency survey (World Bank) results being published soon, as something to watch. - ECHO shared that they are planning an impact evaluation of the ECHO Cash Alliance programmes, possibly with results by the end of the year. - CaLP questioned whether the DFID and the ECHO evaluations could be joined up, as many of the implementing organisations are the same. It would allow sharing learning and results in a more efficient way. - The CWG chairs mentioned that the FSC cluster has also been proposing doing an independent evaluation of cash in the drought response. - The CWG further discussed the feasibility of jointly deciding on the key cash-related questions that any evaluation, whether joint or separate by agencies or in an independent impact evaluation, should be considering. It was suggested to utilise the proposed framework from the M&E workstream in this regard. <p>In addition, the CWG has proposed to do a common reflection session on the cash response, proposed for September. The week of September 11 was proposed. The CWG chairs will send out a choice of a few dates to find a date where most members can attend.</p>
<p>6) June Markets Dashboard</p>	<p>REACH presented the June Dashboard. Not much had changed and most prices remained stable.</p>

	<p>Members were inquired whether the dashboard is useful and actually used; most members agreed that indeed for dashboard is a good tool and should continue to be produced. The CWG chair encouraged members to review the dashboard format again to see if further tweaking would be desirable. It was further proposed to set up a smaller technical group that can help REACH review the draft dashboard each month and formulate the market key messages. Members were encouraged to send nominations for such a group.</p>
7) AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- CaLP encouraged all members to send a message to regional rep Karen Peachey if interested in learning events or planning any events where CaLP could be a useful resource.- The next meeting was set for August 24, and ADESO will chair.

ACTION POINT	DEADLINE
<p>Communication to beneficiaries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CWG chairs to share WFP example key messages to beneficiaries 2. CWG members to provide any additional suggested messages from their own operations; chairs to compile document of communications practices 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 31 July COB 2. 3 August COB
<p>Workstreams</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Risk management workstream to compile inputs to the risk ranking matrix and share results 2. Members to provide inputs on M&E proposed indicator framework and feedback form 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TBD 2. 3 August COB
<p>Cash 3W</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CWG members to review June cash 3W data in HDX against their own cash interventions and provide OCHA with feedback 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 August COB
<p>Markets Dashboard</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members to review June markets dashboard and share comments on format, usefulness etc to REACH 2. Members to provide nominations for a market analysis group to help shape future dashboards (expected one meeting per month once a draft dashboard is complete) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friday August 3 2. Friday August 3
<p>Learning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members to provide feedback to CaLP (Karen) if interested in learning events, or for any planned or proposed cash learning events where CaLP can assist/provide input: kpeachey@cashlearning.org 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. asap
<p>Reflection session</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CWG chairs to share proposed dates for September session for members to select. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Friday August 3

Cash Working Group - Attendance 27.07.17	
Name	Organisation
Marie	ACTED
Deqa Saleh	ADESO
Ludfiya Haji	Agency for Peace and Development
Karen Peachey	CaLP
Titus Barsitei	Centre for Education and Development
Francesco Dagostino	CESVI
Dustin Caniglia	Concern World Wide
Leo Thomas	DFID
Mark Agoya	DFID
Juergen Feldman	Diakonie
Sapenzie Ojiambo	ECHO
Asha Sawyer	FAO
Hiba Abou Swaid	FAO
Mark Laichene	Give Directly
Ben Grazda	International Rescue Committee
Abdikhalid Kassim	Jubaland Development Organisation
Dickson Aduwo	OCHA
Rose Foran	OCHA
Sophie Tholstrup	OCHA
Anna Geller	Polish Humanitarian Action
George Kamau	REACH
Rebecka Rydberg	REACH
Geraud Devred	UNHCR
Isaac Mceken	UNHCR
Urayayi Mutsindikwa	UNHCR
Lilian Ooko	VSF Germany
Rispa Were	WASH Cluster
Chana Opaskornkul	WFP
Nynne Warring	WFP
Rumbi Chitombi	WFP
Simon Makono	World Vision

