



## **Terms of Reference**

### **Asia Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (RCWG)**

#### **Rationale:**

The Asia Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (RCWG) was established as a platform for programme managers, regional advisors, technical professionals / experts as well as non-programme related units, (such as finance, supply chain, ICT, security) interested or dedicated to cash and voucher transfer programming in the Asia and Pacific<sup>1</sup> region.

#### **Objectives:**

The overarching aim of the RCWG is to improve the quality and coordination, increase the scale (where relevant/appropriate) and broaden the scope of and use of cash transfer programming (CTP) through shared learnings/lessons learnt across the region, leveraging common approaches that are regionally relevant and built on best practice.

Specifically, the objectives of the RCWG are:

1. Strengthen coordination of CTP across the Asia and Pacific region in ongoing operations, preparedness and response
2. Standardize and harmonize CTP standards and common approaches including with regards to the regional specific context of emergency response and preparedness
3. Share organizational and regional experiences across region and discuss regional specific themes and challenges
4. Identify appropriate regional advocacy methods to promote quality and appropriate CTP programmes and propose key ways forward

#### **Participation:**

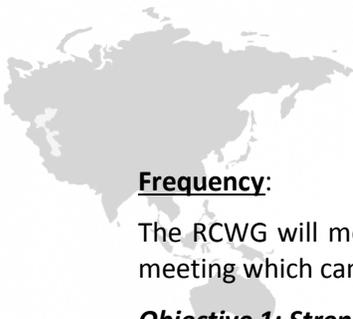
Participation includes UN agencies, International NGOs and regional organizations or other entities either directly implementing, supporting, interested or planning to design CTP programmes, as well as donors, research institutions, and the private sector.

#### **Chair:**

Historically the RCWG has been chaired by CaLP. With the CaLP position being vacant the RCWG is proposing a dedicated resource to support a co-chairing arrangement between WFP, IFRC and OCHA. Chairing arrangements will be reviewed on a periodic basis.

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<sup>1</sup> Whilst there is a Pacific Regional Working Group meeting out of Suva, Fiji the Asia Working Group will continue to collaborate with the Pacific team, inviting them for meetings and learning events.



### **Frequency:**

The RCWG will meet four times a year<sup>2</sup>, unless a specific issue or event requiring calling of an ad-hoc meeting which can be requested, or hosted by any RCWG member.

### ***Objective 1: Strengthen coordination of CTP in ongoing operations, preparedness and response and map CTP capacity in the region including coordination platforms, delivery mechanisms and SOPs etc.***

- Encourage country-level coordination mechanisms to enhance collaboration, which would then feed into the regional subgroups and vice versa.
- Geographical mapping of cash and voucher transfer programming responses in the region.
- Identify capacity and training needs on cash and voucher transfer programming in the region.
- Encourage combined negotiations by humanitarian organizations with service providers at the national level e.g. financial, cell phone and insurance providers for effective cash and voucher programme delivery.

### ***Objective 2: Standardize and harmonize CTP standards and common approaches in ongoing operations, as well as in the regional specific context of emergency response and preparedness, including urban, links with safety nets, refugee contexts (where relevant) and technology.***

- Provide technical inputs/feedback on cash and voucher response materials like training manuals, guidelines and standards.
- Support the development of monitoring and evaluation tools that can be used for cash and voucher response programs.
- Explore linkages with the Social Protection working group as relevant to further increase coordination across different actors in the CTP and Social Protection fields.

### ***Objective 3: Share organizational and regional experiences with CTPs across region and discuss regional specific themes and challenges emerging out of CTP design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.***

- Exchange cash and voucher transfer programming information, needs assessment, methodologies, best practices and lessons learned, building on the technical expertise of the different organizations in the region.
- Provide inputs and review best practices for cash and voucher transfer implementation and disseminate best practices in the region by resorting to a virtual network of experts on cash transfer programming.

### ***Objective 4: Identify appropriate regional advocacy methods to promote quality and appropriate CTP programmes to agencies, donors, governments and private sector, and propose key ways forward regarding regional partnerships; focus on key common countries of support and research/ case studies on regional specific topics for regional (and possibly global) learning.***

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<sup>2</sup> At the end of each quarter.



- Promote joint advocacy with donors, regional government bodies, national governments and other stakeholders for common positions on cash and voucher transfer programming and where appropriate, to influence policies on cash and voucher transfer programming.
- Promote the global integration of regional experiences and lessons learned.
- Advocate for mainstreaming of CTPs approaches considered feasible and appropriate for regional bodies particularly those that are multi-government including for example the ASEAN, SPC and SAARC (along with ADRRN, ADPC and others).
- Engage regional research institutes as well who would be interested to make case-study examples of CTPs in certain contexts.