

Southern Africa Regional Technical Cash Working Group (SARTCWG)

Cyclone Idai regional coordination

Malawi: Cash Working Group and Social Protection Working Group Updates

The situation in Malawi is evolving rapidly, the information included in this sitrep below reflects the current understanding of the different groups as of 4 April 2019.

An active Social Protection Working group exists in Lilongwe and a national CWG in Lilongwe has been reactivated since the start of the emergency.

There are significant links between the Social Protection working group and Cash working group and a determination to link the work of the two bodies as the response develops.



Sit Rep 1
05/04/2019

Social Protection Working Group Update

A social protection rapid assessment tool has been developed jointly by UNICEF, WFP, Ministry of Gender, and district teams, under DFID financing, and is being rolled out in Malawi as of 4 April.

The tool will assess:

- Potential disruption to the Social Cash Transfer (SCT) operations
- Potential impacts on SCT households
- Feasibility of providing additional cash (horizontal and/or

vertical expansion) through SCT structures.

Additionally, a mapping of STC beneficiary households against maps of affected areas is underway, and will provide data on the possibility of SP-led responses for the recovery efforts.

Based on early assessments from the regional Cash Working Group meeting held on 2 April, coordination in Malawi seems to be limited at present

to data collection on proposed responses and discussions around coordinated transfer values, in addition to some multisector cash assessments.

There is a need to move these discussions forward and broaden the coordination discussions, as well as integrate fuller information management approaches.

WFP will have a joint Regional Bureau-HQ mission to Malawi next week, focusing on inte-

grated resilience programmes, coordination, and assessment issues.

WFP colleagues also suggested a joint WFP-UNICEF meeting on resilience in response to shocks.

Lilongwe Cash Working Group Update

The CWG in Lilongwe met last Tuesday the 26th of March. Chaired by Department of Disaster Management Affairs (Dodma). Concern worldwide and WFP Co-chairs. This was the first meeting of CWG since December 2018.

Next CWG meeting will be in two weeks' time.

An excel mapping sheet template was shared to partners to start mapping the use of CVA, cross clusters and SP actors.

Several Financial Service providers attended the CWG, mostly from commercial banks.

There was a lot of discussion on how the work the government has undertaken on developing its national ID system can be used to enable registration and the role out of Cash programming.

WFP are looking into how the WFP scope system can be used in partnership with the national ID system.

Rapid assessment tool for market is being developed. WFP and CWW is leading a small sub working group on this.

Discussions were started around the development of an MEB, however an issue is that there is no data for NFI. There is a need for the MEB process to be started including a strong assessment as this has not been done before in Malawi.

Government indicated that they see the flood response lasting three months. WFP is planning the flood response in two stages.

1st month In-kind and Cash

2nd and 3rd month only Cash assistance.

Key Issues raised for Lilongwe CWG

- Transfer value – it is likely that the humanitarian transfer value when calculated will be higher than the current transfer value. This was an issue in 2015.
- Need to find a system to coordinate transfer values.
- Need to build links between the cluster system and the SP WG. Both very active and a need to build links between the humanitarian/development actors.
- Limited mapping of where cash actors are working, across clusters and SP actors.

Lilongwe CWG: Initial Market Situation update

The key markets in the affected areas are reporting to be recovering quickly, the VAM unit of WFP reports that their monitoring detected sharp price rises in food in affected areas in the initial days after the impact of the typhoon but that they are now returning to normal as waters levels recede.

The CWG reports that supply seems to be returning to normal in most flood effected areas, but that assessments are ongoing to confirm cash feasibility.

The CWG noted that there is currently an increase supply of food in the country, as most areas in the southern region have just begun to harvest, and most households normally consume from their own cultivation for the next two to three months, leading to drop of demand in the non crisis affected parts of the country.

The affected areas are not major producers of Maize but there is some self-sufficiency that has been affected.

The CWG highlighted a need to communicate to traders so they are aware of increased market demand as a result of humanitarian cash transfers leading to increasing purchasing power in the south. The CWG actors felt that if traders were informed they would be able to increase supply to the affected areas.

It was also noted that a significant number of national orgs, well-wishers and politicians have visited the affected areas and are providing assistance via in kind at scale but are not in the coordination

system.



Southern Africa Regional Technical Cash Working Group (SARTCWG)

The Southern Africa Regional Technical Cash Working Group (SARTCWG), was established in 2017 as a platform of technical professionals and experts dedicated to cash transfers programming in the Southern Africa region, with the overall objectives of streamlining the design, development and implementation of cash and voucher assistance, as well as influencing informed decisions by government and humanitarian actors.

The group strives to improve programs and their ability to benefit vulnerable groups.

The working group is currently active and providing support to the ongoing regional response to Cyclone Idai, in particular supporting the Humanitarian and Development actors undertaking Cash and Voucher assistance in Zimbabwe, Malawi

and Mozambique.

It had produced three guidance documents before the onset of the current response.

- Considerations in Determining Cash Transfer Values : Towards Harmonising Cash Transfers Programming in Southern Africa
- Synthesis of Lessons from the El Nino Response : Cash Transfers Lessons Learnt in Southern Africa
- Mapping of Financial Service Providers in Cash Transfer Programming in Southern Africa

These documents and all other reports can be found at the SARTCWG humanitarian response.info page at

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/southern-eastern-africa/southern-africa-regional-technical-cash-working-group>

To join the SARTCWG Mailing list please visit :

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/sartcwg/join>

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