

Cash and Markets Working Group Meeting

ISCG Conference Room, Cox's Bazar
February 13th, 2019

ISCG

INTER SECTOR
COORDINATION
GROUP

Attendance: ACTED, BDRCS, BRAC, CARE, CRS, Danish Red Cross, DCA, DRC, ECHO, FIVDB, FSS, Helvetas, ICCO, ICRC, IFRC, ISCG, OXFAM, Plan International, Qatar Charity, RDRS-LWF, RI, RIMI, SCI, SI, Tearfund, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, United Purpose, UN Women.

Agenda:

- Welcome & Follow-up on Action Points
- Formalize the new Working Group title & work plan
- CWG field visit sharing
- Harmonization of voucher approaches & RI updates
- AOB

Previous meeting minutes were endorsed by participants.

Agenda	Discussion	Action Points
Welcome & follow-up of action points	<p>After a brief introduction, reviewed the action points of the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Atwar Rahman, National CWG coordinator introduced himself and shared some updates from Dhaka coordination. • iMMAP in coordination with FSS/LWG is continuing to support the development of the host community tracking system to avoid possible overlap in HC programming. More time is needed to automatize the system. Will provide an update at the next meeting. • UNHCR still planning to arrange meetings with other partners working in host communities. They are awaiting finalization of their household list by the government social services department. This initiative is a government led multipurpose cash assistance programme implemented by the BDRCS. • IFRC plans to distribute cash this month at Palongkhali union (ward # 6) through the post office to 300 HHs in the HC, the package size is BDT 5500/family. • BRAC finalizing beneficiary list and delivery mechanism for host community MPCA. Also, United Purpose planning to work in Ukhiya with host communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFRC will share their PDM report to be shared.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion around MPCA for host communities, should have specific objectives and be considered as a frontline response after any disaster as a recovery package and not as a regular assistance, further discussions need to take place. • ‘Voucher and market programming basics training’ for national programme staff will be held as per plan at Ocean Paradise Hotel, Cox’s Bazar. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training will be held on 17 February 2019
Formalize the new Working Group title & work plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As discussed in the previous CWG meeting and in line with the revised Sphere Handbook 2018 and context of current cash status in Rohingya camps, the working group title is from today called ‘Cash and Markets WG (CMWG)’. The national CWG Coordinator will have discussions at the national level to adapt the same terminology and will update us accordingly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request to update all the information related to ‘CMWG’.
CWG field visit sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CMWG Coordinator and officer, and colleagues from DCA visited Camp # 15, 16 and 21 Extension last week to observe the cash for work and voucher programming in the field as well as monitor market functionality. • There are some reports that different practices have been applied by different agencies on the CFW schemes and that Guidelines and SOPs aren’t being adhered by all actors. • Competition among agencies to enroll skilled workers was identified as a root cause, and thus there is discrepancy in number of days worked across different programs and in some cases the most vulnerable people aren’t always being engaged. Beneficiary selection cited as a key problem in many cases too. • Recently UNHCR trained partners in CFW and incentive rates to partners adopted the approved guidelines. • The rate for CFW in host community is Tk 350 and it was harmonized in 2018 using a thorough process and need to be observed by all CFW actors. Some other sectors (e.g. WASH, Shelter, FSS, etc) also engaged labour under CFW – need to execute the same approach. • In a FGD, beneficiaries mentioned that they preferred the voucher programming instead of cash support, as the amount of cash can be used in unnecessary purposes. Though scenario may not same in all camps, but agencies are encouraged more voucher programming instead of cash if that is proven to be the preference of the beneficiaries. • Most of the cases, beneficiaries expense all vouchers for one purchase, especially when the women are purchasing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further follow up, after discussions that are taking place at HoSo level. • Global beneficiary preferences survey to be conducted on cash and voucher programming to identify the most appropriate modality – cash, vouchers or a combination of both.

Harmonization of voucher approaches & RI updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relief International presented their Voucher Fair (fresh vegetable voucher programme) planned for Jan-March 2019. • This project will be implemented in camp # 17 and Camp # 8W, but considering better infrastructure and experience registration by KOBO Toolbox will be started first at camp # 17. • Six vendors are planned to hire to sell 14 food commodities and each will cover 200 HHs every day. In this way, camp 17 needs 4 days, whereas camp 8W needs 6 days to cover all beneficiaries. • However, participants in the meeting mentioned that this is a very ambitious programme with a limited time to cover so many beneficiaries. • In response questions, RI update that they have prioritized women-headed households and consider several protection issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RI presentation will be shared with the group members later in March
AOB: Livelihood support to host communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tearfund (through partners) are facing difficulties selecting beneficiaries for host communities support Livelihoods programming. In addition they are experiencing issues selecting a support package – as different organizations are providing different packages. • If any sector-specific issues come, it is requested to discuss at the respective sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tearfund is suggested to raise the issue at the Food Security Sector (FSS).
MEB revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently WFP VAM unit is collecting data to see if it worth is to revise the MEB that supports assistance for the host community. Current MEB rate is BDT 7,113 for Cox's Bazar. • Livelihood guideline is available at FSS cluster in Dhaka level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Security Sector (FSS) in Cox's Bazar to collect the guidelines and share with partners.
Next CWG meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be held 27th February 2019 at 10:00 AM at ISCG Conference Room. 	