

Cash and Markets Working Group Meeting

ISCG Conference Room, Cox's Bazar

February 27th, 2019

ISCG

INTER SECTOR
COORDINATION
GROUP

Attendance: BDRCS, BRAC, British Red Cross, CCDB, CRS, Danish Red Cross, DCA, FIVDB, FSS, GUK, Helvetas, ICCO, ICRC, IFRC, IOM, iMMAP/WFP, ISCG, MUKTI, OXFAM, PIN, Plan International, Prottiyashi, RDRS-LWF, RI, RTMI, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, WVI.

Agenda:

- Welcome & Follow-up on Action Points
- Handover chair & co-chair of CMWG
- Oxfam's Market Based Approach
- Voucher programming in Cox's Bazar by ICCO & GUK
- AOB – (Advocacy sub-group meeting updates)

Previous meeting minutes were endorsed by participants.

Agenda	Discussion	Action Points
<p>Welcome & follow-up of action points</p>	<p>After a brief introduction, reviewed the action points of the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFRC's PDM report shows, a number of Rohingya refugees responded that they paid over 1000BDT as transportation cost for purchasing goods with the cash. Most of the participants of the meeting weren't convinced about the logic behind this expense. • A total of 45 national colleagues participated in the 'voucher and markets programming basics training' organized by cash and markets working group. • Cash WG title has changed as 'Cash and Markets WG (CMWG)'. Now, other official formalities are ongoing. National CWG also has a plan to discuss for changing the name. This will not duplicate with other groups. • During a recent visit to the camp, some beneficiaries showed their preferences voucher programming instead of cash. MPCA piloting already conducted by some agencies and voucher programming also going on by some organizations. A study can be organized to know the beneficiaries preferences on a cash or voucher programming. • Tearfund is suggested to raise the beneficiary selection in the Livelihoods approach issue at the Food Security Sector (FSS) meeting to avoid any possible overlap. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IFRC will check with the monitoring team and clarify the group later. • ISCG will proceed to conduct a study on beneficiary preferences to identify the most appropriate modality – cash, vouchers or a combination of both.

<p>Handover chair & co-chair of CMWG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Ricardo is leaving, so filling the gap a new CMWG Coordinator recruitment is under process. This will run through a cost-sharing basis – 50% cost-shared by IOM and UNHCR each. • After a sudden leaving of Steven (UNHCR), Ryan from Oxfam took over the co-chair position for a few months. Now Ryan also ending his mission in Cox's Bazar, so there is a need for a regular co-chair to support the group. • It was asked to the members, is anyone interested for co-chairing position except WFP – as WFP has been showing interest from last two months. However, no organization has shown interest in the position and with the consensus of the participants, WFP confirmed co-chair for the next six months. A new cash expert from Bangkok Regional office will be deployed on 11 March. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Until enrolling a new coordinator, Naim from ISCG will take over temporarily; and Emanur-cash officer will continue work with the group. • WFP will support the CMWG co-chairing position for the next 6-months.
<p>Oxfam's Market Based Approach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxfam presented their Market-based approach for Rohingya Response. • The Food Security and Markets Assessment (Nov 2017) shows the high level of market functionality around camps in Ukhiya and Teknaf. 83% of host community traders said they could meet a 100% increase in demand. • Oxfam started voucher programming in January 2018 and this market-based programming is for Food security and livelihoods, Protection and WASH. • The voucher allows the local economy and food security and reduces in-kind distribution. • The programme has 29 participating host community vendors. Cover 24,500 HH's (122,500 individuals) reached monthly by 12 food items. • Fresh Food Voucher value: i) Avg. HH: BDT 730 and ii) Large HH (8+): 1170, and value based on MEB food basket. Conducted bi-monthly price monitoring. • Meantime, \$2.6 million USD (211 million BDT) injected into local markets in Ukhiya. • Oxfam also presents some PDM findings, emergency voucher, soap voucher, tailor voucher, lessons learned and as well as a transition plan to E-voucher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxfam's presentation will be shared with the group members.
<p>Voucher programming in Cox's Bazar by ICCO & GUK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICCO presented Post Distribution Monitoring of Food Assistance (Paper Voucher Modality). • ICCO voucher programme is near to similar of Oxfam programme with some differences. Such as- ICCO provides 14 items of food through a paper voucher mechanism, where Oxfam 12. ICCO value BDT 830 for 7 members family, where Oxfam BDT 730. • 81% of the HHs received a voucher worth BDT 830, and 19% received BDT 1170. • The 14 items are sugar, iodized salt, milk, onions, garlic, dried fish, egg, fresh spinach, eggplant, potato, turmeric powder, chili powder, dry red chili, and green chili. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICCO presentation will be circulated among the group members. • ICCO should check 'milk item' as suggested in the Sphere Handbook 2018.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 67% of households purchased the products in a single visit. On average, it took 18 days for the household to finish all of the products. • The most important products for beneficiaries are eggs (97%), dried fish (87%), onion (70%), iodized salt (54%), and milk (45%). 26% of voucher users are female. • There was a concern, referring to Sphere Handbook 2018 for milk support to the households considering nutrition value, encouraging breastfeeding, etc. 	
AOB: Gender Profile No. 2 for Rohingya Refugee Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GiHA WG members with the input of ISCG field coordination colleagues have now finalized the Gender Profile No. 2 for Rohingya Refugee Response. The Gender profile No. 2 and No. 1 together with Sector-specific Gender and Protection Mainstreaming Guidance notes have been prepared and availed to sectors and partners in mainstreaming gender and protection in their work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Gender profile documents will be shared with the group members.
Advocacy sub-group meeting updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December 2018, a small advocacy sub-group was formed when the government stops seasonal cash assistance top-up. The group initiatives are continuing and speak with FSP, government counterpart, and other relevant agencies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next meeting of the sub-group will be held on 18 March.
Remarks from Ryan and Ricardo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ryan, CMWG co-chair is leaving Cox's Bazar. He thanks all and wish more cash programming by end of the year. • Ricardo, CMWG Coordinator also leaving Bangladesh. He also thanks all members to support him during his last 6-month tenure. He memorizes that now the group is more strong and active, and the number of participants has increased. He wishes to see again in the future. 	
Next CWG meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be held 13th March 2019 at <u>10:00 AM</u> at ISCG Conference Room. 	