

CASH TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

Wednesday, 27 January 2021 at 15:00 – 17:00, Virtual Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Attendance: ECHO, DFID, UNHCR, WFP, FAO, DCA, CRS, Save the Children, AVSI, World Vision, ACF, UNICEF, DRC, Trickle Up, OXFAM, REACH, USAID, NRC, 100 Weeks, IMPACT

Agenda:

1. **Introductions and CWG key focus areas for 2021** Eunice Mwende – CWG coordinator
2. **WFP digitization of cash in South West Bank and Financial Literacy Training roll-out.** Stephan Deutscher – WFP
3. **UNHCR pilot on monetization of core relief items to new arrivals to Nakivale** Jamal Abu Musa – UNHCR
4. **Presentation 1: Price and market monitoring updates** Joseph Kyanjo – WFP and REACH
5. **Presentation 2: REACH- new USAID funding** Dave Van- Zoonen - REACH
6. **Presentation 3: 100 Weeks CVA in Mpigi district** Maartje Snieders - 100 weeks
7. **Updates from CWG members** CWG Members
8. **AOB** CWG Members

| Agenda | Discussion | Action Points |
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| Introductions and CWG key focus areas for 2021 | <p>Highlights</p> <p>The CWG coordinator notes the various efforts of partners as far as implementing cash based interventions is concerned</p> | |

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| | <p>Joint initiatives, assessments, approaches etc. have been undertaken while others are in the pipeline</p> <p>However, due to the diminishing funding, the refugee operation is going to consider vulnerability as a basis for targeting assistance</p> <p>Good lessons from 2019/2020</p> <p>Cash WG has provided technical guidance in programming (tools, coordination forums, MEB and market analysis)</p> <p>In 2021, the CWG will focus on;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improving coordination• Aligning initiatives to the CRRF and the NDP• Increase engagement with the private sector• Hands on technical support to CWG members (providing guidelines, tools and protocols)• Interactive forums for information management (field level and National level meetings)• Provide an opportunity to build the capacity of national NGOs | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support, encourage participation in technical work streams (CCD, market monitoring, etc) • Common systems for FSP procurement, and providing opportunity for piggy working | |
| <p>WFP digitization of cash in South West Bank and Financial Literacy Training roll-out</p> | <p>WFP plans to expand digital payments to all the settlements that have not been reached in 2020, following the learnings from the pilots of agency banking in parts of south west operations.</p> <p>Plans underway to engage FSP to lower the float commitment level to below 2 million to reduce a barrier in expanding the agent network in the settlements.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Question raised on expansion of CBT to Imvepi & Palorinya and whether there will be different FSPs in a settlement.</p> <p>WFP looks at the idea of competition for refugee. Currently there are locations being served by 2 FSPs in parallel. It is also important to avoid monopoly, this helps to protect our PoC from exploitation.</p> <p>Further analysis may be needed to if its feasible to have a different FSP in each settlement</p> <p>As WFP and many others move towards digital payments vs. in-kind (food), is there any research in country on how this may change gender and HH dynamics on who controls/has decision-making power over this injection into the HH? I believe Mercy</p> | <p>Financial and digital inclusion working group to be set up by CWG - Trickle up expressed interest to be part of it</p> |

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| | <p>Corps carried out a study on this within the context of South Sudan a couple years ago. They noted the move from food to cash at the time, peaked the interest of men in the HH more, as previously they were not interested much in in-kind food.</p> <p>CCD is currently doing analysis and will share a report on piggy-backing on FSP procurement processes from WFP.</p> <p>Graduating to Resilience in Rwamwanja for all digital cash transfers for 6,600 HHs;</p> | |
| <p>UNHCR pilot on monetization of core relief items to new arrivals to Nakivale</p> | <p>Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR plans to monetize the CRI/NFI kit for new arrivals in 2021 • Pilot slated to take place in Nakivale, currently the only receiving settlement in southwest • The pilot is targeting 10,000 refugees (roughly 4000 households) • The planning figure for the year is 75,000 new arrivals <p>Discussion</p> <p>Questions raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Has the SIM registration process for refugees and turn around time for activation by telecos improved?</i> • <i>How will new arrivals without phones be supported?</i> • <i>what lessons learned from the urban cash distribution in 2020 will be brought to the cash distribution in Nakivale? (issues with SIM card access, etc.)</i> | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Will UNHCR/WFP share the lessons learned from the urban distribution with the group?</i> • <i>If borders remain closed, no new arrivals. Is there any B-Plan?</i> • <i>Of the 75,000-refugee expected to arrive in 2021, are they all from only DRC and Burundi?</i> <p>ECHO is supporting the Uganda Cash Consortium led by DRC to conduct a cash for CRI pilot in Nakivale too. Coordination efforts are happening to streamline assistance</p> <p>On the use of Mobile Money, will UNHCR promote digital payments of refugees to vendors to avoid cash-out and decrease payment of fees?</p> <p>It might be good to have a technical working group to tackle issues on Mobile money transfer - from experience NRC has learnt from both Urban and Nakivale its diverse and needing different action.</p> <p>CWG will need to facilitate that either as a stand alone or part of existing workstreams</p> | |
| <p>Price and market monitoring updates</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching out to colleagues who can be able to provide data from settlements. • Feedback on how to improve the market update • Planned joint market assessment | <p>Share bulletin as part of the meeting presentations</p> |
| <p>REACH- new USAID</p> | <p>REACH introduced its new funded USAID programme to the CWG. Engagements on the various aspects of the program already began. The three focus areas will be on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Market Monitoring • Ad hoc assessments; Already started on: | <p>Partner input/feedback other relevant topics welcome.</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihoods & Market Strengthening Assessment Lamwo & Isingiro (Jan – April 21) • FSP mapping • Support CWG in expanding 4W information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create more detailed 4Ws by expanding indicators and IM products • Regularly updated 4W map (Static / interactive) • First publication planned for April (Activity Info reporting cycle) | |
| 100 Weeks-CVA in Mpigi district | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 weeks Is supporting vulnerable women groups in Mpigi district with cash grants of 8 Euro a week for 100 weeks using mobile money. • The women are grouped into groups of 20 women and meet every week to receive financial and life skills training; they start VSLAs after 3 months • In other contexts, 100 weeks collaborates with private sector such as Unilever to provide more income opportunities for the women • Baseline and impact data is collected via bespoke dashboard, a platform that is accessible to donors and the implementors on real time | 100 weeks looking at scaling up their programs and partnering with organisations in both refugee and host communities |
| Updates from CWG members | <p>DCA update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCA scaled up contactless/digital cash transfers through Mobile Money, Agency banking both in the refugee and host community (Activated accounts for 1009 households that had been opened previously and opened new accounts for 787 in Rhino and Imvepi Refugee Settlements) • DCA scaled up Multi-Purpose Cash Grants (MPCGs) and minimized on commodity vouchers since they give opportunities to beneficiaries to make their own choices. – Functionality of markets was affected, traders could not move | DCA to make the presentation in the next CWG |

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| | <p>to the markets, increase in prices e.t.c with support from ECHO and DANIDA 6700households were supported</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scaled up the use of E- Vouchers for farmers to access tillage services, PSNs access commodities etc• Continued with and scaled up CFW in both livelihood, energy and environment interventions since the labour was available with in the target communities – no movement from one place to another that could be against MoH CoViD-19 prevention measures.• Sensitized FSP and Promoted the CoViD-19 prevention measures in Cash Transfer programming (CTP SoPs) | |
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