

Geneva-based Cash Working Group Meeting

6th February 2018

Location: Geneva International Conference Centre

Overall topic: Coordination and Preparedness

Facilitator: Juliet Lang and Stefan Bumbacher

1. Introduction and objectives of the session

Juliet and Stefan welcomed the group noting the setting of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW). Stefan Bumbacher will soon hand over the chairmanship role to the incoming policy coordinator for CaLP – Sophie Tholstrup. The GbCWG recently updated the workplan in line with identified priorities and will continue to plan for thematic meetings outlined in the workplan for the rest of the year.

2. Global Updates

Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP) State of the World Cash Report - Update on Launch

The State of the World Cash report will be launched on 22 March 2018 in London. This report aims to deliver an objective review of the state of cash transfer programming globally and inform insights to accelerate progress. [The report is available online](#) and includes six key findings, two key themes and various enabling factors.

CashCap Theory of Change Update (Mamta Basnet, CashCap)

CashCap's aim is to manage and maintain a roster for markets and cash expertise to support the humanitarian community, building more capacity at the inter-agency level to fill the gap of experts in the field. CashCap's Theory of Change is aligned closely with other actors and incorporates:

- 1) Global framework of cash-based intervention, and
- 2) Contribution to the Grand Bargain commitments (#1 #4 #5)

Two different areas of focus for impact and long-term outcomes:

- 1) Better programming for cash and markets based response through the provision of support to agencies on the ground.
- 2) Identify whether to use CTP and to then develop cash and market-based responses

Support to cash coordination from the regional to field level to support cluster capacity and technical coordination.

CashCap confirmed that their roster now contains 30 cash experts and recruitment is underway for 10 additional members. As a result of the \$4 million recently received from SIDA there are now 3 "standby" staff who can both mentor junior staff and deploy rapidly. Cash Cap also reopened a discussion with the Health Cluster regarding a possible secondment recognising the different approach to standard market-based responses.

Update on the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative (GHD) Workstream on Cash (Ingunn Vatne, Minister Counsellor Norway)

Australia and Germany 2016-2018 co-chair the GHD. The website: www.ghdinitiative.org provides further details on the various workstreams. The GHD set up a workstream specific to Cash for 2016-18, co-led by the UK and Norway. The main objectives of the cash workstream is: i) provide clarity of benefits and challenges on use of cash; ii) support the use of cash and shared learning on different models. A workshop was held in June 2017 with 15 donors participating. The aim was to identify the main concerns, challenges and opportunities to date. The report on the session on donor coordination and survey results are available at the GHD website. Another workshop is planned, with the aim to learn on cash policy to encourage a more harmonized approach for scaling up cash and to develop common donor messages and tools. The GHD is also working with CaLP to develop a Q&A to provide broader set of donors with resources, ideas and guidance. With such a broad group of donors, there are some additional initiatives such as Germany and Norway follow-up to the GB workstreams

last year. Additionally, a joint donor mission to Jordan and Lebanon was completed with 7 donors and CaLP (see below).

Update on the Grand Bargain (Tim Stone, UK Department for International Development)
UK & WFP facilitated a **workshop in Rome** in June 2017 to take stock on progress and identify barriers and concerns, with over 70 participants (donors, multi-lateral agencies, global clusters, Red Cross, NGOs, special agencies/platforms).

Result: Workplan was developed that includes **6 priority action points:**

1) **Measuring cash:** CaLP is contributor; co-leads are under identification. This builds on the existing initiative by CaLP (CaLP Cash Tracking Working Group). CaLP will facilitate a technical workshop in March 2018 focusing on global measures for cash and voucher programming.

2) **Donor Coordination:** Co-leads are Norway and Germany; joint donor mission (HQ level) planned for the 5th February 2018 to Lebanon and Jordan to better understand the situation of humanitarian cash assistance on the ground, which includes issues in Middle East and globally; consider the future direction of cash (challenges and opportunities); understand effects and impacts of donors' diverse approaches to cash assistance, and identify more convergent approaches.

3) **Measuring VfM, Efficiency, Effectiveness:** Co-leads identified (US and IRC); scope of work defined; Phase 1: work towards and culminate in a workshop focusing on cost-efficiency and cost-effectiveness methodologies in humanitarian assistance. The objectives are to gather and analyze learning on metrics and identify how these may be improved, to identify knowledge gaps, and to work on recommendations; work has started on the organization of the event, the tentative date will be in April 2018.

4) **Clarification with IASC on Cash Coordination:** UK and WFP are contacting the IASC and will be identifying ways forward with the IASC.

5) **Risk:** WFP is still reaching out to donors/agencies to participate in the global theme of risk.

6) **Mapping of Cash Work:** OCHA co-leads this with participation from the Global Food Security cluster, Development Initiatives, and CaLP. The purpose on cash coordination initiatives and major cash initiatives. Updates will be shared every quarter.

Work of Global Cluster Coordination – Task Team on Cash (Juliet Lang, OCHA)

GCCG formed a **task team on cash** in January 2017 focused on 7 key areas of work. This included a functional mapping of cash working groups to see how to engage in the formal coordination architecture.

The task team is aiming for better coherence in **information management (IM)**. Individual clusters continued to develop their own research and guidance on cash and market-based programming. A consultant was hired to conduct an in-depth qualitative review of how CWG engage with the formal coordination architecture. A final mapping report was produced and will be published shortly.

Work began on a **generic terms of reference for CWGs**. This will ensure the CWGs are in line with the TORs of other structures and will build on best practices from the field.

The Global Cluster Coordinators Group recently revised the **standard Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) Terms of Reference (TOR)**. In line with the recommendations originally listed in the IASC Strategic Note, this now includes a formal reference to cash at inter-cluster level.

2018 – Cash Coordination - Technical Support to the GCCG (Jimena Peroni, CashCap)

CashCap has a 3-month technical support for guidance and is part of the task team. OCHA supports in the consultation works along with the GCCG. The GCC are members of the task team. Each global cluster representative was asked to send two nominees for each sector/cluster. Relevant guidance will be developed for the current architecture. The cluster approach needs to be relevant (for all sectors) to engage with cluster coordination in a multi-sectoral analysis.

Update on WASH session from Berlin (Stefan Bumbacher, CaLP)

Evidence provided to support market-based programming and multi-sector collaboration. WASH cluster will develop indicators and response analysis. The indicators will focus on impact when market-based interventions are used, and will try to avoid redundancy.

Juliet observed that the better integration of cash coordination into the HPC is under discussion at the broader interagency level as well as part of the HPC review.

Update from CaLP Regional Offices (Stefan Bumbacher, CaLP)

West and East Africa: Three learning events on coordination in conflict areas. Two-day training in Senegal focused on the multi sector CTP focusing on MEB and market assessments. Two weeks ago there was a learning event in Nairobi. There was a learning and networking event from South Sudan on risks and transfer modalities. MEB finalized for Cameroon, Mali. In Niger, Chad, Senegal, Burkina Faso developing MEB work.

Overview of upcoming cash-based events – Calendar planning (CaLP)

- February 7, 2018 Regional CWG meetings (DC and Dakar for West Africa)
- On the 23rd of February there will be symposium on gender and cash in Nairobi. Co-organized by ADESO, NRC, OXFAM.
- The Geneva-based Cash working Group now has a [dedicated page on the CaLP website](#) where ToRs, meeting minutes and other useful documents will be posted.

3. Update on Global Cash Working Group Mapping Exercise (OCHA, Juliet Lang)

At the beginning of this year, 40 national cash working groups were operational. The mapping exercise seeks to provide an overview of these working groups. Cash working groups are classified into three types:

1. Representation or engagement at a strategic level, for example in Afghanistan, Yemen, Lebanon;
2. Seat at the ICCG Linkage reflected in the CWG TOR, like Cox Bazar, Afghanistan, Burundi
3. Ad-hoc reporting through attendees with an HCT/inter cluster seat, for example Somalia, Sudan

[See attached presentation for further details]

4. REACH in Cash-Based Responses (Philip Bato, REACH)

Provided a picture of what challenges exist in terms of information management at the field level and how they address these challenges. There is quite a strong **demand for better coordinated IM frameworks** for cash responses and a growing need for standardized and harmonized systems, which should be tailored to the local level. So far, a lot of progress was made but there are still a **series of challenges**: unclear cash leaderships, divergent interest among partners, staff turnover, shared market analysis, basic information sharing, etc. Challenges can result in **classic coordination issues**: over-/underassessment of certain areas, inefficient use of resources.

What does **REACH** do to fill these IM gaps:

- REACH is a joint Initiative of ACTED, IMPACT initiatives, and UNOSAT.
- Created in 2010, to enhance aid effectiveness by promoting and facilitation data collection, analysis and dissemination among aid actor (before, during and after humanitarian assistance).
- Work on addressing information gaps in **cash-based responses**:

Collaboration with national CWGs, OCHA, UNHCR, WFP, implementing agencies, donors. Work revolved around two major activities:

1. Coordinated, inter-agency **price monitoring frameworks**: Examples in Syria, Iraq, Somalia and Libya, that allowed actors to avoid duplicating efforts and to determine values of cash grants
2. Coordinated, inter-agency **cash feasibility and market studies**: Examples in Yemen, Nigeria, Libya, South Sudan, and Iraq > Use of a developed Rapid Assessment of Markets framework that assessed the

feasibility of cash at the market-level in a given area only once by one partner through an agreed standardized ICRC Rapid Assessment of Markets tool. These joint monitoring frameworks prevent overlapping price monitoring frameworks and the use of different tools that are difficult to combine. One of the core added values is to get people around the table to provide feedback on the shared tools.

What's next:

- Provide comprehensive assessment support to cash-based coordination platforms in each major humanitarian crisis.
- Production of a standardized set of best inter-agency practices, guidelines and outputs.
- Identification of gaps where additional operational support in local cash responses is needed, as currently in Yemen.

5. Conclusion: Reminders (Stefan Bumbacher, CaLP)

- Feedback is invited on the GbCWG ToRs and workplan
- Today was a longer meeting than usual. There will be more thematic meetings this year. Calendar and mapping would be circulated on a more regular basis. Typically use a more interactive approach/model. Will likely have four meetings this year. There will be call-in options and specified focus areas. Looking forward to hearing more experience on the thematic areas. Cash Mapping update is based on information as accurate as we have it.