

**UGANDA CASH WORKING GROUP COORDINATION MEETING**  
**Wednesday 31 May 2023 15:00 – 17:00**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Organizations in Attendance:**

ALIGHT, AVSI, BRAC, Caritas Gulu, CESVI, CRS, DRC, ECHO, Equity Bank, FAO, Give Directly, GIZ, GOAL, HI, Hunger Fighters, LWF, Malteser International, NRC, OlyCash, PLAN, REACH/IMPACT Initiatives, Uganda Red Cross, Save the Children, Stanbic Bank, Trickleup, UNHCR, USAID, WFP, WVI.

**Total # of Individual Participants: 62**

**Meeting Agenda:**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Updates from West Nile CWG meeting
3. Update on UNHCR proposal to monetize CRIs
4. Trickle-Up/AVSI/DRC presentation of Graduation
5. 5Ws
6. Thematic Updates
7. AoB

**Notes for the Record**

| Agenda   | Discussion Points  | Action Points  |
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| <p><b>1. Introductions and Remarks (Matilda Jerneck, CWG Chair, UNHCR)</b></p> | <p>The Cash Working Group coordinator welcomed members and remarked on the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The process to select a co-chair will be transparent and competitive. To keep members involved in the process, a quiz was administered at the start of the meeting to ask the following questions.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are the most important roles/responsibilities of the co-chair? 21 participants provided feedback with the following responses                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support cash coordination efforts</li> <li>▪ Facilitate CWG meetings</li> <li>▪ Offer technical support (capacity building)</li> <li>▪ Lead in cash learning and evidence</li> <li>▪ Help drive localization agenda</li> <li>▪ Present CWG as forum for fund raising</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What is the co-chair’s most important contributions to the CWG? We received 35 responses as follows.                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide IM support to the CWG for enhanced reporting - 31%</li> <li>▪ Avail a staff with at least 20% of the time dedicated to supporting the CWG - 20%</li> <li>▪ Build a network of cash interlocutors from the co-chair host organization - 29%</li> <li>▪ Provide alternative perspective to the discussions led primarily by the UN and INGO - 17%</li> <li>▪ Others - 3%</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ What is the ideal term of the co-chair?                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 19 participants manage to respond to the quiz</li> <li>▪ 47% suggest 1 year is ideal</li> <li>▪ 35% suggest 2 years is Ideal, while</li> <li>▪ 18% think 3 years is ideal</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <p>CWG coordinator to share the TOR for the Co-Chair for CWG members’ review by mid-June.</p> <p>Define the process to update the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and inform CWG.</p> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The cash taskforce of the CWG will use these short survey findings to inform the ToR for the co-chair and agree based on discussions the ideal term of the co-chair.</li> <li>▪ The current MEB was last fully updated in March 2021 and there are discussions ongoing on whether to embark on a review of update of the current MEB. A quick poll was run to determine partner usage of MEB and whether review/update will be required going forward. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 out of 8 participants indicated that their organizations are using the current MEB for their cash programming especially in transfer value determination/forecasting, fundraising and proposal development, design and planning for new programmes, price monitoring, etc.</li> <li>○ 7 out of 11 participants indicated that the current MEB needs to be updated as a matter of urgency while 2 indicated that although the MEB needs to be updated, it is not a topmost priority.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>2. Updates from West Nile CWG (Hellen Nantale, WFP)</b></p>          | <p><b>Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Various partners are carrying out cash interventions to PoCs in the various settlements in West Nile sub-region.</li> <li>▪ Some of the short-term outcomes of CBI implementation in the settlements can be seen in increased VSLA savings by cash beneficiaries, there are also spillover effects in the local economy.</li> <li>▪ There is increased penetration of the FSPs in the settlements as demonstrated by the bank agents and mobile money agent count.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Utilizing the 5Ws to minimize cases of duplications. This is work in progress since the 5W reporting is yet to be launched.</li> <li>▪ Request from the Urban working group to create Kampala Cash Working Group.</li> <li>▪ Follow up on Cash for education to revise the cash disbursement from UGX 30,000 which is insufficient for urban refugees.</li> </ul>   | <p>FSPs to mainstream protection concerns in to training for agents.</p> <p>National CWG coordinator to have follow up meeting with West Nile CWG on issues discussed on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023.</p> <p>CWG Coordinator to organize with Southwest CWG settlement level coordinators on revitalize CWG monthly meetings.</p> <p>Discuss with relevant stakeholders whether to establish CWG for Kampala.</p> |
| <p><b>3. UNHCR proposed monetization of CRI (Stephen Adeun, UNHCR)</b></p> | <p><b>Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While the preparations are advanced, UNHCR is awaiting the final sign-off from OPM to launch the pilot.</li> <li>▪ UNHCR embarking on monetization for various reason including operation efficiency of CBIs, dignity of choice for beneficiaries, global shift, and commitments towards cash programming, etc.</li> <li>▪ Pilot designed with the likelihood of scalability in the long run basing on lessons from pilot</li> <li>▪ UNHCR has advanced in its preparation for the pilot; design and market assessment, stakeholder consultation, risk analysis, Q&amp;A information tool and PDM tools are all in place pending official confirmation by the OPM.</li> </ul> <p>CWG partners encouraged to document risks they might have identified in delivering the CRIs assistance in addition to the risk register available.</p> <p>UNHCR to conduct PDM to inform on the next steps after intervention.</p> <p><b>Key Questions raised and answers</b></p>                  | <p>UNHCR to update the CWG on the progress of CRI monetization once confirmation is received from OPM and launch date will be communicated.</p>  |

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|   | <p><b>Qn:</b> What mitigation measures are in place in case there are misuse of the assistance by the new arrivals.<br/> <b>A:</b> Basic financial training shall be provided by the FSP to the new arrivals to avert cases of exploitation and fraud. Deliberate effort on awareness and sensitization strategies are in place on the purpose of the assistance.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> Are there measures for market programming to empower markets to be ready with required items.<br/> <b>A:</b> internally, UNHCR will engage the solutions and development units for a possible market system development approach to ensure a continuous supply chain of the said products in the local markets.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> How can new arrivals access their assistance without mobile phones?<br/> <b>A:</b> Discussion is ongoing with FSP on provision of feature mobile phones at the withdrawal point to support those who might present themselves without mobile phones. However, provision of mobile is unsustainable and will not be encouraged for this intervention.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> What measures are in place to guide the new arrivals against fraud, exploitations as they will be new in the environment.<br/> <b>A:</b> UNHCR will pursue sensitization and make sure all relevant information is contained in the key messages. Additionally, all agents will receive information related to fraud prevention and detection. UNHCR will compile this information and provide it to the FSP for dissemination to all their agents.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> How do we ensure environmental protection against new arrivals who would want to cut existing trees?<br/> <b>A:</b> Environment colleagues are part of the CBI MFT, and they are guiding on the measures to mitigate tree cutting by new arrivals. Also, retail engagement will be key in making sure these environmental products are available in the local markets as and when refugees need them.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> Why has it taken too long with the pilot? Are there any concerns with OPM?<br/> <b>A:</b> It took a while to get a briefing of the proposal to OPM because of many factors i.e death of the PS and leave plans for the staff concerned. As per the engagements undertaken, there is no major concerns with OPM. UNHCR awaits formal feedback to the letter written to OPM seeking for an endorsement to proceed with the pilot.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Besides mobile money as modality for delivery, did UNHCR explore other options like direct cash?<br/> <b>A:</b> With discussion with CBI MFT on other modalities, mobile money proved to be the most secure means of delivering cash for new arrivals. The FSP user preference survey of 2022 also reveals mobile money as the most preferred cash delivery mechanism because of security and ease in setting up.</p> |  |
| <p><b>4. Graduation in displaced context (Mara Forbes, Trickleup)</b></p> | <p><b>Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project implemented in consortium with Trickle-up, AVSI and DRC</li> <li>▪ As with typical graduation to resilience programming, the project is testing a shift from humanitarian assistance to development approach and how the envisaged end goal of sustainability can be achieved in this operation.</li> </ul>   |  |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There are currently 41,150 households across 6 settlements beneficiating from graduation programmes</li> <li>▪ The results from the Trickle-up randomized control trials show positive results (<i>presentation attached</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions Raised</b></p> <p><b>Qn:</b> What linkages does Trickle-up’s graduation programming have with other partners to ensure that the programme is linked with efforts to address structural/macro level barriers and thus complementing the individual, HH, community level intervention - and who are those partners?</p> <p><b>A:</b> Efforts are in place to ensure skills acquired through Graduation Programme does match with other livelihood interventions. However, there are engagements with private sector to provide enabling environment for business established to thrive.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> Does the graduation project cover up some of the value chain gaps like linking products to off takers or does this fall under what you term as the consumption support?</p> <p><b>A:</b> Yes the graduation approach integrates private/ public sector engagement to provide critical service such as access to inputs and also market linkage.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> Is it possible to conduct an impact assessment two years after graduating beneficiaries to track sustainability of results?</p> <p><b>A:</b> The consortium is working with IPA (research consultancy firm) in Rwamwanja who are looking at this more than 1-year post graduation. However other GA programs have RCTs built in so hopefully in the next couple years we will have more of an evidence base tracking resiliency and self-reliance.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> What are the selection criteria and whether it would cover the level III WFP category?</p> <p><b>A:</b> There is vigorous process for beneficiaries’ selection through household ranking by participants themselves. And participatory Rural appraisal approach was another option during participants selection.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> How do you ensure disability inclusion in your activities?</p> <p><b>A:</b> Participants rank households who are poor, vulnerable and prioritize such household to be enrolled.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> What assets were transferred to the PoCs under the graduation model?</p> <p><b>A:</b> It’s a one-off cash asset transfer to support expansion or establishment of businesses</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> Does the graduation project cover up some of the value chain gaps like linking products?</p> <p><b>A:</b> Yes, the graduation approach integrates private/ public sector engagement to provide critical service such as access to inputs and market linkage.</p> <p><b>Qn:</b> Are the recipients identifiable in progress V4? How do you ensure coordination to avoid duplication?</p> <p><b>A:</b> Yes, the beneficiary list is crosschecked with ProGres to avoid duplication and enrolling ineligible persons.</p> |  |
| <p><b>5. Cash 5W Mapping (Stephen Adeun, UNHCR)</b></p> | <p><b>Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Having shared a draft 5W mapping tool with the CWG members in the previous meeting, considerable comments have been received and incorporated.</li> </ul>  | <p>Organize training of reporting focal persons to submit 5W information. UNHCR to communicate the date shortly.</p> |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The plan now is to organize a brief session with the partner reporting focal persons to take them through the tool and launch it thereafter.</li> <li>▪ The tool can be accessed using <a href="https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/4HUvHOsd">https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/4HUvHOsd</a></li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>6. Thematic Updates (Various presenters)</b></p>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cash and Child protection (Washington Kote, Alight)<br/>Deferred to the next meeting</li> <li>2. UCC Update (Anna Maria Trzcinska, DRC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ UCC consortium started new approaches/actions as of 01 May, 2023 focusing on improved targeting for cash assistance</li> <li>▪ Details to be shared later and upon request</li> <li>▪ UCC is introducing a referral mechanism/procedure and looking forward to expand this system for partners and other consortia to play a key role in referrals.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Update from Annual CWG leads and co-leads workshop (Stephen Adeun, UNHCR) <p><b>Highlights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Workshop of the CWG leads and co leads for Eastern and Southern region convened in Nairobi, 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in Nairobi</li> <li>▪ Representation from 10 country operations</li> <li>▪ Only Uganda and Rwanda fall under the refugee setting, all the others under the IASC or mixed settings</li> <li>▪ Operational contexts differ between the two settings</li> <li>▪ Co-chairing arrangements are like what we have in Uganda i.e chair and co-chair arrangements</li> <li>▪ In other countries, consortia co-lead the cash working group e.g South Sudan and Somalia</li> <li>▪ Interactions with participants revealed the large untapped potential to increasing the use of CVA in country operations</li> <li>▪ There were a number of key takeaways (presentation attached)</li> </ul> </li> </ol> | <p>UCC to reach out to partners to expand the referral mechanism especially in settlements where they operate from.</p>  |
| <p><b>7. AOB</b></p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There shall be a joint ad hoc session organized by the food security sector, the Protection Working Group and the cash working group on prioritization on 8 June2023 from 11:00-13:00 at UNHCR Kampala office. The meeting shall be both physical and online and the meeting invite shall be sent out in due course</li> <li>▪ Discussion is ongoing between UNHCR, WFP and cash task force members to hold physical meeting for the next CWG meeting.</li> </ul>  | <p>Share meeting invite for ad hoc session on prioritization</p> <p>Partners with specific recommendations or requests regarding the physical meeting to share it head of time with CWG Coordinator.</p> |
| <p><b>The meeting was adjourned at 17:00hrs. Date and Venue for the next meeting will be communicated accordingly.</b></p> |   |  |