

Cash Working Group (CWG)

Syrian Refugee Response in Jordan

Meeting Location	UNHCR–Large Conference Room	Meeting Date	20.01.2014
Chair Person	Volker Schimmel, Kate Washington	Meeting Time	14:00-15:00
Minutes Prepared by	Angeliki Panagoulia		
Purpose of Meeting	Regular Meeting / Strategic Workplan 2014		

1.) Summary of action points

Number of action point or discussion	Action point	Focal Point / Organization
1.)	Cash strategy to be reviewed by partners, by Thursday 30 th Jan.	Kate Washington – CARE
2.)	Cash working plan to be updated by ICMC, by Thursday 30th Jan.	Daniel Cabelo Llamas – ICMC
3.)	Self-assessment questionnaire to be circulated and filled in by Thursday 30 th Jan.	Dalia Al-Awqati- DRC/Kate Washington-CARE
4.)	Joint letter to the banks: Sub working meeting next week.	Kate Holland-ACTED

2.) Attachments and References

Documents	Location	Contact Person
Presentation: The Impact of Oxfam's Cash Distributions on Syrian refugee households in Host Communities and Informal Settlements in Jordan		Emily Sloan-Oxfam
Cash working Plan;2014		Kate Washington-CARE/ Volker Schimmel-UNHCR
Cash Internal Operational Strategy 2014		Kate Washington-CARE/ Volker Schimmel-UNHCR
Winterization dashboard (16 Jan 2014)		Volker Schimmel-UNHCR

3.) Minutes

Item	Discussion
Cash Strategy	<p>The CWG Internal Operational Strategy draft has been distributed among partners for review and comments.</p> <p>→ Chapters to be reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Background” by ICMC, ACTED • “Joint advocacy” by Oxfam • “Complexity of considering JOR beneficiaries as per GoJ requirement” by DRC • “Shift from emergency response to protracted crisis (with development elements coming in)” by DRC, WFP • “Vision” by VWG • “Risk, Assumptions and Exit Strategies” by HI, SRC
Updates from ISWG	<p>Updates from the ISWG meeting on 16. 01. 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Livelihoods will be part of the ISWG advocacy strategy for 2014. - The ISWG work plan will be finalised and shared very soon. Key areas of consideration: monitoring, positive experiences, better information sharing, monitoring procedures, evaluation and reporting of activities. - Florent Marty (Protection) has presented the referral DB that has been developed based in previous discussions in Irbid and Karak. Details will be shared with partners as soon as the DB is ready for use. - The ITS Task force under the ISWG has taken on issues related to policy, protection and assistance. For further information contact Matthew Richard, richard@unhcr.org. - The Monitoring tool was presented by Edouard Legoupil (IM): lot of the information come directly from the Activity Info. The monitoring tool will be reviewed by the sector chairs, after being amended partners will test it and come up with additional suggestions. - Vulnerability assessment project: the multiagency Steering Committees met last week. A day long workshop will take place on begging of February. Participants will be asked to come up with a list of 10-15 indicators and degrees of vulnerability to be used in household level assessments. Each WG has to nominate 2 representatives. Ideally one of them to be should be one of the chairs. Participants should have experience in assessments and an overview opinion on the operation and on the needs and particularities of the sector. Background documents to be circulated. If Interested to participate get in touch with Kate Washington, Kate.Washington@jo.care.org or Volker Schimmel, schimmel@unhcr.org.
Joint letter to the banks	<p>Two responses have been received by Jordan Kuwait Bank and Jordan Ali Bank.</p> <p>→ The letter has been sent to eight banks and only two responses were received.</p> <p>→ The CWG will go back and check with the Central Banks and see for additional interest.</p> <p>→ ACTED will provide the contact details.</p> <p>→ Meeting of the sub-working group next week.</p>
Self-assessment survey	<p>The Self-assessment questionnaire is ready to be shared.</p> <p>→ It is quite practical and simple, it includes multiple choice responses on issues related to targeting, assessments, monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>→ The aim is to be critical on our projects and look in another assessment in 6 months to see what has changed in terms of modalities in distribution of cash assistance.</p>

Item	Discussion
Presentation	<p>Oxfam presented the results of the self-assessment on cash impact on Syrian households in host communities and ITS. (Presentation and assessment are available on the portal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Positive impact of Cash assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifically, unconditional cash assistance was used for rent (including previous months' rent), debt repayment, utilities, large household appliances, medical care for children, clothing, school fees and food beyond what was covered by the WFP vouchers. • Improving social networks by allowing people to repay loans from family, neighbours, and landlords. Reduction in intra-household tension. ➔ Areas of improvements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some duplication was found • Cash has been used for medical expenses • Short term assistance has a very limited impact • Humanitarian assistance is contributing in Syrian – Jordanian tension and in raising the rent cost
AOB	<p>Points of Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Instruction from bank of Jordan: the Central bank of Jordan has asked that any assistance to Syrians refugees and Jordanians to be channelled through a central bank account. Volker Schimmel to investigate and come with a clear statement to a future CWG meeting. ➔ A bill that allows Syrians to enter the labour market is under consideration. Syrians with specific skills will be allowed to work for a Syrian company in exchange of a proportional number of Jordanians to be hired. <p>Winterization dashboard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Additions to be addressed to Angeliki Panagoulia (panagoul@unhcr.org). ➔ The dashboard will be expended with information on winterization distribution in Zaatari. ➔ It should be updated on a biweekly basis.
Adjournment	<p>Meeting adjourned at 15:00pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Next CASH meeting will take place on Monday (3 Feb 2013) at 15:00 at UNHCR Deir Ghbar – large conference room 1st floor.

