

Agenda

1. **Introduction of new CWG co-chair/WFP CBT Officer**
2. **Update on the progress of WFP hybrid food assistance model - WFP**
3. **Update on Cash for Work Harmonization/Decision- UNHCR**
4. **Presentation/Discussion of the findings of the MEB market assessment in Yumbe - UNHCR**
5. **Presentation by DCA (Progress of Activities)**
6. **AOB**

1.0 Introduction of new CWG co-chair/WFP CBT Officer

Key Highlights

- WFP introduced two people at the beginning of the meeting these being; Aikins Macbansah who together with Kenneth (UNHCR) will co-chair the technical working group on cash based activities.
- The other person introduced being Michelle Berg who joined WFP as a protection consultant. Berg's role entails giving guidance and keen attention to issues around gender and protection emanating from cash based interventions in the refugee response.
- To help optimize markets operations in the refugee settlements, WFP will be deploying a new retailer/supplier markets expert. This update will be communicated in the next coordination meeting.

Feedback and Next Steps

- There was no further discussion as far the introduction of new members was concerned.

2.0 Update on the progress of WFP hybrid food assistance model - WFP

Key Highlights

- The pilot was started in December 2017 targeting 2500 households in 2 food distribution points (FDPs) of Ayilo and Adjumani
- The distribution however took place only in Ayilo (I & II), reaching to 1098 households
- Transfer values are UGX 7,000 per household member when on 100% cash and UGX 3,500 per household member when on 50% cereal
- Net transfer value for December 2017 was UGX 32,895,720
- The transfers are to be delivered on a monthly basis
- WFP is preparing for the next round of distribution to 260 households in Eden and 1150 households in Ayilo I and II

Feedback and Next Steps

- A major highlight from the post distribution monitoring shows that there is slow uptake of the model among beneficiaries for two main reasons; First it's new to beneficiaries and then a number of them are concerned and keen about how WFP arrived at the transfer value.
- Owing to the above, WFP is conducting sensitization among targeted communities about the merits of the hybrid food assistance model.
- WFP looks at December 2017 and January 2018 as a period for voluntary registration and with the ongoing sensitization, 100% of households in targeted locations are expected to have been enrolled.
- Concerns were raised as to whether WFP plans to sustain the model. Apart from plans to expand to Rhino and other settlements in Adjumani, it was reiterated that WFP is in the process of rolling out a retailer engagement strategy to support markets to cope with cash ingestion into the local and surrounding markets.
- In relation to retailer engagement, an issue was raised as to whether WFP has plans of stimulating and driving demand so that the retail businesses can flourish on their own.

3.0 Update on Cash for Work Harmonization/Decision- UNHCR

Key Highlights

- UNHCR and OPM met to discuss harmonization of rates for cash for work, the meeting was however not successful since it entailed the presence of the OPM focal person who happened to be out of station at that time.
- It was suggested that UNHCR/WFP and partners come up with proposals the immediate of which being a proposal to meet with the district officials in all refugee hosting districts.
- Feedback from OPM was that agencies come up with a proposal, then present it to OPM for further discussion.

Feedback and Next Steps

- Members agreed during the meeting to adopt the national guidelines for cash for work including the transfer value of UGX 4,000 and the work norms among others.
- Despite agreement on adopting the national guidelines, concerns were raised regarding the adequacy of the transfer value stipulated in the national guidelines.
- Others were concerned about the buy in from other agencies to adopt the guidelines
- Once this is finalized, all new projects will be expected to start using the harmonized rates while for ongoing projects agencies will be given a transition period for which they can change from their old rates

Next Steps

- Since cash for work is implemented in livelihood projects, the decision once finalized will be communicated to the livelihoods sector working group coordination meeting
- The co-chairs of the cash TWG to communicate the decision to OPM

4.0 Presentation/Discussion of the findings of the MEB market assessment in Yumbe - UNHCR

Key Highlights

- The assessment was conducted in Bidibidi (Yumbe) in all the zones
- DCA with the data collection responsibility and UNHCR carried out the data analysis
- Assessment conducted between Nov 21st and Dec 5th 2017.
- The assessment revealed among other a moderate ownership of mobile phones and a fairly considerable use of mobile money among the refugee and host communities. The communities and nearly very confident in using mobile money
- Interestingly more than half of the refugees sell their food ration to spend money elsewhere
- Top 5 most commonly bought food items were Salt (81.2%), Sugar (67.9%), Onions (67.1%), Tomatoes (63.7%) and meat (51.2%).
- In order of priority, households spend money on Food, Clothing, Medicine, Laundry products and Fees. Others included pads, Vaseline/lotion, Phone charging, seeds, shelter construction, transport, grinding and airtime.

Feedback and Next Steps

- Despite that the findings were fairly satisfactory, concerns were raised on the appropriateness of the findings on water and health expenditure. The mean spending of UGX 1,700 daily and UGX 26,000 monthly on drinking water and medicine respectively were considered to be high as these are expected to be largely provided freely by government and the NGOs operating in the area.
- A number of other comments raised including the gender aggregation and attributing these to expenditure patterns are expected to be addressed in the report.
- The analysis team was requested to finalize and share a copy of the final report with members of the technical working group on cash based activities.

5.0 Presentation by DCA (Progress of Activities)

Key Highlights

- Asigma Capital presented the digital finance feasibility study proposal on behalf of DCA
- The firm is in preparatory phase for data collection
- Questionnaire development, sampling and identification and training of enumerators and supervisors has been accomplished

6.0 AOB

Kenneth was requested to share the national guidelines for the cash for work with the members

Next Meeting Agenda items

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14th February 2018. The tentative agenda will be as follows;

1. Presentation-Minimum Expenditure Basket-Calculator
2. Presentation by Give Directly-Unconditional Cash Transfers
3. Airtel presentation
4. CARE Market study

List of Participants

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