

## **Terms of Reference Geneva-based Cash Working Group**

### **Background**

In 2014, a group of cash focal points and practitioners based in Geneva, mainly representing NGOs and IFRC, formed an informal cash working group to further some of the field-level technical and operational discussions around cash and share them with a wider group of stakeholders. IFRC chaired the first meetings, and recognized the group's potential to offer a space where key considerations around emergency cash transfer programming could be addressed jointly by a community of practitioners from the Red Cross Movement, UN agencies, INGOs, Global Cluster representatives, donors, and other stakeholders. As interest grew from this broad set of stakeholders, IFRC felt that OCHA is better placed to take on the chairmanship and reconfiguration of the working group in Geneva, and requested OCHA in May 2015 to assume this role. OCHA accepted and called its first meeting last September, in close collaboration with the founding members, IFRC and CaLP.

At the IASC Principals' meeting on 11 December 2015, a strategic level working group was created, led by the World Bank, and composed of NGOs and UN agencies. The group is tasked to capture evidence on the use of cash transfers in humanitarian contexts, to inform future discussions/decisions at the strategic level around this modality of assistance. By contrast, the Geneva-based cash working group is a technical, informal, inclusive information-sharing body. It brings together cash practitioners/experts, and the broader humanitarian community, including the Global Clusters and other global networks.

### **Rationale**

Individual agencies have been increasingly integrating emergency cash transfer programming into their responses. CaLP, in support of its member agencies, NGOs, and working groups in the field, has partnered with The Sphere Project and is providing technical guidance and standards around cash and markets. Multiple global and field level cash based initiatives are being implemented, offering rich opportunities for learning and sharing. The cash landscape is becoming more vast and there is a recognised need to pull all these developments and activities together as they are happening at various levels and involving such a wide array of actors at different stages. More importantly, there is impetus and consensus from amongst a broad set of actors to better align cash specific initiatives more systematically with the broader humanitarian system to promote a more cohesive approach to humanitarian responses in the future.

### **Objectives**

To provide an inclusive platform for linking global cash initiatives and actors more concretely with the broader humanitarian system; and by extension, with the expanding group of field-level cash stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, civil society organisations, private sector, and development partners. Specifically:

1. Focus on jointly improving information sharing on existing inter-cluster/agency humanitarian operational tools and processes involving cash programming, taking advantage of its Geneva base to actively engage global clusters, the Red Cross/Red Crescent movement, NGOs, donors, UN agencies, relevant global networks and non-traditional actors;
2. Map existing cash coordination mechanisms (regional, national, sub-national), their functions, strengths, needs, and their standing in relation to the formal humanitarian coordination system, national authorities, local NGOs/CSOs and other relevant actors.
3. Share widely the outputs of objectives 1 and 2 and utilize as a jump-off point for the Group to identify areas for collaboration and synergies that would enhance inter-cluster/agency operations in relation to cash programming.

### **Leadership and Membership**

- Membership to the Geneva-based Cash Working Group is open to all humanitarian agencies and organizations, in particular those interested or already involved in delivering cash as emergency aid.
- OCHA has committed to chairing the Group with a recommendation that an agency with a specific technical/operational focus be nominated as Co-Chair. As the Group develops, the Membership may consider by consensus a rotational leadership arrangement on an annual basis.
- Sub-working Groups or “Task Teams” may be formed by any Member to look at specific technical issues. Operational organizations, which have a particular role in such topics, will be recommended to lead such Task Teams.

### **Reporting and Accountability**

- Actions that the GCWG needs to initiate, or messages that the Group needs to disseminate, or recommendations that the Group needs to advocate for, will all be reached by consensus, as much as possible, before applying the two-thirds majority rule. The Co-Chairs will ensure that minutes of the meetings are public documents.
- The Group will endeavor to be accountable to the humanitarian community and its formal infrastructure and strategic coordination mechanisms, i.e. the IASC.
- Any guidance or tools the CWG develops that are to be publicly disseminated will be submitted to the IASC for endorsement as required.

### **Meeting Frequency**

The GCWG will meet quarterly. The date and venue will be decided and announced within the first month of every quarter.