

# Geneva Cash Working Group Meeting

Thursday, 17 December 2015, 15:00 to 16:30

Palais des Nations, D-610 conference room

## DRAFT MINUTES

### Meeting Agenda

1) Terms of Reference; 2) Mapping exercises; 3) Next meeting in 2016.

### Participating Agencies

ACF-France; Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP); DanChurch Aid (DCA); Global Clusters: Food Security, Nutrition, Protection; HelpAge International, ICRC, IFRC, IMPACT, International Rescue Committee (IRC), MercyCorps-ELAN (Electronic Cash Transfer Learning Action Network), OCHA, Save the Children, Tearfund, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, World Vision International

### Summary of Discussions

#### Opening remarks

Following introductions, OCHA opened the discussions by noting that there is a group formed on cash at the IASC Principals' level, led by the World Bank, and will be 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. This strategic task group will present its findings to the Principals in May.

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.

#### 1) Terms of Reference

Following are the key suggestions put forth for the finalization of the group's TOR:

- Emphasise the Group's added value by distinguishing its function from the Cash Learning Partnership; refine the objectives to make it more specific and less process-oriented.
- Some participants acknowledged that the value added of the Group is to bring cash specialists from operational agencies and consortia (UN, NGOs, IFRC/ICRC, CaLP) together with key global stakeholders, Global Clusters, donors and other humanitarian actors, while others cautioned that the group may be duplicating the work of already existing cash learning/ information sharing groups.
- By creating an inclusive platform the Group will provide the space for discussions, collaboration, synergies towards enhancing inter-cluster/agency coordination around cash programming.
- Specifically, the Group will form task teams to work together on improving existing inter-cluster and inter-agency processes and tools (e.g. IM) to better incorporate cash and to undertake advocacy as needed to address issues of common concern.
- There was a call for the Group to facilitate discussions and advocacy around engaging government, private sector, CSOs, and development partners.
- On co-chairmanship, it was suggested that the co-chair should not be an agency with a single sectoral mandate
- CaLP requested an invite to be sent to them, for consultation with its membership as to regards to a role as a co-chair of the Geneva based Cash Working Group

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**Action point:** OCHA to send revised version of the TOR on 22 Dec. Deadline for comments was agreed as the end of the second week of January 2016, after which the ToRs would be finalized.

## 2) Mapping exercises

Following brief updates from CaLP, ELAN, and IFRC, and discussion on other cash-related initiatives happening at various levels and involving a variety of actors, two mapping exercises were identified as next steps:

- 2.1 Mapping of global cash initiatives and developments;
- 2.2 Mapping of existing cash coordination mechanisms, their functions, needs, and operational challenges.

The results and key information from these mapping exercises would be shared widely and feed into the Group's intent of collectively enhancing inter-cluster/agency humanitarian operational tools and processes through information sharing.

**Action points:** OCHA to initiate 2.1; OCHA and CaLP to collaborate on 2.2. The timeframe for this mapping was not firmed up during the meeting. A suggested timeframe will be communicated electronically early January.

## 3) Next meeting in 2016

It was suggested that the next meeting could be scheduled to coincide with the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) taking place in Geneva from 1-4 Feb. 2016. HNPW is a yearly event hosting the annual meetings of advisory groups of several emergency preparedness and response networks. It gathers representatives from Member States, regional organizations, the military, NGOs, UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and the private sector. For the Feb. 2016 event, two sessions (1.5 hours each) are allotted to discussions around humanitarian cash programming. Participants in the meeting were informed that formal invites as well as more specific information had been shared, or was shortly to be shared, with the participants. Members of the Geneva-based cash working group were encouraged to propose topics, panel discussions in line with the Group's objectives and the event's theme (Effective Preparedness and Response)

**Action point:** Following the formal invitation, which would include an invite for suggestions/proposals, OCHA would provide more information on this event electronically in early January.