

Speakers: Andrej Kirn (WEF), Emily Henderson (DFID), Ingann Vattne (Norway), Jessica Saulle (Save the Children), Juliet Lang (OCHA), Loretta Hieber-Girardet (OCHA), Lotte Rupert (GPPi), Louise Gentzel (OCHA), Manja Vidic (OCHA), Paula Gil Baizan (CaLP), Rajendra Aryal (FAO/FSC), Ricardo Jorge Dos Santos Lobo (ACF), Tahir Nour (WFP), Waheed Lor Mehdiabadi (UNHCR), Patrice Chataignier (Save the Children/ACAPS), Mark McCarthy (OCHA)

1. Introduction and objectives of the session [CaLP / OCHA]

Loretta Hieber Girardet (OCHA) welcomed participants, highlighting the aims of Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW). She noted that the HNPW was a good platform to share the recent developments on cash in policy instruments such as the Grand Bargain at the World Humanitarian Summit.

The meeting was opened by chairs Juliet Lang (OCHA) and Paula Gil Baizan (CaLP) who welcomed participants, particularly those who were not 'regular' attendees who were present due to the wider framework of the HNPW. The agenda was presented and they emphasized that the meeting was for practitioners to focus on pressing issues. CaLP updated that the comments and reflections on the ToRs of the Geneva Based Cash Working Group (GbCWG) had been considered and both chairs asked participants to reflect on the density of the agenda and how this might impact also future considerations around the ToRs for the group. The introduction was closed noting that Paula will shortly be leaving her post and with thanks for her work as chair of the group – CaLP will continue in their function as co-chair and her replacement will take on this role.

2. Global Updates on cash

Paula Gil Baizan (CaLP) – Cash and the Media.

CaLP's has a project to develop material to improve the understanding of cash for the general public as well as political decision makers, and parliamentarians. The core idea is to develop material for these audiences that would be visually adapted and approachable. The material content would be non-branded and could therefore be used by any actor to develop coherent messages. Initial steps have been taken with regards to the UK parliament where there are plans to hold a session.

CaLP went on to present the State of the World in cash, noting that it has been CaLP's role to understand the developments in the world of cash. She mentioned that 2016 was a year where commitments were made, while 2017 would be the year to execute actions and develop processes. CaLP wants to continue the momentum, in order to implement cash better. A Global Cash Forum will be hosted in June 2017.

Emily Henderson and Ingann Vattne (UK&Norway) – the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative’s on Cash.

The GHD task force on cash and the GHD members have different levels of engagement on cash and how cash is embedded in their processes etc. The GHD task team seeks to build coherence while the work stream is also in place to address challenges that partners might have. The focus of the GHD will be on ensuring that its members do not duplicate what is already being done.

The objectives of the GHD task force on cash are:

- To provide clarity on the benefits and challenges of cash
- To identify opportunities to support increased use of, and enhancing cooperation on, cash programming, where appropriate
- To share lessons learned on different models

Manja Vidic (OCHA) and Andrej Kirn (WEF) update on private sector engagement and Davos

Andrej Kirn opened by updating on the recently completed WEF led process of Principles of public-private cooperation for digital payments. It was noted that the participation of the private sector in the WHS as a turning point to further facilitate cooperation with humanitarian actors. The WEF led this process for the development of these principles, the report of which was recently launched during Davos with 18 signatories to this report. The Principles focused on cooperation between private and public sector for digital payments and are linked with the Barcelona Principles (originally not inclusive of the private sector). The new WEF principles should be seen as complementarity to the Barcelona principles. This WEF led process has been marked by the joint collaboration of 18 partners, including UN agencies, World Bank, NGOs, CaLP, Master Card, Visa, Western Union and other actors. Now that the Principles have been created, the main challenge is their implementation and how to take these activities forward.

Loretta Hieber-Girardet – Global Cluster Coordinators (GCC)

Loretta Hieber-Girardet updated on the work of the GCC, a group that brings together global cluster coordinators at HQ level. As several clusters have been engaging individually on position papers/guidance related to cash, a GCC meeting specifically on the topic was held in collaboration with CaLP and Cash Cap in January in advance of the annual GCC retreat. During that meeting the participants identified areas of work that were of interest to all the Global Clusters and resulted in the development of a workstream specific to cash which was agreed during their retreat. As a next step, the GCC will produce a one pager to define how they will tackle the work around cash to avoid duplication. They propose that this work would be supported by and closely aligned to CaLP and the GbCWG.

Tahir Nour (WFP) – WFP’s collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR

In 2011 UNHCR and WFP signed a MOU regarding refugees. However, this MOU did not make reference to cash programming, as in 2011 cash was not featuring in the debates. Since then, meetings have been held between WFP and UNHCR to prepare an addendum to the MOU to outline the issues specific to their collaboration in cash programming. As this was being developed, UNICEF also

expressed interest in being included in this addendum. This is now being developed between the three agencies to outline functions and roles and responsibilities where cash transfer is being used. This addendum will be concerned with analysis, targeting, data interoperability, and the use of common delivery mechanisms. The signature will take place in 2-4 weeks, and the signature will be made public.

Waheed Lor Mehdiabadi – UNHCR’s cash platform (Common Card Facility) piloted in Jordan

UNHCR opened their briefing noting that cash is a modality, but one that has potential because it increases dignity, and the integration of affected populations. However, how cash is programmed plays a big role in its success or failure. He added that while cash was also a good way of improving the efficiency of humanitarian assistance, it could not resolve the underpinning issue, which is lack of resources to assist people in need.

UNHCR presented on the various different cash delivery platform models, both existing and suggested. While stressing the need to refrain from making any humanitarian organization into a cash agency *per se*, he also advanced that any joint procurement service model should be designed to allow for more time to be allocated on other cash considerations than the logistics of delivering it, such as joint assessments. He presented the functioning of the Agency Managed Platform, in which a lead agency is in charge of procurement, the Lebanon Consortium model in which several agencies take part in procurement, and the ECHO/DFID proposed arrangement, in which a lead agency sub contracts other agencies in the procurement activities (DFID noted that this is not necessarily representative). Finally, he introduced the UNHCR’s Common Cash Facility model, which was suggested as the potentially more efficient, principled and viable model, as it is designed to be open, provide easy entry into the financial services market and easy exit. This is expected to reduce the cost of the financial services for the delivery of CBT. The Common Cash Facility (CCF) model consists of a facilitating agency collecting information on procurement from multiple agencies engaging with financial service providers as concerns procurement.

Questions on this model focused mainly on the difference that was presented between the CCF model and the perceived model in Lebanon. UNHCR noted that the concept implemented in the Lebanon consortium takes a considerable amount of time and stability of the humanitarian actors/situation to take place, which is not possible in early response stages. It was also the view of UNHCR that the ECHO/DFID Cash Platform Concept encouraged competition between agencies, making them almost private sector entities. He stressed that the model the UNHCR developed in Jordan created the level of transparency, trust and engagement between NGOs and UN agencies to share procurement information. He announced that CaLP had been invited to inspect the system in place. There were a number of questions on this model, both the proposed CCF model and the way in which the new ECHO/DFID model was presented. DFID noted that the CCF model was actually closer to their proposed suggestion in Lebanon and noted that the model identified as theirs in the diagram was not fully representative of their proposal.

Some participants pointed out that the role of implementing organisations and implementing partners should not be overlooked in cash delivery platforms, as they allow for an inter-sectorial approach pooling various areas of expertise.

Jessica Saulle (STC), Ricardo Jorge Dos Santos Lobo (ACF) presented the NGO collaborative Cash Delivery Platform

The presentation focused on preparedness, and how NGOs collaborate in country and at the global level. They have identified 9 different models of cash coordination and developed the Collaborative Cash Delivery Platform: It is constituted of 14 NGOs. It has a Steering Committee, and

its working groups focus on different business models. It is reproduced at country level with a consortium in place. The main aim of this exercise is to avoid duplication in devising cost-effective Cash Delivery. CaLP is also a member of this initiative at the global level. The two NGO representatives stressed that governments and the UN were encouraged to collaborate with this initiative, especially at the field level.

Rajendra Aryal (FAO – Food Security Cluster) – update on the Cash Coordination Handbook

In June 2016, the Food Security Cluster Global Partners Meeting highlighted the need for support on cash – particularly in terms of how it is coordinated as part of the cluster. Following this meeting, a CashCap resource was requested to develop a handbook.

The Food Security Cluster started a bottom up process, consulting individuals in the field, focusing on the 6 cluster functions; and developing a briefing package. The briefing package is focused on 3 elements: what do I need to put in, what do I need to know, what resources do I have access to? The Briefing package is now available on the Food Security Cluster's website.

By March, the Food Security Cluster plans to have 2 webinars presenting the elements of the briefing package and emerging issues. Invitations will be circulated.

3. Coordination

Lotte Rupert (GPPi) – Presentation of Coordination models from CaLP requested GPPi Report

The researchers presented the GPPi's White Paper on Cash Coordination funded by CaLP which aims to build on the work done for the IASC Principals and to ensure that relevant stakeholders are involved in analyzing and developing potential solutions for cash coordination. The paper presents 7 models for coordination and the advantages and disadvantages of each:

1. Place cash coordination at inter-sector/ inter-cluster level
2. Leverage this discussion in overall reform of the coordination system
3. Create an independent working group
4. Embed in one of the existing clusters
5. Develop cash consortia
6. Mainstream into clusters
7. Create a new separate cluster for cash

It was noted that while the 2nd model is the most popular among stakeholders consulted for the longer term, the first model was broadly agreed to be the most feasible in the shorter term, noting that this is also the recommended model from the IASC report. The researchers noted that the 7th model is the least popular option. Participants of the session were invited to give their inputs to the models.

Participants were asked to give their views on what this review on coordination should be aimed at and what process should it follow to fulfil this aim.

A concern was voiced that the paper might be too heavily focused on cash, alienating the rest of humanitarian scenarios and coordination. Lotte Rupert explained the paper's angle on this: to highlight that the humanitarian system's other issues must be addressed alongside the development of cash coordination, while acknowledging that these issues will not be realistically resolved in the short to medium term. Some were of the view that, as the cluster lens constitutes the fundamental underpinning of this conversation, the cash coordination process should be based on one model and focused on cash.

WFP noted that unresolved questions of funding and control related to cash were impacting the broader conversations on coordination, therefore it was suggested that these should be resolved externally and 'disconnected' from the coordination discussion, and that instead efforts should be directed to simply deciding on a way forward for the country level, reviewing this in time to reflect on its usefulness but instead focusing on bringing increasing predictability in the short term.

To achieve stability within coordination was highlighted as potentially desirable *per se*, as it could serve better the purpose of meeting the needs of beneficiaries. Jessica Saulle (STC) suggested that the solution might be found in piloting models and drawing lessons learned. Patrice Chataignier (ACAPS) suggested to develop operational guidelines to normalize the coordination framework based on the tools already available. Tahir Nour (WFP) favored putting in place an interim guidance, generating bottom up feedback and informing decisions on the coordination model to follow.

4. Preparedness

Louise Gentzel (OCHA) on behalf of UN Inter-agency Preparedness Project – Cash Feasibility

The DFID Preparedness Project is an inter-agency project which looks at elements related to preparedness including developing a framework for cash feasibility. UNICEF, WFP, UNHCR and OCHA are members of this grant. As part of this, the agencies developed common criteria for how to determine if cash is a feasible modality. To roll this out in 4 pilot countries, an inter-agency workshop first took place. Participation was widened beyond the original four agencies during the initial pilot to include both UN agencies but also other Cash Working Groups members and government representatives. The overall aim of the project is to create a common understanding of feasibility criteria for cash in its various contexts.

Feasibility studies have been conducted in Myanmar, Afghanistan, Burundi, Niger. It is hoped that these can be replicated in other context. OCHA is aiming at integrating an effective, sustainable and lighter process inspired by this framework into existing preparedness and response processes.

ECHO Funded ERC Project – Basic Needs Tools Presentation, Patrick Chataignier (ACAPS)

The purpose of the program is to promote the use of harmonized multi-purpose grants (MPG) and evaluate their effectiveness in meeting basic needs in emergencies, as well as supporting joint, multi-sectorial programmatic decisions) in a timely and well-informed manner. The Basic Needs tool will be developed and is currently being circulated to gain feedback from various stakeholders.

5. Cash Working Groups and Mapping

Juliet Lang (OCHA) - CWG Mapping

OCHA noted the 34 CWGs in February 2017 identified in the latest mapping, at least 10 more than this time last year. The functions of these working groups are continually being updated, however it was noted that they varied widely with many of them working on strategic or programmatic issues in tandem. OCHA also noted that despite some perceptions, currently only approximately half the working groups include multi-purpose cash discussions as part of their remit, with the others focused more on the coherence of the use as cash as a modality more broadly. The CWGs functions also include advocacy to government, harmonizing tools, markets monitoring and assessments.

Additionally in terms of trends, more countries since last year (e.g. DRC) have their cash coordination groups linked to the ICCG and HCT (as per the IASC report and noting the linkages with

the GPPI discussions). Other countries (e.g. South Sudan) are also putting this on the agenda for further discussion.

She noted that it is necessary to have a common lexicon and understanding of cash coordination, and that this is reflected in the report funded by DFID entitled 'counting cash' (Development Initiatives and ODI, to be published February 2017). She referred to the need to make the 3W/4W cash inclusive, and to clarify which is the right body to consolidate the various technical pieces of work that have already been developed. Currently there are a number of cash products already developed, numerous countries are using 3/4Ws that capture cash, including multi-purpose and there are technical global bodies (e.g. the HXL working group) that are also coming out with recommendations. It was agreed that the IMWG as the inter-agency forum would take forward the discussion and link to the GCC workstream to outline clearer recommendations that could be rolled out at the field level.

6. Session outcomes

Session outcomes

- Discussed multiple global updates including for member states, UN Agencies, INGOs and academic institutions
- Developed feedback for recent research paper on Cash Coordination by GPPI and next steps for revision of their current draft
- Agreed on way forward for IMWG to take forward agreement on how to reflect cash within IM products
- Closing notes also reflected on the reviews previously done to the TORs for the GbCWG and asked participants to review the TORs again based on the volume and direction of the agenda

Next steps to implementing solutions

- Minutes and presentations of meeting to be circulated along with TOR revision
- Agreement to review frequency of meetings and to consider task teams or specialised meetings to be held more frequently on specific topics to help address the density and the diversity of discussions.
- IMWG and GPPI to produce next steps/draft and circulate back via working group for their relevant workstreams.