

Speakers: Juliet Lang (ICCS), Caroline Holt (CaLP), Martin Pittman (CaLP), Lousie Gentzel (ICCS) Luke Cali (Start Network), Francesca Battistin (Save the Children), James Shepherd-Barron (ATM Industry), Jenny Casswell (GMSA) and Paula Gil Baizan (WV).

1. Introduction and objectives of the session:

Juliet Lang (OCHA) and Caroline Holt (CaLP) co-chaired the meeting and began by welcoming participants. Juliet presented the agenda and gave a brief overview of the recent global discussions and updates. In framing the meeting agenda, the various threads of discussions were presented as related to specific stages of the humanitarian cycle: preparedness, assessment, response analysis and planning, implementation, monitoring and transition. These points were also linked to the discussions ongoing within the New Way of Working, the Grand Bargain Work stream on cash and the Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD).

2. Preparedness

Martin Pittman (CaLP) presented the Organisational Cash Readiness Toolkit (OCRT) as a way of institutionalizing cash. He began by stressing that cash needs institutionalization, as cash knowledge is concentrated among few individuals in organizations and training does not address systems/process/procedure deficits. He highlighted that the routine consideration on cash requires (1) equitable organization planning and preparation and (2) strong response decision-making procedures. He mentioned that institutionalization has been identified from various needs and the OCRT was one good start to address it.

The toolkit assesses four different categories that, he noted, are required for an organisation to have the capacity to design and deliver quality CTP:

- (1) senior leadership team that embraces the value of CTP as a modality, and that commits resources to make and keep the organisation CTP ready (Category 1).
- (2) systems and policies that support CTP and make its operation effective and efficient (Category 2).
- (3) staff that have the technical competency to design, implement, and monitor CTP in line with good practices (Category 3).
- (4) to engage with external stakeholders at the local and global level to stay well informed about CTP common standards and good practices (Category 4).

Regarding the institutionalisation resources, he mentioned that CaLP offers the OCRT with its accompanying instructions and outlines a 3-6 month process (using a to-be-released Process Guide), which can be guided in-house or by/with an external facilitator. As for the process, he indicated that it consists of five overall steps (Orientation, Evidence Gathering, Scoring, Recommendations and The Action Plan), with three crucial meetings held at various times (OCRT Orientation Meeting, OCRT Scoring Meeting and OCRT Action Planning Meeting). With regards to the tool, the four categories are subdivided into 14 criteria (which encompass a total of 55 indicators). For instance, he explained, Category 2, Organizational systems & Policies, has a total of 21 indicators across 6 criteria.

Louise Gentzel (OCHA) gave an overview of the DFID feasibility project, 'Strengthening Preparedness in High-Risk Countries' where OCHA along with UNICEF, UNHCR and WFP have been working together to develop a joint framework toolkit based on five criteria (Market functionality, capacity of

service providers, acceptance & and protection). The purpose, she noted, was to assess the feasibility of using cash as a response modality in different contexts and partner capacity, build a training component to support the implementation of the framework at field level, and pilot the framework and accompanying training in four pilot countries - Myanmar, Afghanistan, Burundi and Niger. She also mentioned that OCHA has developed a short lessons learned as part of the project. With regards to the findings, she stressed that all the organizations acknowledged the value of having this common understanding of cash feasibility and stressed that for the process to be successful it needs to be streamlined and use the expertise of different organizations.

She also noted that they do not yet have any lessons learned on the impact, but they hope to have this update later in the year. She mentioned that all this material (training material and toolkit) can be found on the DFID website. She added that similar feasibility assessments have been developed by Cameroon, who prepared a Cash Profile, Nigeria, who is doing something similar using the criteria developed and DRC. Finally, she highlighted that for the GCCG (Global Cluster Coordinators Group), cash feasibility was something they wanted to look closer.

3. Feasibility

Luke Cali (research LSE master student for the Start Network) gave a snapshot of the Cash Feasibility Index (CFI) he developed as part of a research project that was commissioned by the Start Network (a consortium of 42 NGOs). The purpose of the CFI, he noted, is to identify and rank in which countries cash transfer as a modality is more feasible in the event of a humanitarian emergency and under what conditions Cash Based Interventions can be chosen as a modality. The index is based on 38 indicators organized in three subcategories: 'Market Infrastructure', 'Societal Factors' and 'Technological Readiness'. He noted that this index-scores have to be seen as a structured collection for relevant information, as it enables the user to detect in which categories the problems are and work towards minimizing them. In addition, he noted, that the Index design can be adjusted according to the context giving more or less weight to a certain category. Finally, he mentioned they were going to use it to monitor progress.

Francesca Battistin (Save the Children) presented the Basic Needs Assessment and Response Analysis Framework & Toolkit, which she mentioned, has been under development since 2016 and will be finished in 2018. The focus of this Framework & toolkit is based on the needs of the affected populations, the way they address them and their preferences. The objective of this toolkit is how to monitor better multipurpose grants and is meant to be used in combination with other tools such as multi sectorial markets assessments, government assessment, and feasibility assessment. All together they will inform on how to better respond in a particular context in the event of a humanitarian emergency.

As per the justification of its development, she said that although there are a lot of assessment methodologies, there is no agreed methodology among Clusters to assess, compare, analyze the delivery modality options and select the best one(s) from the people's needs and perspective and there is no methodology to inform mixed-modalities emergency responses. With respect to the progress of the Basic Needs Approach (BNA), she mentioned that a simulation and recommendations were already made on 18 April 2017 in order to assess the current framework and check if critical information was missing. Secondly, she mentioned they are implementing a pilot project in Nigeria (analysis still going on) that will lead to the final guidance and toolkit after the Nigeria pilot. She added that a second pilot will take place after September (country still pending).

Regarding the BNA outcomes, she highlighted that the decisions to be informed are: which geographic areas and population groups; which needs to be addressed (the composition of the basket), what critical markets and systems of service provision; which of the needs can be best addressed with which type of modality; If they use cash transfers, what modality and what amount to use.

4. Humanitarian-Development nexus

Juliet Lang (OCHA) gave a brief overview of the discussions to date regarding the New Way of Working highlighting also the potential implications on cash discussions. She highlighted that there are now a diverse range of agents and the implication of this related to the private sector. She also updated on the:

-STAIT/IASC Peer to Peer webinar

-Copenhagen (March) meeting

- Istanbul (May) meeting

5. Private sector update

James Shepherd- Barron (ATM Industry consultant) gave an overview of the engagement with the Cash Management Industry, which represents more than 7,700 companies in the World. He updated on the European Cash Management Companies Association (ESTA) whose latest Conference was to discuss 'Crisis and Disaster Management: Cash Delivers' with the aim of raising awareness on this issue. This conference was an opportunity for humanitarians to engage and inform how they decide what type of cash delivery to use (inclusive of digital vs. cash in hand). To date this industry has been under-engaged in the discussions. He highlighted that the reason for getting them engage (ATM Industry) is to engage nontraditional actors more. In this sense, he acknowledged there is a mutual interest in getting engage with them and they want to know where they can add value and mentioned 'seigniorage' as being a key element.

Jenny Caswell (GMSA) referred to the recent report 'Landscape Report: Mobile Money, Humanitarian Cash Transfers and Displaced Populations' highlighting the belief that mobile money can play a key role in the transformation of the humanitarian system, although she acknowledged that it cannot be used in all the contexts. She gave a quick overview of the structure of the report and explained the three ways mobile money can be used: (1) Cash transfer to a mobile money account, (2) Cash transfer via mobile voucher and (3) Cash transfer via mobile voucher for goods and services. She also noted that the report outlines the benefits and drawbacks of using these three different modalities. She mentioned that it also focuses on three different case studies that have used digital payment: Pakistan, Rwanda and Haiti. The report, she added, finalizes with a Lessons Learned section which can help to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the future.

Caroline Holt (CaLP) expressed the importance of the forthcoming Gates meeting, a workshop on digital payments to be held on 7 -8 June in London. The objective of the workshop, is to identify the key barriers to digital payments and developing an Agenda to overcome these barriers. She hoped to have an update on that in the following CWG meeting. She noted also the updated on the ESTA conference and stressed the need to know how aid Agencies and the Cash Management Industry could work together.

6. Delivery and implementation

Paula Gil Baizan (WV) explained the work the Collaborative Cash Delivery (CCD) Platform was doing. She mentioned that the project, which started in 2016, is composed of 14 NGOs and CaLP with the aim enabling NGOs to work together in order to add value and work better on the delivery. She mentioned that it is co-championed by Save the Children and CRS. The purpose, she noted, is to improve speed, scale, and efficiencies of cash transfer programming making the assumption that greater collaboration leads to greater effectiveness.

She stressed that the three key guiding ideas were:

1. Preparedness for cash: building relationships in the ground that will allow to work better. Coming up with a platform.
2. Need to be context led: there is no model that will fit everywhere. Trying to understand what works in the field so that we can augment that, not replace it.
3. Community- based approach: assuming that local NGOs have the competitive advantage to work better on cash.

She explained that the project operated around three pillars:

1. Modular approach to CTP collaboration: Need to look more at Preparedness and Response augmentation. Need to be contextually-led, need to look what collaboration is as an incremental: what are the ways that make us work better together and focus on community based approaches and accountability.
Inclusive of local actors: she noted that they are making sure what is working out in the field so they can replicate it.
2. Different solutions for funding: need to have pooled fund for cash to deliver faster and use advocacy for response.
3. Learning: led by CALP. By using current work that CaLP has done and sharing knowledge between platforms.

Regarding the project progress she outlined they are developing a modular approach (in progress) and a platform model in different CTP structures. In terms of priorities, they are exploring the concept application in current responses: Somalia (initial scope completed), Uganda, Nigeria, Bangladesh and are looking for external engagement.

7. Global Updates

Caroline Holt (CaLP) presented an overview of the last Grand Bargain meeting in Rome noting however, that there were not as many clear action points for follow up. She highlighted however, some meaningful discussions within panels and groupwork. Some important points were raised out of this discussion such as the important of capacity on the ground. On the topic of cash coordination she mentioned that seven specific points on cash were highlighted with participants asked to vote on their priorities. Currently, the idea of presenting back to the IASC and requesting a formal decision based on the recommendations of the World Bank paper is the most popular.

Juliet Lang (OCHA) updated on the work of the Global Cluster coordination task team on cash including: the Health, Shelter, Food Security, Protection and Early Recovery Clusters. She updated that

a consultancy has been asked to map the functions of the cash working groups globally building on the work of the GbCWG but focusing in more on the functions of CWGs in the field, not least how they engage with clusters. She also mentioned to keep an eye on the upcoming activities on cash: the UNHCR NGO Consultations on 14, the ECOSOC HAS from the 21 to the 23 June and the CaLP Global Cash Forum to be celebrated on June 28-29 June.

8. Conclusions and next steps:

Juliet Lang closed the meeting highlighting the importance of trying to group or theme certain presentations on cash and to look to coherence. Caroline Holt stressed the need to follow up on the cash management industry. Juliet Lang announced that the next CWG meeting will take place in September and thanked Caroline for her work as a temporary co-chair in her current role in CaLP.