

## **Geneva Based Cash Working Group (GbCWG)**

Chaired by:

OCHA, represented by Juliet Lang (lang@un.org), and

CaLP, represented by Sophie Tholstrup (stholstrup@cashlearning.org)

### **Proposed strategic approach and work plan:**

**January – December 2018**

### **Background**

The Geneva-based Cash Working Group (GbCWG) was initially formed by practitioners in 2013 and led by ICRC and CaLP. The group transitioned in 2015 following a request from ICRC for OCHA and CaLP to lead the cash working group. They continue to co-chaire this group for 2018.

### **Objective**

The objective of the GbCWG is to offer a platform for humanitarian actors to collaborate and address key issues related to cash transfer programme. The group will identify and disseminate best practice with the objective to inform global and field-level work. The GbCWG seeks to link global cash initiatives and actors more systematically with the broader humanitarian system. It will also collaborate and add value to other global level cash initiatives as required.

The workplan of the group was developed based on input from group members who identified key issues at the field level requiring global review.

### **Proposed approach and focus**

The GbCWG will be:

- results oriented and output driven, will ensure each meeting has an identified issue to discuss and an expected output is produced;
- proactively inclusive to ensure the group continues to represent the growing group of stakeholders; and
- propositional and transparent with a goal to provide added value to the humanitarian community. This includes the public dissemination of outputs and may include sharing recommendations to IASC and other stakeholders.

Following the priority action areas identified during the last GbCWG and in line with global level processes such as the IASC Strategic note on cash transfers, the Grand Bargain etc., the work of the GbCWG for this period will focus on four main priority areas:

- a) **Global cash coordination mapping:** Map existing cash coordination mechanisms (regional, cluster, national and sub-national) demonstrating how they do or don't link to the formal coordination systems. Identify what is working best in terms of cash working group architecture to assure the best possible outcomes for affected populations. Make this information available to the GbCWG.

**Output:** OCHA will be responsible for: a) retaining a repository of TORs for the mapped cash working groups<sup>1</sup>; b) updating the global cash mapping document; c) collating and making lessons learned from these cash working groups available to GbCWG members.

- b) **Track ongoing cash initiatives and activities, document topics, decisions and outcomes of these events, share this information with GbCWG members:** By sharing information on cash meetings, trainings and discussions, organizations and donors can better align and apply lessons learned. This reduces redundancy and can contribute to the advancement of cash programming in the humanitarian sector.

**Output:** CaLP will create a calendar of cash events/meetings and regular engagements provided by the GbCWG on behalf of its members to update the wider group on opportunities or overlap.

- c) **Preparedness and feasibility:** Preparedness remains an ongoing discussion from the 2016-2017 workplan. In many contexts, determining feasibility remains a challenge. The GbCWG will have a particular focus on cash feasibility in challenging environments including best practices and lessons-learned. Intentional linkage will continue with relevant work carried out within the IASC Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning and Preparedness, as well as the global IASC policy entity dealing with preparedness. OCHA will lead on cash feasibility and CaLP will contribute to addressing cash programming in challenging environments.

**Output:** Recommendations on replicable approaches for inter-agency cash feasibility, and lessons learned on cash feasibility in challenging environments.

- d) **Evidence-base:** While the case for cash transfer programs (CTP) as an assistance modality is clear, the evidence-base about costs, benefits, impacts and the risks of CTP in different contexts and sectors requires further development. This includes outcomes achieved by unrestricted CTP, as well as different operating models and links to social protection systems. Agencies will be encouraged to share their experiences of efficacy and CTP to inform about how best to use these funds. Utilizing common platforms will help ensure research activities are mutually reinforcing, and that they contribute to and benefit from the best available knowledge.

**Output:** Serve as sector-wide platform for sharing knowledge, lessons learned related to CTP, and the identification of sector-specific and multi-sectoral research priorities. Support group members' workstreams and share their outputs on evidence, prioritizing multi-sectoral initiatives and outcomes achieved by unrestricted CTP.

## **Proposed work plan (12 months)**

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<sup>1</sup> Based on information collated from OCHA coordination mapping processes, GCCG Task Team CWG mapping etc

Meetings will be held on roughly a quarterly basis. The February meeting will be longer (approximately three hours) due to wider participation as a result of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week. General updates, an overview of cash mapping and upcoming events, feedback from pertinent meetings, cash workstreams or other events will be shared at each session. Meetings will have one additional content topic of focus based on identified priorities (e.g. preparedness).

February 2017 - extended (parallel to the Humanitarian Networks and Partners Week):

**Overall topic: Global Cash Working Group Mapping and Global Cash Updates**

- Discussion and agreement on proposed strategic approach and workplan.
- Global updates on cash (including Grand Bargain, , GCCG Task Team on Cash, ).
- Update on cash working group mapping project (GCCG Task Team).
- TBD

May 2017

**Overall topic: Cash feasibility in Challenging Environments**

- Global updates on cash.
- Update on cash initiatives and activities (recently held and upcoming).
- Feature: Presentation and discussion on Cash Transfer Programming in challenging environments:
  - o Global updates on cash and risk.
  - o Update on CaLP's workstream on risk, including recently held/planned webinars on cash in challenging environments.
  - o Identifying and sharing information and synergies within the GbCWG.
  - o Input from GbCWG on areas for further discussion/follow-up on cash feasibility, and connection to developing a stronger evidence-base for cash.

September 2017

**Overall topic: Evidence-base for Cash Transfer Programming**

- Global updates on cash
- Update on cash initiatives and activities (recently held and upcoming)
- Feature: The evidence-base for Cash Transfer Programming
  - o What elements are essential to ensure case studies/reporting can be considered evidence-based and therefore reputable and useful?
  - o What are the key challenges in developing a solid evidence-base for CTP for different actors engaged in CTP? To what extent is it a matter of better linkage (to existing tools, technical support, funding); and to what extent does it reflect an absence of support systems that could be developed to make a difference.

November 2017

**Overall topic: Progress on feasibility and evidence-base for CTP**

- Global updates on cash
- Update on cash initiatives and activities (recently held and upcoming)

- Presentation and discussion on recommendations regarding replicable approaches for inter-agency cash feasibility, and lessons learned on cash feasibility in challenging environments.
- Presentation and discussion on contributions to CTP evidence-base over the 2018 year.