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Review of the Grand Bargain Multipurpose Cash (MPC) Outcome Indicators

Summary Report of Feedback from the Testing Phase

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I. Introduction and aim.

Multipurpose cash (MPC) is a type of assistance that enables people affected by crises to purchase the goods or services of their choice, on local markets. When used in humanitarian response, MPC can contribute to a wide range of different outcomes, depending on each household's needs and priorities. While this flexibility has many advantages for recipients of assistance, the use of MPC brings with it certain challenges for humanitarian actors and donors in monitoring and reporting the effects of this type of assistance.

As part of the **Grand Bargain commitments** to “increase the use and coordination of cash-based programming”, to “harmonize and simplify reporting requirements” and to “include people receiving aid in the decisions which affect their lives”, the need for better and more consistent measurement of the outcomes to which MPC contributes was identified.

Starting in 2018, the **MPC Outcome Indicators** have been developed by a group of humanitarian stakeholders, including NGO and UN practitioners, cluster leads or cash/markets focal points, CaLP, and donors. This ‘MPC Indicator Reference Group’ has been co-led by representatives from Catholic Relief Services (CRS), USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) and CaLP. Following a period of extensive consultation and discussion, in July 2019 the [Multipurpose Cash Outcome Indicators – Final Draft for Testing](#) was completed and published. Since 2019, these draft MPC indicators have been ‘field tested’ by various humanitarian stakeholders.

The aim of this review is to gather experience from the testing phase and analyze this feedback in order to revise the MPC Outcome Indicators and produce an updated version of the document.

2. Methodology for collecting and analyzing feedback.

This review is based on feedback from two main sources:

1. **Online survey** conducted in November 2020 (33 respondents)
2. **Key informant interviews (KII)** conducted between February and April 2021 (58 people interviewed, see Annex I for list). KIIs were conducted by Olivia Collins, Independent Consultant and Ruth McCormack, Technical Advisor, CaLP.

In both the online survey and the KIIs, respondents were asked to provide detailed feedback on the MPC outcome indicators, focusing on the following questions (see Annex 2 for full list of questions):

1. How has your organization used the indicators?
2. Any challenges? Recommendations for how to improve the indicators and guidance?
3. Feedback on specific indicators: which worked, which should be modified or cut? Any additional indicators to include?
4. Approaches to collecting expenditure data.
5. Any changes to the indicators or data collection methods due to COVID-19?
6. If not using the indicators, why not?
7. Any ideas for increasing the uptake of the indicators, once finalized?

This review sought to collect feedback from a variety of different stakeholders, as shown in the table below.

Type of organization / institution	Roles
SURVEY / KII	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local NGOs • International NGOs • UN agencies • Donors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involved in data collection in the field (either using MPC outcome indicators or using other tools). • Involved in designing questionnaires and data analysis, for example M&E staff, Cash and Markets specialists, etc. • Sector-specific specialists within Global Clusters, for example leads of Cash and Markets Task Teams for each sector. • Involved in comparing data sets from different contexts, for example staff from HQ and/or donors.

Limitations: the scope of this review did not extend to gathering feedback from people who have received MPC assistance, though some interviewees suggested that they should also be consulted. Through interviews with staff from humanitarian organizations who have been involved in administering such surveys, the views of MPC recipients were sought, for example by asking how various questions were perceived during household surveys. This provided some, albeit limited, second-hand information from the perspective of people receiving assistance - for example whether it was thought to be appropriate, ethical or necessary to ask certain questions, and whether the data collected was likely to be accurate and reliable.

Data analysis: the data collected through the survey and KIIs was entered into an Excel spreadsheet, organized according to the questions and indicators. The data was read and analyzed by both people conducting the interviews and preliminary findings were shared and discussed with the co-leads of the MPC Outcome Indicators Reference Group, during two separate meetings. The draft report and findings were shared with the whole Reference Group in May 2021 as part of the process to incorporate these findings into the revision of the indicators.

Revising the indicators: for many of the indicators, revisions were suggested during KII and have been included here as part of the feedback received. It should be noted that these suggested revisions have not been validated by the MPC Outcome Indicator Reference Group. For most of the sectoral indicators, the revisions have been put forward by one or more representative(s) from the global 'task teams' on cash and vouchers (or cash and markets) but further discussion is necessary before the final version of the indicators is decided upon.

3. Findings.

In general, people consulted were keen to share their experience of using the MPC Outcome Indicators and to be involved in revising a tool they perceived as being useful to their work. A wide range of feedback was collected, and this is summarized in the sections below: how the indicators were used by organizations (3.1); feedback on the overall approach (3.2); detailed feedback on each indicator (3.3); and ideas for how to increase uptake of the indicators, once finalized (3.4).

3.1 Use of the MPC Outcome Indicators.

Some organizations made a conscious effort to 'use' the MPC Outcome Indicators and have integrated them into their monitoring and reporting tools. Other organizations were already using some of the indicators and observed that their existing systems 'matched', to some extent, the draft MPC indicators. **Most organizations emphasized that they have used the parts of the indicator document that they found relevant and "didn't sign up to the whole thing".** The following uses of the MPC outcome indicators were highlighted:

- **Needs assessments and targeting:** some of the indicators were used to assess needs / vulnerabilities and to inform targeting (identifying who was eligible to receive MPC assistance), though this was not very common. For example, the Gaza Protection Consortium stated that the indicators related to shelter and WASH were used as eligibility criteria for the targeting of MPC (measured at baseline and end-line, but not during post-distribution monitoring (PDMs)). In Turkey, the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) used some of the indicators as part of vulnerability analysis, to inform targeting criteria, and then referred to the indicators when assessing inclusion and exclusion errors in targeting.
- **Monitoring:** PDM monitoring of MPC was the principal way in which the outcome indicators were used, by integrating them into household surveys at baseline, mid-line and end-line. Organizations highlighted that the MPC indicators provided a useful ‘check-list’ as to what should be included in monitoring tools.
- **Reporting:** some respondents stated that the indicators had been integrated into reporting systems (both internal and to donors) as well used in proposals and guidance. However, it was highlighted that reporting systems were often already well established within organizations and could not be easily changed to include the MPC outcome indicators. Some explained that the standard indicators were already integral to their organizations’ reporting systems and added that once the indicator list is finalized, they may consider including further indicators.
- **Comparing data sets between different contexts:** this was referred to by donors as well as NGO and UN staff at HQ level. However, it was highlighted that although this would be interesting in theory, it was only feasible with the data from standardized indicators, or through using simple metrics such as ‘number of MPC transfers’ or ‘value of assistance transferred through MPC’.

The cross-cutting, expenditure and food security indicators have been widely used and tested, enabling a broad range of feedback to be gathered on these indicators.

- Not surprisingly, those indicators which existed prior to the draft MPC Outcome Indicators, were often already integrated into monitoring and reporting systems, and therefore most often used, particularly the process indicator for Quality, Protection Mainstreaming and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP), Food Consumption Score (FCS) and reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI).
- The ‘Meeting Basic Needs’ indicator, Livelihoods Coping Strategies (LCS), Gender Equity/Women’s Empowerment indicator and Qualitative Questions were only sometimes used and so there is less feedback on these indicators.
- In terms of expenditure, **many organizations surveyed used some form of expenditure indicator when monitoring the MPC** - though opinions on the utility of this varied greatly - and there is extensive feedback on expenditure indicators (see section 3.3.3).

The sectoral indicators for Shelter, WASH, Education and Health have been much less widely tested. Some organizations tested them and made modifications, others did not attempt testing these indicators as they felt they were not adapted to the context in which they were working, or that data collection would be inordinately complex or simply not feasible. Notable changes have been suggested for these indicators.

For **Nutrition and Child Protection**, no indicators had been specified in the draft document. For **Protection**, the draft document notes that “many of the questions in the Protection Mainstreaming indicator and the Livelihoods Coping Strategies indicator, both under the Cross-Cutting section, are related to protection outcomes” and no additional protection-related outcomes are included. For Nutrition, Child Protection and Protection there was no ‘testing’ of draft indicators, but suggestions have been made as to what they would like to be included in the final document.

3.2 Feedback on the overall approach.

3.2.1 Clarify the scope and ambitions of the indicators.

Universal or contextualized indicators? In the draft document, it is stated that the purpose is to “streamline reporting and provide more consistent and comparable field-level monitoring.” Respondents agreed that streamlining reporting was a good idea but questioned whether the indicators were intended to produce comparable datasets, or to be adapted to each context. When discussed further, **many respondents suggested it was useful to have a range of different types of indicators: both standard or ‘universal’ indicators that could provide comparable datasets, and others that could be adapted and contextualized** (such as the ‘basic needs’ indicator or qualitative questions). The following feedback was received:

- “Should be clear from the beginning that datasets cannot simply be compared between different contexts. Can't compare apples and pears. There can be a risk in trying to compare, as in some contexts we don't have the resources to achieve good results. Not necessarily a flaw in design and doesn't mean that cash doesn't work.”
- “Very big temptation and big trap to want to formulate a universal indicator - good to have some universal and other non-universal indicators.”
- “Should leave this (basic needs indicator) open to interpretation... What we consider to be 'basic needs' changes depending on the context.”
- “There is a lot of variation in how partners collect this data. This 'basic needs indicator' needs to be contextualized. Less useful for donors in terms of aggregate level but could be useful at an individual (project management) level.”

Which outcomes can realistically be expected when MPC transfer values are low? Multiple respondents questioned whether the indicators, particularly the sectoral outcomes, were ‘realistic’, given that MPC transfer values are rarely set at 100% of the minimum expenditure basket (MEB), and that MPC assistance is often provided on a short-term basis in emergency contexts. **As low transfer values affect the achievement of outcomes for MPC, it was suggested that further guidance should be given to users as to when it is appropriate to use certain indicators and what changes, or outcomes can be expected.** A note on transfer values could be included under ‘usage guidance’ (pg. 2), where there is already a note on ‘Transfer duration’.

Useful as a monitoring checklist. Many respondents highlighted that the indicators provided a useful tool when developing survey questionnaires in the field, akin to a checklist to help teams identify the main areas they should be monitoring when MPC is used to meet basic needs.

Recommended to standardize the unit of measurement. Some indicators refer to household and some refer to beneficiaries/target group. One donor recommended having a standardized unit of household.

3.2.2 Re-thinking the cross-sectoral/sectoral categorization of indicators.

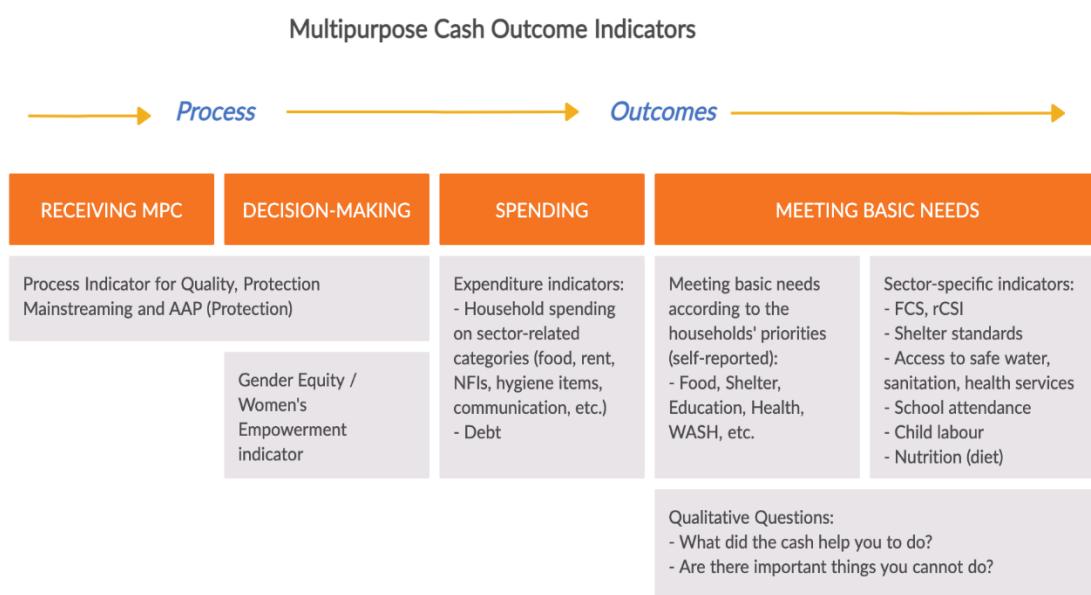
The guidance presents three categories of indicators:

- (1) **Cross-cutting indicators**, some of which are required, some of which are optional.
- (2) **Sectoral indicators**, stating that “at least one indicator from each of three sectors is required; the sectors should be selected based upon the identified needs and people's priorities. Using MEB/transfer value categories or amounts may be helpful”.
- (3) **Expenditure indicators**, which are optional.

While this way of categorizing the indicators was familiar and easily understood, **through discussions it was highlighted that the distinction is considered somewhat arbitrary by some**. Below is some of the feedback received:

- “MPC is basic needs, so it is cross-sectoral. MPC stakeholders need to help the sector-specific colleagues. We need to focus on expenditure indicators. **Perhaps the sectoral indicators are not necessary?** I was very surprised to see the sectoral indicators in there – they are not yet tested, not yet researched.”
- “**There is potential to have a lot of sector-related answers here (in response to the qualitative questions)**, as it overlaps with the spirit of the sectoral indicators.”
- “**Is there a correlation between this (the basic needs indicator) and achieving sectoral outcomes?**”
- “In theory this (basic needs indicator) should be broken down by sector.”
- “**Response options (food, water, hygiene items, health, rent, shelter repair, etc.) used here (for the basic needs indicator) should be the same as those used for the expenditure questions.**”
- “**Really important to keep expenditure indicators**, for me this is the key. For many partners not used to using expenditure data, it is really hard for them to understand the link between expenditure data and other sectors. For food security it is easier to explain, for other sectors, not so easy. It is useful to think about % of HH expenditure on soap, but for the WASH sector, it is difficult for them to understand the importance of this. We need to get sectors more involved.”
- “We know that expenditure on water is being sacrificed when households have to prioritize. Rent and electricity are 'standard' costs, that can't be reduced for families, but food and water can be reduced. So we see that people are spending less money on water – and we need to ask the sectors - why? **We're not doing a sector analysis, but we are analyzing expenditure, from a basics need perspective.**”
- “The overall framework is more complicated than it needs to be. Cross cutting indicators should be given more emphasis and priority in the process. The primary voice should be affected populations and their prioritization of needs – at the start of the process and throughout. As opposed to indicators being selected and prioritized primarily based on mandates (including related to sectors). Voice and power of the recipient needs to be in the process – have a more visible people-centred approach in the guidance and process”.

In light of discussions in KII and the feedback received, **the following diagram presents a way of re-thinking the categorization of different types of indicators** (source: developed by consultant).



Mixing sector outcomes and affordability is complex to measure. Several respondents highlighted that the draft indicators for WASH, Health and Education measure outcomes (such as ‘using an unsafe water

source', 'open defecation', 'missing school' or 'delaying or not seeking healthcare') as well as financial barriers (because 'they cannot afford to use a safe water source' or 'pay to use a public latrine', 'because of costs associated with schooling', or 'due to financial barriers'). Measuring both sector-specific outcomes and affordability was considered highly complex, not just in terms of survey questions but also in terms of data analysis and reporting. **In practice this requires a PDM questionnaire that measures not only the sectoral outcome but also explores the causal pathways and identifies whether financial barriers - or other barriers - are the reason behind the household not achieving a certain outcome.** As stated by one respondent:

"Financial barriers are very important at assessment level. But this (WASH indicator) systematically mixes two types of indicators: the situation being observed AND that situation being a financial barrier. Makes it difficult to reliably measure these things. Just measuring the percentage of households with access to safer water should be enough to work out whether the MPC has an effect."

Understanding the barriers to accessing goods and services was considered extremely important. However, rather than mixing affordability and outcomes in a single indicator for monitoring MPC, **it was suggested that standard outcome indicators be used and that financial barriers be explored through other mechanisms**, such as needs assessments, response analysis, developing minimum expenditure baskets (MEBs) and focus group discussions (pre- or post-distribution).

Some sectors suggested that other forms of data collection, with the involvement of some technical staff, may be necessary. Outcomes (such as school attendance) may be difficult to collect within the scope of a PDM household survey and other forms of data collection may be required (such as collecting attendance data from schools). Some data collection may require technical sector-specific staff (for example measuring water quality), while other data can be collected by non-technical staff. For example, shelter specialists said that the number of rooms, or partitions, can indicate the quality of shelter and is information which is easy to collect by non-specialists.

These concerns are reflected in some of the revisions suggested by sector colleagues and those who have tested the sector-specific indicators (see section 3.3.2 below).

3.2.3 Proposed additional indicators.

Most respondents thought that the list of indicators should be reduced rather than added to, focusing on a 'core minimum group of indicators'. However, some of those interviewed suggested indicators that could make potentially useful additions:

- **Psychosocial well-being:** The Human Insecurity Scale (HIS) was used by the Cash Consortium for Iraq to measure the psychosocial wellbeing of households receiving MPC and they proposed that this could be a useful (optional) addition to the indicator list. The scale used is grounded in a body of academic research which suggests that reductions in insecurity amongst vulnerable households living in poverty are linked to improved long-term economic outcomes.¹ Documents (not yet published) shared by the Cash Consortium for Iraq give an overview of how psychosocial wellbeing is being evaluated for their programme, as detailed in the table below:

Psychosocial Wellbeing	
Fear for Own Life	Extent to which the respondent fears for their own life
Fear for Family	Extent to which the respondent fears for their family
Providing for Family	Extent to which the respondent fears they will not be able to provide their family with daily life necessities
Loss of Income	Extent to which the respondent worries about losing their source of income or the source of income for their family
Fear of Losing Home	Extent to which the respondent fears losing their home

¹ Maisa Ziadni et al., "Sources of Human Insecurity in Post-War Situations: The Case of Gaza," *Journal of Human Security* 7, no. 3; Hamayel Layaly, *Assessment of the Psychosocial Health Status of Adolescents 12-18 Years Old in the Occupied Palestinian Territory* (Birzeit University, Institute of Community and Public Health, 2014)

Fear of Displacement	Extent to which the respondent fears they will be displaced or uprooted
Fear of the Future	Extent to which the respondent fears for their future or their family's future
Fear for Personal Safety	Extent to which the respondent fears for their personal safety
Fear for Family's Safety	Extent to which the respondent fears for the safety of their family
Family's Safety Concerns	Extent to which the respondent's family fears for their safety

- **Livelihoods:** some respondents noted that the potential contribution of MPC to longer-term livelihoods would be interesting to measure. The qualitative questions and expenditure data could be used to identify the percentage of households that saved money, invested in productive assets or other investments that contribute to longer-term livelihoods.
- **Process / performance indicators:** though it is understood that the document focuses on ‘outcome indicators’, one required process indicator is already included (protection mainstreaming). Some respondents stated that other process / performance indicators should be included – e.g., ‘MPC amount received’, ‘preference for cash or vouchers’ - to make the document a more complete checklist for monitoring MPC.

3.2.4 Tools and guidance needed to make the indicators more ‘user-friendly’.

Tools and guidance: feedback highlighted the need for tools to support organizations in using the indicators. For example: sample survey questionnaires, ODK / KoBo forms, support in calculating composite indicators, etc. Feedback included:

- “Document provides mandatory and optional indicators, but lacks guidance. So once the indicators are selected it is difficult to know what to do with them.”
- “Interpreting is challenging. Have to search out the guidance to understand how to interpret the indicators. Need to build forms... some of this could be done by CalP to help organizations ‘interpret’ and then operationalize the indicators?”

Survey design and the question of attribution: survey design was highlighted as a missing element in the guidance. Could there be a link to other documents which provide guidance on different methods for data collection and survey design, including suggestions on approaches to the complex question of measuring attribution?

- “The question of attribution shouldn't be included in the indicators, it comes down to survey design in a way that is statistically significant.”
- “The indicators are meant to measure impact, but cannot be used for attribution - so what's the point?”
- “You can measure standard sectoral indicators, but you have to understand that you can't attribute the change to cash.”

3.2.5 Changes due to COVID-19.

Respondents stated that **COVID does not affect the relevance of the indicators but does affect data collection methods**. Surveys need to be shorter and straight to the point. Many surveys have been conducted on the phone, via text message, or, on occasion, face-to-face but with social distancing.

It was highlighted that **expenditure data is difficult to collect remotely** as expenditure modules tend to be detailed and a level of trust can be built through face-to-face contact. Below is some feedback from KII about how the monitoring of MPC was adapted to the COVID context:

- “Before, we collected data with house-to-house visits, but because of COVID, we are collecting data via mobile phone. So, we need to have a shorter questionnaire. We are using KoBoCollect tools, so we can conduct some surveys face-to-face, but with social distancing.”

- “We started to ask questions about how they have been affected by the pandemic. Previously, would do a mixed approach, some in the field and some telephone interviews. But have to limit face-to-face, so now we do 100% on the phone, and the questionnaire is long.”
- “Have to make questions simpler. Can't repeat questions too much, respondent has to understand why we are asking the questions. And we still had to ask the same questions, but tried to phone people at a better time of day, so they have time.”
- “We cut down on qualitative indicators because of COVID.”
- “There are challenges collecting data face to face, and expenditure modules tend to be very detailed.”
- “Surveys need to be shortened in the current COVID context. We tried to do remote surveys. But, for example, for expenditure it is much easier to have a discussion about this face to face. Due to COVID, surveys are short, via phone, via text message.”

3.3 Feedback on specific indicators.

3.3.1 Cross-cutting indicators.

I	Required Outcome Indicator
DRAFT	<p>INDICATOR Percentage of households who report being able to meet the basic needs of their households (all/most/some/none), according to their priorities</p> <p>FEEDBACK</p> <p>Generally positive feedback but difficulties in using the indicator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “This one was really appreciated by teams and has been fully integrated” ▪ “We like this indicator and think it is important, but had some difficulty trying to figure out how to ask the question and define basic needs” ▪ “There is a lot of confusion about what it means to 'meet' basic needs, when transfer values are pegged at 65%-80% of MEB (depending on donor). Feels like a 'tick box' approach. But what does it actually mean?.” ▪ “Big defender of perception based indicators, but this mixes a lot of different perceptions... what do they perceive as their priorities? What do they perceive as meeting their needs? Methodologically, there are multiple layers of perceptions here.” <p>Contextualise indicator rather than aiming for comparable datasets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Should leave this open to interpretation... Needs to be contextualised, what we consider to be 'basic needs' changes depending on the context.” ▪ “There is a lot of variation in how partners collect this data. Less useful for donors in terms of aggregate level, but could be useful at an individual (project management) level.” ▪ “Interpretation of results is important. Is it a good thing or a bad thing if more is being spent on basic needs?” <p>Using a five-point rather than four-point likert scale is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Basic needs indicator – currently is based on a 4-point likert scale, but evidence on the use of likert scales indicates that 5 points are more effective. This includes making it easier for enumerators to understand and communicate, and in analysis (Ground Truth has done some research into this).” <p>Bias to respond NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Such a strong incentive for households to state that their needs are not being met, in order to continue getting assistance.” ▪ “Probably 'no' is overreported.” ▪ “Feels like what it's actually measuring is general 'satisfaction' with the assistance and I think it needs to be pegged to something more specific.” <p>Improve cross-analysis and link to sectoral outcomes and expenditure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Is there a correlation between this and achieving sectoral outcomes?” ▪ “What does this mean? Some resistance to using this. In theory this should be broken down by sector.” ▪ “Very tricky - in food security we use 'report being able to meet basic food needs' but need a more systematic approach and more guidance. Try to calculate Kcal to work out whether food needs are actually being met. Don't actually use this for other sectors. Considered too subjective.” ▪ “Response options (food, water, hygiene items, health, rent, shelter repair, etc.) used here should be the same as those used for the expenditure questions.”

SUGGESTED REVISIONS

More specific details and guidance need to be developed in order to make this indicator operational. Modified versions of this indicator were shared by Gaza Protection Consortium, UNHCR, WVI, IRC and Somali Cash Consortium. Depending on the approach used, also consider basing this on a five-point likert scale (currently the version in the guidance is a four-point scale).

It should be noted that these suggested revisions arose during KII and the intention is that they should inform the revision of this indicator. The suggestions below have not been validated by the MPC Outcome Indicator Reference Group.

Gaza Protection Consortium ‘Meeting Needs Index’: “*We have developed this further, and it has become an official indicator for ECHO globally. The indicator is still perception-based, but has categories and a weighted scoring system. There are a number of basic needs in the index: income, food, water, healthcare, hygiene, clothing, energy and fuel, shelter, education, transportation, household items, and communication (with the exception of income, these are all components of the Gaza MEB). Each is weighted and then a composite score out of 1 is given. If the score is above 50%, it is considered that needs are being met.*” (For further details, see: [MPCA Post Distribution Monitoring, Round II Report, Gaza Protection Consortium, March 2021](#) and [Gaza Multipurpose Cash Transfer Programme in Palestine](#), Mercy Corps Palestine, August 2020)

UNHCR, WVI and IRC: Follow-up question to assess gaps in meeting basic needs

To better understand the extent to which basic needs are met, a number of organizations stated that they added a second question to identify which of the basic needs cannot be afforded by the household. For example (from UNHCR PDM household survey):

1. Overall, to what extent are you currently able to meet the basic needs of your household? (All / More than half (but not all) / Half / Less than half / Not at all / Don't know) NOTE: the term 'most pressing needs' could be used as an alternative for 'basic needs' if this is easier to understand.
2. If more than half (but not all), half, a little or not at all: **Which of your household's basic needs can you not afford?** (Select up to three: Food, Water, Hygiene items, Health costs (including medicines), Rent, Shelter repair (e.g. rehabilitation, extension, materials), Household items (e.g. mattress, blankets, jerrycan), Firewood / Fuel for cooking or heating, Clothes / shoes, Utilities and bills (e.g. electricity, water bills, phone calling credit), Towards a livelihood activity (e.g. seeds, tools, farming, fishing, petty trade etc.), Education (e.g. school fees, uniform, books). Entertainment (including alcohol, cigarettes), Transport, Debt repayment, Support other family members / relatives / friends, Legal assistance / documents, Other (Specify) _____

Somali Cash Consortium, Qualitative perception-based indicators: “*We conducted research and have developed some qualitative perception-based indicators ('which statement do you agree with?'). This is a better way to measure meeting basic needs as we see shifts in the middle. Puts more focus on the beneficiaries' self-perception of resilience. Some are theoretical questions 'IF X happened...' Also ask about ability to withstand shocks, at community level.*” (Somali Cash Consortium and CWG)

2 Process Indicator for Quality, Protection Mainstreaming and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)	
DRAFT	<p>INDICATOR Percentage of beneficiaries reporting that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner</p> <p>FEEDBACK</p> <p>Widely used but considered complex</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Mandatory for all assistance programmes with an asset transfer (<i>in-kind/cash</i>).” ▪ “Took some investment at the beginning around key questions and scoring. Once investment was made, went quite smoothly. ‘Note’ in the MPC document seems to contradict what is written in the ECHO guidance!” ▪ “Like this indicator, in theory. Tried to use it but not necessarily in the same way in each country.” ▪ “Teams find it difficult to properly report against this composite indicator.” <p>Questions around the logic of having a composite indicator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The structure of this is not very clear, team felt more comfortable resorting to the Safer Cash Toolkit” ▪ “PDMs assessing each component individually and calculating an average of all of those, which is not ideal to get to a meaningful measurement that informs program adjustment.” ▪ “Find this indicator extremely difficult to calculate... think that some of the components are not the best way to measure what we're trying to measure - for example use of CRM is not a good indicator of 'good programming'. The weighting seems artificial - lack of security at distribution site is extremely serious, however 'were you involved in the community sensitisation' is less important” <p>Modifications tested</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “We broke this indicator down into % of HHs reported feeling at risk, HHs who report facing one or more problems keeping or spending the cash, and communication with communities - % of HHs that know how to use complaints and feedback. <p>Is ‘participation’ an accurate description for what’s included in the indicators, and might this be more realistically framed as inclusive?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Arguably the questions on ‘participation’ are actually more about accountability. There’s a larger point(s) here about exactly what participation is in practice (e.g., what does it mean to have ‘achieved participation’ in a programme), the extent to which varying levels of participation are actually desirable from a recipient/community perspective, how this should be monitored, and whether it’s something that can/should feasibly be set as a target for all MPC at this stage. To that extent there’s a recommendation to frame this element as a target of achieving ‘inclusivity’, which may be more realistic in a context where most programmes have a way to go to effective accountability”. <p>News that revised guidance has been released by ECHO was well received.</p>
REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES</p> <p>Link to new ECHO guidance, see Protection Mainstreaming Indicator Toolkit.</p> <p>Link to the Safer Cash Toolkit</p>

3 Additional Outcome Indicator (optional)

DRAFT	<p>INDICATOR Percentage of households by Livelihoods Coping Strategies (LCS) phase (Neutral, Stress, Crisis, Emergency)</p>	<p>FEEDBACK Rarely used. Generally perceived as being complex for field teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Potentially interesting but a bit heavy for field teams to use.” ▪ “Required by donors so used it. But a bit critical of it, I like the straightforward sectoral way of approaching multisectoral outcomes.” ▪ “Unfortunately, we don't use it systematically. And not always easy in an acute crisis, rather used in protracted situations (like Cameroon).” ▪ “Our teams don't like it. Has so much overlap with rCSI... To date we've always taken it out (of surveys) at the last minute, wanting to save recipients' time. But I'm not opposed to keeping it in as an optional indicator.” ▪ NB. ECHO is including LCSI as required indicator for MPC as per their Jan 2021 internal guidance, with the role of protection highlighted. The potential for CWGs to play a role in defining context specific CSIs was noted.
REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES If trying to reduce number of core indicators, this is not often used and could potentially be removed from final version, although this should be cross-checked with donor plans – it may for example make sense to retain as an optional indicator.</p>	

4 Gender Equity / Women's Empowerment (optional)		
DRAFT	<p>INDICATOR Percentage of women reporting shared decision making on cash transfer use</p>	<p>FEEDBACK Sometimes used but often adapted, as indicator requires that women (rather than men) respond to question:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “We like this, have used both for multipurpose cash and single purpose cash. Having it as optional is good.” ▪ “Why not include percentage of men reporting shared decision-making on cash transfer use? Also, indicator doesn't work with female headed households so had to do some disaggregation.” ▪ “Many offices would've liked to have used this indicator, but changed so that it reflects whoever the respondent is. Rarely get to speak to the woman herself - often not doable. Suggest ' % of HHs reporting joint decision-making' or 'who makes the decision about spending on the following (health, education, food, etc.)? Male head of HH, women, etc.'”
REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED REVISIONS Modify indicator so that it can be usefully used in the following contexts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - when male-heads of households (rather than women) respond to questionnaires - when households are female-headed (and therefore women are de facto responsible for all decision-making) <p>World Vision International, Cash and Voucher Programming Compendium of Indicators: Ask women members of the household whenever possible. It is recommended to note down whether a woman or man is asked these questions. (E.g. add a check box prior to these questions: Is the respondent a man or woman?).</p> <p>Q1. Are women involved in decision making about how to use cash/voucher assistance in this household? (Yes/No)</p> <p>Q2. [optional, recommended] If yes, how often are women involved in decision making about how to use cash assistance provided? (Always / Sometimes / Rarely / Never)</p> <p>Q3: [optional, recommended] What types of expenditure are women engaged in decision making about? (open ended, or options). Possible options: food purchases, hygiene and personal care items, clothing purchases, use of funds for services, education costs.</p>	

5	Recommended Qualitative Questions
DRAFT	<p>QUESTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What did the cash help your household to do or buy that you could not do or buy before you received it? - Are there important things that your household is not able to do or buy after receiving the cash? <p>FEEDBACK</p> <p>Though rarely tested, the 'spirit' of this question was appreciated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “This was included in PDM in Afghanistan. Like the way that the question is formulated, because it asks what you were able to 'do' rather than just what you were able to buy. For example, in Jordan with MPC for winterisation, we didn't ask 'did you buy jackets' with the cash? But rather 'did you buy jackets during the winter?' so it doesn't have to absolutely be the exact cash you received, but were you able to do this... Also used in Kakuma camp in Kenya - this question was very interesting for the donors, they wanted to know what could be done with the cash.” ▪ “We ask this question in Turkey. Not in the PDM itself, but it is part of the focus group discussions.” ▪ “Have not used these, because of COVID we cut down on qualitative work. Think the questions are good but haven't tested them.” ▪ “We haven't used them, but they could be interesting. But would need general 'buckets' or categories. Might be more appropriate for focus group discussions.” <p>Considered too subjective by some KIs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Very qualitative. What would I do with this info? Even if wanted a perception indicator, I wouldn't go for this.” ▪ “Yes, we use this. But one of the biggest complaints is always that the money wasn't enough.” <p>Link to sectoral outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “There is potential to have a lot of sector-related answers here, as it overlaps with the spirit of the sectoral indicators. Cannot propose universal categories - would need to be adapted to each context. And time is often limited in emergencies.”
REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES</p> <p>Keep this indicator but provide more guidance on how to collect data and how to link with sectoral outcomes. Potential for cross-analysis with expenditure data. If categories are proposed (as in the suggestion below), these would need to be adapted to each context. These questions are appropriate for use in PDM and/or focus group discussions.</p> <p>Suggestion from GOAL:</p> <p>We have found in GOAL that "What did the cash help your household to do or buy that you could not do or buy before you received it?" works in quantitative form by having set response options plus an 'other- please specify' option. Our response options are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Managed to acquire more food to eat b) Family has been able to access good medical care c) Family is eating more variety and nutritious food d) Children are eating more often than before e) Pay rent f) Household has more money for education and other expenses g) Repay debts h) Invest in productive assets for income generation/livelihoods i) The project has had no significant impact on the family j) Other, specify k) Don't Know

3.3.2 Sectoral indicators.

The guidance in the MPC Outcome Indicator document states that “at least one indicator from each of three sectors is required; the sectors should be selected based upon the identified needs and people’s priorities. Using MEB/transfer value categories or amounts may be helpful.” It should be noted **that only one of the respondents in the KII had systematically followed the guidance and used indicators from three different sectors.** Rather, organizations had chosen indicators that seemed appropriate and feasible for their context. See also section 3.2.2 (above) for analysis on the use of sectoral indicators to measure outcomes when MPC is used to meet basic needs.

Food Security	
DRAFT	INDICATORS
	<p>FEEDBACK</p> <p>FCS widely used, provides useful data but can be complex to collect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Systematically used and mandatory” ▪ “Bread and butter, we all know it” ▪ “One of our 5 core indicators” ▪ “Integration into IPC and is widely used. Provides a good baseline. However, even this can be complex for non-food security teams.” ▪ “It’s a challenge, fixing the thresholds. Have developed a standard format as the guidance does not make it super clear.” ▪ “Yes we use this and it’s been useful, but teams complain that it is very long and ‘not dignified’. In Gaza, asking questions about how many times you have eaten, is considered very degrading to the head of household.” ▪ “There is a need to contextualize this, which also applies to CSI, so there are challenges with these as comparable indicators. For example, partners in Turkey have questioned its reliability in a context where baseline food consumption was already acceptable.”
	<p>- Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)</p> <p>rCSI often used, suitable in many contexts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “We use a contextualised CSI and also rCSI. Both are very useful and show interesting results, pick out where we need to focus on.” ▪ “Have adapted this so that it is CSI that can be contextualized and focuses on protection-related risks. Not giving weighting to different questions - in monitoring, need to know which coping strategies are used, so that we can address them with programmatic response.” ▪ “Utility can be limited if there is no historic data. Only really telling you directional change. Would switch it to Household Hunger Score (HHS), more sensitive to changes over the last 30 days and can pick up severe food insecurity.”
REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES</p> <p>Keep FCS as a required indicator for food security.</p> <p>Have rCSI and Household Hunger Scale (HHS) as optional, with a note suggesting that the use of these indicators depends on the context.</p> <p>Link to Food Security Indicator Manual</p>

Shelter & Settlements / Household NFIs	
DRAFT	<p>INDICATOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of households whose shelter solutions meet agreed technical and performance standards • Percentage of target population living in safe and dignified shelters • Percentage of households reporting adequate access to household non-food items <p>FEEDBACK</p> <p>Rarely used and not considered relevant for measuring effect of MPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “MPC alone will not get you these outcomes. Shouldn't be measuring whether people have access to NFIs, but rather monitoring whether people can cook, eat, sleep - domestic functions that shelter enables. That is the condition that we should be trying to measure rather than the technicalities of whether walls are of a certain standard.” ▪ “Used this and found that there was no change in quality of housing and thought this was good – as people shouldn't move based on a few months of MPC. We need to be realistic about the changes that MPC can bring about. But avoiding eviction would be a good indicator. There were changes in meeting rental payments (indicator is not included but should be).” ▪ “Indicator comes from SPHERE but is not really relevant. Doubt anyone is actually using it.” ▪ “Should have % of cash expenditure on rent. Not so established in the shelter sector, they don't understand why it would be useful to understand expenditure on rent.” ▪ “More specific to refugee camps? Not the case here, where people find somewhere to rent and cover their own utility bills. Huge refugee population that are not able to do this and are evicted.” ▪ “These indicators come from a 'camp' perspective, not an accommodation perspective. For example, for the Venezuela response, we had to adapt the indicators.”
REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members of the Shelter Cash and Markets Community of Practice would like to revise the indicators that currently appear in the document and have shared a number of possible options (see below). Further consultation should identify final indicators for the shelter sector. ▪ Somalia Shelter Cluster has recently worked with the Cash Working group to provide partners with PDM tools that can measure the difference in outcomes between in-kind and cash modalities for shelter and NFI: https://www.sheltercluster.org/standardized-tools/library/post-distribution-monitoring-tool ▪ Many PDM tools are found both in the Shelter Cluster's Coordination and Information Toolkits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.sheltercluster.org/global-shelter-coordination-toolkit/library/2g-response-monitoring-and-gap-analysis ○ https://www.sheltercluster.org/global-shelter-cluster-information-management-and-assessment-toolkit/library/2d-response-monitoring ▪ UNHCR has been working on new indicators for Shelter and will soon be releasing a specific Shelter form that helps in measuring outcome of shelter programming (to be included in the same toolkit links above).

	WASH	
DRAFT	INDICATORS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of households using an unsafe water source because they cannot afford to use a safer water source. 	FEEDBACK <p>Rarely used and not considered relevant for measuring effect of MPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Should be % of households with access to safe water, according to locally agreed standards.” ▪ “Very limited information would come out of this. Need to measure so many different things in order to have useful information. Difficult to use. The why - the causal pathways - might be difficult to ascertain.” ▪ “A lack of access to safe water is often not just a matter of purchasing power so although this indicator makes sense when access to safe water is clearly hindered due to financial barriers, it remains difficult to adequately measure impact using this indicator in broader MPCA interventions.”
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of households who have reduced essential WASH related basic needs expenditures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Should be % of households with minimum list of WASH NFI” ▪ “Is this a good thing or a bad thing? Hard to know what had to do with the cash and what had to do with any other kind of implementation. Are you trying to infer how cash is contributing to these outcomes?” ▪ “The logic behind this indicator is not entirely clear to me. The provision of cash would increase purchasing power of a household along with its ability to spend cash on WASH items, as well as any other items, so why would we want to see a decrease in WASH expenditures specifically as a result of MPCA? Further clarification is needed.” ▪ “What does it mean? Wording is really confusing. Are they using cash for WASH, and therefore it is a good thing? How does it link to MPC?” ▪ “Need to have a panel survey approach, working with the same households. And it is very difficult to work with the same sample at baseline and endline. Only other way to ask the question is 'did you reduce your WASH expenditure?' but real bias, participants are keen to please.” ▪ “Would be useful to see expenditure on soap, have to argue a lot in order for sectors to understand this, for example, this is included in SPHERE guidance.”
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of households practicing open defecation because they cannot afford to pay to use a public latrine and/or to build a latrine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Should be % of households with access to safe sanitation, according to locally agreed standards.” ▪ “Not appropriate for urban contexts” ▪ “Feedback from the Colombia office was that this was also really long and complex. Could be done in coordination with the WASH unit, as need to understand what the real barriers are. When you click on the link to the current recommendations of the WASH cluster, you get to a document which contradicts what is written here! Document has 6 indicators listed, if core conditions are met. Which of these two documents take precedence?”

REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES</p> <p>Suggest to use standard WASH-related indicators and note that, if certain conditions are met then some WASH-related outcomes can be expected. Seems to have been some confusion when indicators were submitted. Should refer to original guidance from WASH Cluster.</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>If water supply related costs are included in the transfer value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of beneficiary households with adequate access to water for Drinking, Cooking, and Personal and Domestic Hygiene at agreed standards - Percentage of beneficiary households possessing minimum list of WASH NFI in their household, following agreed standards, and with visible signs of use <p>If sanitation related costs are included in the transfer value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of beneficiary households with adequate access to a toilet at agreed standards - Percentage of men, women, boys and girls who last defecated in a toilet (or whose faeces were last disposed of in a safe manner) <p>If hygiene related costs are included in the transfer value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of beneficiary households possessing minimum list of WASH NFI in their household, following agreed standards, and with visible signs of use - Percentage of beneficiary households with a handwashing place identified including soap and water in their household, with visible sign of use.
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Education	
DRAFT	INDICATOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of households with school-age children with at least 1 school-age child who had to miss school because of costs associated with schooling (during the recall period) FEEDBACK <p>Rarely used and not considered practical for measuring effect of MPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Has to be reformulated, not OK as it is... Need to look at an education outcome - focus on enrolment or access? To look at access, you need other data, you can't get this from PDM data, you need to verify through other channels. If you can only focus on PDM, let's look at education-related expenditure. Can ask what % of the cash was spent on education costs. And ‘Out of your school age children, how many go to school?’ (but would need further verification).” ▪ “We're asking first part but not second part. For example ‘financial barriers’ are not always identified as such by the households themselves. Even though school is free, cash might be an enabler (cash can pay for transport).” ▪ “Think that this is a good indicator, even though it is perception based – but need to have a follow-on question about why.” ▪ “We asked whether children had been withdrawn from school because money had been used for food (linked to rCSI)” ▪ “We have other education questions.” ▪ “Really hard one. Think this needs to be revised.”
REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES</p> <p>Intend to revise existing indicator, with a preference for attendance, though understand that this could not be collected during PDM and may need further verification from other sources.</p> <p>Would like to be consulted again and to check with Education and CVA task team.</p>

Protection	
DRAFT	<p>Note: Many of the questions in the Protection Mainstreaming indicator and the Livelihoods Coping Strategies indicator, both under the Cross-Cutting section, are related to protection outcomes. The role of MPC on protection outcomes is still an area for further research; additionally, standalone MPC is not typically used to achieve protection outcomes.</p>
REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES To be confirmed - checking with CVA and Protection Task Team, they will get back in touch</p>

Health	
DRAFT	<p>INDICATOR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Percent of households receiving MPC that delayed or did not seek care when in need of healthcare, due to financial barriers ▪ Percent of households receiving MPC that were able to access a service from a qualified/certified provider (including consultation, diagnostic tests and its treatment) when they needed to use such a service <p>FEEDBACK</p> <p>Rarely used and not considered practical or relevant for measuring effect of MPC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Haven’t used this indicator but added ‘health’ as a response option (in a positive sense) for qualitative question about what you’ve been able to do with the MPC.” ▪ “Very complicated and difficult to collect data on. Would need to split the question into availability and affordability.” ▪ “Health needs vary from HH to HH, so very challenging. In COVID context, some health needs may be similar. But other health needs will be different.” ▪ “Have not used these health indicators as in BHA guidelines cash can only be used for health-related transportation. Health is complicated, what are the expected outcomes?”. ▪ “Qualified / certified provider - what does that wording mean? Could depend on the country, what the national qualifications are. Some people prefer accessing traditional medical provider, might have a personal preference for that. So why is it necessary to meet that condition?”. <p>If certain conditions are met (MPC + Behaviour Change Communication (BCC) + systems strengthening) then some health-related outcomes can be expected when MPC is used.</p>

REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES (from the Health Cluster's Cash Task Team)</p> <p>MPC should contribute to health outcomes only when it is complementary to health-specific interventions to ensure access to services and medicines from qualified providers.</p> <p>Reducing barriers and ensuring access to a minimum package of quality services from qualified providers (preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative) always requires a mix of interventions on provider and demand side, both financial and non-financial, depending on contextual factors. The default modality (and optimal response) to finance equitable access to quality health services is through provider payment mechanisms, complemented by health sector specific CVA, so as not to inadvertently contribute to a fee-charging culture for priority services. These payment mechanisms are designed to reduce reliance on user fees, and thus reduce financial barriers and ensure financial protection against catastrophic health expenditures. If after having introduced these payment mechanisms, including sector specific CVA, households still report health related expenditures, these can then be included in a Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) grant. Further analysis is then required to see if more can be done to reduce such out of pocket payments.</p> <p>See further information the working paper on Cash Transfer Programming for Health in Humanitarian Contexts and the Technical Note on the Inclusion of Health Expenditures in the Minimum Expenditure Basket and Subsequent Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer, and its annex I for the health response options analysis.</p> <p>Health specialists should be involved in all aspects of the design and planning of these type of interventions including needs assessment, risk analysis and response design to ensure that CVA are appropriately integrated within health interventions and support health financing principles.</p> <p>Monitoring outcomes for health could include the following indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percent of households that delayed or did not seek care when having a medical or health issue for which they needed to use a health service. Note this indicator relates to catastrophic spending on health – and the thresholds provide references to what qualifies as catastrophic spending • Percent of households that report catastrophic health expenditures, defined as more than 10% or 25% of the HH expenditures on health (including direct and indirect costs).
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Child Protection	
DRAFT	<p>NOTE</p> <p>Established under the Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, the Cash and Child Protection Task Force alongside the Assessment, Measurement and Evidence Working Group seeks to address the lack of documented evidence on the effectiveness of cash transfers on children in emergencies and their wellbeing through identifying, collating and developing measures, tools and guidance. The Cash and CP TF have commissioned a consultant to conduct a systematic review of monitoring and evaluation frameworks associated with multipurpose cash intervention designs and ultimately develop and pilot a module of common user-friendly indicators and guidance for integrating child protection in MPC monitoring and evaluation frameworks. This work is anti</p>
REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES (from the Child Protection and Cash Task Force)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of households receiving MPC where at least one child in the household is engaged in child labour due to financial vulnerability or being unable to meet basic needs. • Percentage of households reporting at least one child removed from child labour due to MPC meeting basic needs. <p>Note: A child is anyone under age 18. Child labour is any work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity. It is work that exceeds a maximum number of hours, depending on the age of the child and type of work, and that interferes with children's education and/or negatively affects their emotional, developmental, and physical well-being.</p> <p>Consult with the child protection coordination mechanism (cluster/sector working group) for information on relevant national legislation, including legal minimum working age and what hours are permitted for different types of work. National legislation generally requires children (adolescents) to have completed compulsory education and to have reached the legal minimum age for work. All child labour indicators can be re-worded to specify the type of child labour, such as a worst form of child labour or a type of hazardous labour. These would also need to be clearly defined in country.</p>

	Nutrition
DRAFT	<p>Note: Due to the complexity of nutritional outcomes sought in various programs, there are currently no general emergency nutrition indicators recommended for MPC. This may change as evidence and our learning around MPC grows. If emergency nutritional outcomes are expected from an MPC program, please see the Nutrition Cluster for suggested indicators.</p>
REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES</p> <p>MPC can contribute to nutrition outcomes only when combined with nutrition-specific interventions which aim to address socio-economic and structural barriers, such as social behaviour change communication and/or health-systems strengthening interventions, as stated in the Evidence and Guidance Note on the Use of CVA for Nutrition Outcomes in Emergencies.</p> <p>Nutrition specialists should be involved in needs assessment, risk analysis and response design to ensure that cash and nutrition interventions are fully integrated and complement each other.</p> <p>If MPC is combined with nutrition-specific interventions then nutrition indicators should be included when monitoring outcomes, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Percentage of children under 2 with minimum acceptable diet (MAD) - Percentage of households using nutrition services (if combined with health-system strengthening) - Other standard nutrition indicators, depending on context and type of intervention.

3.3.3 Expenditure indicators.

Discussions about expenditure indicators elicited heated responses, with strong and differing opinions on the utility of collecting expenditure data!

- At one end of the spectrum, **some respondents stated that expenditure data is the best way to understand people's priorities and that analysis should involve the sectors**. The majority of respondents argued that categorising (and potentially ranking) types of expenditure provided a sufficient level of information.
- On the other end of the spectrum, **some respondents argued that collecting expenditure data is not only inherently unreliable, but also verging on the unethical**.

If expenditure data is collected, **there was agreement that overall household expenditures (not the use of the MPC) should be analysed**, as is stated in the document.

Some interesting methodologies for exploring expenditure patterns were highlighted in the KII:

- “A few years ago we did a piece of research that looked specifically at expenditure patterns. In order to collect data, worked with women and **monopoly money to explore how people would spend their money in different situations**. This was a good methodology.”
- “We always try to track expenditure when we do cash and we have done this for many years. Mostly we do this because it's a donor requirement. Definitely not perfect but gives us a good understanding as to what people's 'basic needs' are, according to them. **Methodology is usually 'proportional piling'** to identify how the households spent their money.”

Considering the range of opinions on expenditure, keeping the indicators as ‘optional’ and offering different approaches within the MPC Outcome Indicators document, seems appropriate.

	Expenditure	
DRAFT	INDICATORS	FEEDBACK
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Asking people about their 3-5 most important expenditure categories	<p>Categorizing and ranking types of expenditure is sufficient.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ “We asked 'what did you buy with the cash?' Follow on question, rank what were the top 5 things you bought. We started asking 'how much did you spend on each item?' but then gave up. Honestly, it has been fully sufficient, looking at what the cash was spent on”■ “I have worked a lot on expenditure data over the years and realised that it is extremely difficult to collect in any meaningful way. What do we actually want to know? Just what people's priorities are... so we ask whether the MPC was spent (all/most/some/none) on certain set categories of expenditure”■ “Would make sense to proscribe categories. A simplified approach, rather than trying to get detailed information on exactly how much was spent for each kind of expenditure, because the information is always inaccurate anyway.”■ “I couldn't care less about expenditure. Is the cash actually doing something useful for these people? But yes, donors still demand it and these expenditure indicators are still used. Discourage analysing spending on amounts, rather on categories. But donors still want to know.”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total monthly expenditures (currency amount per capita) - Distribution of monthly per capita expenditures by categories/sector (percentage of expenditures spent on food, shelter, water, NFIs, education, etc.) - Total monthly expenditures relative to the MEB (percentage) - Economic Capacity to Meet Essential Needs (ECMEN) - Expenditure amounts by categories/sector relative to the corresponding amounts in the MEB 	<p>Detailed expenditure data is extremely useful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “This is the best method. If you can actually collect it in a good way, expenditure is one of the strongest and most tested way of understanding what people's priorities are. Important for MEB and also for monitoring, to understand whether people with their current expenditure can meet their needs. Is their welfare at the level it should be?. In some country offices, where they are do basic needs assessments, ECMEN (whether above or below MEB) and in other operations increasingly doing analysis on expenditure. But perhaps there should be links to resources to help organizations with less capacity.” ▪ “Really important to keep expenditure indicators, for me this is the key. For many partners not used to using expenditure data, it is really hard for them to understand the link between expenditure data and other sectors... We need to get sectors more involved.” ▪ “We know that expenditure on water is being sacrificed when households have to prioritise – and we need to ask the sectors why” ▪ “MPC should be consistent with the design of the MEB, using the expenditure data to compare how far there is coverage of the various components as a trigger for review.” ▪ “We would like to see an indicator that allows comparison of resources available/expenditures relative to overall needs (based on analysis of the expenditure data).” <p>Data is unreliable and does not tell us if basic needs are met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Very hard for people to estimate over a month what they've spent. We need to be realistic about what we are asking people to do, and be realistic about the accuracy of the data, when this is something that we ourselves would not be able to do!” ▪ “As a matter of principle and practicality, we felt that asking about detailed expenditure was really intrusive. It's an ethical question. Also, just because I spent a ton of money on something, does it tell you something useful about what I actually need? We removed the expenditure questions. Not our business and not necessary to understand whether the cash 'met your basic needs'. Otherwise you are basically asking people to make it up. The cognitive load on the respondent is very big.” ▪ “What information do we really need and what's the reason behind asking these questions? Value in having these questions as optional, teams can pick and choose but need more guidance.”
	<p>To triangulate results of coping strategy measurements and other indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total outstanding debt (currency amount) - Main reason for contracting debt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “We ask about debt but never get reliable information. Perceptions about debt are really important though.” ▪ “Very sensitive and difficult to get information about this.” ▪ “Yes, we ask questions about debt. It is really key - tells the other side of the story. How much borrowing do you have? Or is it arrears (being late on payments)? But also utilising focus groups to go into more detail - with focus group discussions.” ▪ “Debt – would be useful to understand this as a percentage of expenditure, and whether recipients are able to pay down any existing debt with the support they receive. Bringing debt out as a more significant part of the indicators.”

REVISIONS	<p>SUGGESTED CHANGES</p> <p>Range of approaches and indicators should be clearly presented (from ‘categorise and rank’, to asking households to specify exact amounts)</p> <p>Should remain optional, as some organizations do not want to ask about expenditure.</p> <p>Indicators to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘3-5 most important expenditure categories’ should be clearly listed as an approach to measuring expenditure, rather than included within the explanatory text above • ‘% of income spent on food’ was suggested as an indicator to include, though others argued that food share is not necessarily an indicator of vulnerability and is context dependent. <p>Indicators to potentially remove:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total monthly expenditure (is a step in calculating other indicators but shouldn’t be considered as an indicator in itself)
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3.4 Increasing uptake of the MPC Outcome Indicators.

Some challenges were identified in the interviews which affect the extent to which the indicators have so far been tested and used. Some ideas were also shared as to how uptake could be encouraged in the future, once the MPC Outcome Indicators have been revised. These points are highlighted below.

- **Many organizations already have established monitoring and reporting frameworks.** Some interviewees explained that they were wary to push for changes to their organizations’ existing systems while still awaiting the final draft of the MPC Outcome Indicators. As one KII stated: “we usually do a planning phase every 5 years, these *indicators popped up in the middle of a planning phase and we had just developed our indicators...*”. However, once the MPC Outcome indicators are ‘finalized’ this may increase uptake.
- **Within organizations, buy-in from staff involved in data collection and analysis is needed.** In a number of interviews, staff at global level emphasized that, while they promoted the use of the MPC indicators within their organizations, country offices often chose not to use them as they have the flexibility to adapt monitoring tools and chose what they include in their survey tools. Within organizations, adopting MPC indicators involves not only cash and markets specialists, but also field staff, MEAL staff, technical sector specialists, etc. For example, one donor noted that although they have recommended (but not required) partners to use the indicators since September 2020, uptake has been very low, particularly for the sectoral indicators (more examples of the cross-cutting indicators or variations on these being used). This is seen to reflect the challenges organizations may have faced in using them. The role of MEAL staff was also viewed as particularly important in increasing uptake of the indicators, as one KII suggested:

“We could promote the indicators through ALNAP, global and national MEAL-related working groups?”
- **Donors’ buy-in is important**, though how this might work in practice will depend on the donor. Several of the donors interviewed noted that while they have or are intending to include the indicators in their guidance to partners and recommend their use, they would be unlikely to require their use as this would run contrary to the flexibility of their approach in general. On the other hand, some donors have included (or are intending to include) at least some of the indicators as ‘required’ for partners implementing MPC. Donors should, at a minimum, be made aware of the revised version of the MPC Outcome Indicators and encouraged to consider options for their uptake with partners.
- **Need for improved guidance and tools.** There were clear requests for improved guidance (or links to existing guidance) and tools (such as ODK/KoBo forms) so that the indicators could be more easily used; “copy and pasteable, please!”. It was highlighted that, **for some of the indicators, extra steps were required to interpret them and render them operational**. Below is some feedback from KII:

- “Would recommend training and tools. Make an ODK form with these questions and options, so as to make it easier for organizations to copy and paste.”
- “The fact that CaLP is putting these indicators out, leveraging donors bargaining power, is important. Could CaLP produce a Kobo form, ODK, or standard xls form? Building a form would help do the extra step of interpreting what is meant by the indicators. If you want organizations to be precise then a form would be very useful.”
- “...Standardization of data points is also an important starting point, even if cross-comparison is not required, if you are going to share data (for example in joint programming), then (standardizing data points) helps to remove barriers to doing joint programming.”
- **Adoption by coordination groups and at inter-agency level:** the role of CWGs, Cash Consortia, Clusters and UN agencies was seen to be important in increasing the uptake of the MPC indicators. Ideas for increasing uptake included: developing a ‘micro-learning’ on the MPC Outcome Indicators (to encourage people to explore further); directly targeting some key actors (such as Cash Consortia or Cluster leads) through a 30-minute phone call; and producing materials, such as presentations for CWGs, to support dissemination. Wider adoption of the indicators may also depend on the availability of improved tools and guidance, and how ‘user-friendly’ the indicators are. Below are some of the comments from KII:
 - **Cash Working Groups** “Might be good to engage directly with CWG in each context, roll out trainings through the CWG and give them training on how to contextualize them and use the ODK forms.” “Would be good to develop short presentations for CWG leads on the MPC indicators, once finalized, so that CWG coordinators can present easily during their meetings.”
 - **Cash Consortia:** “If CaLP was aware of who the big consortia are - could have a 30min call with them, that would make a big difference?”
 - **Cluster coordination:** “Clusters have to own them and be more comfortable with them, the clusters have weight.”
 - **OCHA and Humanitarian Response Plans (HRPs):** “Could the MPC indicators be taken into account within HRPs and used for HRP indicators?”
 - **UN agencies:** “UN should be more comfortable using them and supporting partners to use them. UN agencies have a lot of influence over local partners.”
- **If the objective is to aggregate data, greater trust, and a shared understanding of why data is shared, is needed:** field teams can feel frustrated with having to use standardized or top-down approaches, when they do not necessarily see how the data is analyzed and used. As one respondent stated:

“Field teams feel that they send a lot of data and nothing ever happens to it... to motivate them data could be compiled in a way that motivates and energizes people. If there is no feedback it becomes demotivating.”

If the MPC Outcome Indicators are intended to be used to aggregate data and/or create comparable data sets, then the eco-system for managing data needs to be secure and trusted:

“the eco-system and how you approach that and build trust for sharing data and evidence transparently is probably as critical as anything else if you want the indicators to have an impact on improving programming. There is an example from the palliative care sector where a ‘closed club’ was formed initially for sharing results and learning in a trusted space where the specific results etc. wouldn’t be shared without authorization. This proved successful in more open sharing and identification of where improvements could be made. Having a closed group also in itself encouraged others to want to join – fear of missing out, etc.”

4. Conclusion

This report summarizes the extensive feedback on the draft Multipurpose Cash (MPC) Outcome Indicators, with a view to revising these indicators and producing an updated version. Feedback was received from staff involved in the delivery, monitoring and funding of MPC assistance for humanitarian response, through key informant interviews with 58 people and an online survey (33 respondents). The positive engagement with this feedback process - from local and international NGOs to UN agencies and donors - is indicative of the perceived utility of having an updated set of MPC Outcome Indicators and associated guidance that can be used across the humanitarian sector.

Overall, the cross-cutting and expenditure indicators were more widely tested than the sector-specific indicators (with the exception of the indicators for the food security sector). Broadly speaking, the **cross-cutting indicators** require some ‘tweaking’ and perhaps further guidance and tools to make them operational, but generally they were considered fit for purpose.

In terms of measuring household **expenditure**, opinions vary greatly with regards to the appropriateness, utility (and even ethics) of this, however the current document presents expenditure indicators as ‘optional’ and offers a range of different approaches for those that do decide to measure the way in which households receiving MPC manage their spending.

The **sector-specific indicators** are, unsurprisingly, much more complex to revise and improve. The challenges identified here are not new, but reflect the broader challenges faced by the existing humanitarian system in trying to ‘fit’ MPC - a flexible assistance modality - into a system that is primarily organized according to sectoral objectives. Some of the sectors (particularly health, nutrition, and WASH) emphasized that MPC cannot be expected to achieve sector-specific results unless certain conditions are met and MPC is combined with other types of support, such as supply-side interventions to improve the quality of basic services and behaviour change communication. Several sector specialists stated that they are nevertheless interested to know more about the effects of MPC, for example whether households perceive MPC as contributing to sector-specific impacts (such as school attendance, access to health care, etc.), and to better understand spending on goods and services related to their sectors.

Further discussion is required to decide whether the presentation of the MPC Outcome Indicators should be re-organized, or whether the document should retain the existing structure. In terms of the number of indicators, the list could either be trimmed down and reduced to a minimum, or alternatively it could be a more exhaustive and inclusive list of indicators which can be used as a list from which to pick and choose indicators, depending on the context and the other types of humanitarian assistance which may be provided in conjunction with MPC. These complex decisions should be taken by the MPC Outcome Indicator Reference Group, considering the feedback outlined in this report.

Once the updated version of the MPC Outcome Indicators is agreed upon, there were clear requests to improve the tools and guidance which will support organizations in using these indicators. Uptake of the indicators can be encouraged through dissemination and promotion of the final document, making some key players (Cash Working Groups, Cash Consortia, UN agencies, donors, etc.) aware of the approach. Training on the use of the indicators could also be considered, if necessary.

Lastly, while there is considerable interest in a ‘finalized’ version of the MPC Outcome Indicators, it’s important to recognize that understanding of how to implement and monitor MPC is still evolving, so **there is likely to be value in further revisions in future**, as the approach is tested and honed, and further evidence emerges around the outcomes to which MPC contributes.

Annex I: list of key informant interviews

Listed in alphabetical order (by organisation).

Name	Organisation	Role	Date of KII
Celine Sinitzky	ACF	Global Cash & SP Advisor	12/03/2021
Holly Radice	CARE	Global Cash and Markets Technical Advisor	11/03/2021
Frederic Wiesenbach	Caritas Switzerland	Chief of Party – CARMA Consortium, Lebanon	08/03/2021
Elsy Ghanameh	Caritas Switzerland	Deputy Chief of Party – CARMA Consortium, Lebanon	08/03/2021
Kaitlyn Scott	Concern	Somalia CWG Lead/Co-Lead Somali Cash Consortium	15/03/2021
Diane Moyer	Concern	Co-Chair CVA and Nutrition Global Thematic Group	18/03/2021
Corrie Sissons	CRS	Technical Advisor - Cash & Markets. Co-Chair of Cash and Markets Working Group, Food Security Cluster	31/03/2021
Seki Hirano	CRS	Homes and Communities Co-Lead, Team Lead Shelter and Settlement, CRS	15/03/2021
Ed Fraser	DRC	Global Economic Recovery Advisor/Cash Team Lead	11/03/2021
Charlotte Fontaine	DRC	Regional Economic Recovery Coordinator for Danish Refugee Council in West Africa	11/03/2021
Isabelle Pelly	ECHO	Thematic expert on cash and basic needs	17/03/2021
Calogero Di Gloria	ECHO	ECHO Amman	17/03/2021
Maria Bernardez	ECHO	ECHO Nairobi	17/03/2021
Roselyn Mullo	ECHO	ECHO Amman	17/03/2021
Mikolaj Radlicki	Gaza Protection Consortium	Manager, Gaza Protection Consortium	09/04/2021
Claudia Schneider	German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)	Humanitarian Assistance / Operations	16/03/2021
Svenja Jandrasits	German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)	Humanitarian Assistance / Operations	16/03/2021
Michael Cooke	Give Directly	Director of Research	22/03/2021
Neil Bauman	Global Shelter Cluster	Information Manager, Shelter Cluster	15/03/2021
Renee Wynveen	Global Shelter Cluster / UNHCR	Global Shelter Cluster	15/03/2021
Ciara O'Malley	GOAL	Global Cash Advisor	08/03/2021
Elias Sagmeister	Ground Truth Solutions	Director	15/03/2021
Jonathan Brass	IFRC	Operations Manager - Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN), Turkey	17/03/2021
Louisa Seferis	Independent	Consultant	16/03/2021

Gaby Fox	Iraq Cash Consortium	Consortium Lead	25/03/2021
Simon Fuchs	IRC	M&E Advisor	10/03/2021
Stefan Schmoldt	IRC	Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Cash for Protection	14/04/2021 (via email)
Duke Amin	Jago Nari	Consortium Manager for Livelihoods Cash Grant Project	18/03/2021
Kandie Fabien	Living Water Community	Senior Protection Advocate	09/04/2021
Jimena Peroni	NRC - CashCap deployment	Regional Inter-Agency Technical Advisor	11/03/2021
Rabeea Ahmed	OCHA - CashCap deployment	Cash Working Group, Yemen	15/03/2021
Shreeju Shrestha	Oxfam	Cash and Markets Adviser	17/03/2021
John Allen	Oxfam	Cash and Markets Technical Working Group, Global WASH Cluster	01/04/2021
Emilia Sorrentino	Plan International	Co-Chair, CVA and Education Working Group, Global Education Cluster	31/03/2021
Mathew Day	REACH	Co-Chair of Programme Quality Working Group, Food Security Cluster	31/03/2021
Katherine Armeier	Save the Children	Director, Humanitarian Monitoring, Research and Accountability	15/03/2021
Stefan Bumbacher	Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation	Programme Officer, Cash and Voucher Assistance	31/03/2021
Maria Thorin	SIDA	Humanitarian Cash Advisor	22/03/2021
Hanna Mattinen	UNHCR	Senior Cash Advisor	26/03/2021
Gabriele Erba	UNICEF	Beneficiary Data System Specialist	12/03/2021
Giulio Franco	UNICEF	Emergency Specialist (Cash Transfers)	12/03/2021
Alexis Boncenne	UNICEF	UN Common Cash System - Data Specialist	12/03/2021
Adam Fifield	UNICEF	UN Common Cash System - Data Specialist	12/03/2021
Jean-Christophe Barbiche	UNICEF	(formerly) Cash and Markets Technical Working Group, Global WASH Cluster	22/03/2021
Dana Cristescu	UNICEF- CashCap deployment	Cash Cap Deployment to UNICEF-led Clusters (Education, WASH, Nutrition)	01/04/2021
Anna Jacobson	USAID/BHA	Monitoring and Evaluation	24/03/2021
Ruco van der Merwe	USAID/BHA	Food Security & Markets Advisor. Co-Chair of Cash and Markets Working Group, Food Security Cluster	31/03/2021
Johannes Rueck	WASH Network	Cash and Markets Technical Working Group, Global WASH Cluster	01/04/2021
Lena Hohfield	WFP	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) Officer	19/03/2021
Nynne Warring	WFP	Research, Assessment and Monitoring (RAM) Analyst	19/03/2021
Yasmin Moor	WHO (CashCap deployment)	CashCap Deployment, Global Health Cluster	22/03/2021

Andre Griekspoor	WHO	Senior Policy Advisor, Health Emergency Programme	22/03/2021
Tenzin Manell	Women's Refugee Commission	Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Cash for Protection Associate Director for Cash and Livelihoods, WRC	14/04/2021 (via email)
Kathryn Taetzsch	World Vision International	Global Cash and Voucher Programming Director	19/03/2021
Marieta Fitzcharles	World Vision International	Works with Global Cash Team as MEAL Advisor for CBP	31/03/2021
Marco Grazia	World Vision International	Co-Chair, CVA and Education Working Group, Global Education Cluster	31/03/2021
Mirette Bahgat	World Vision International	Child Protection	24/03/2021

Annex 2: Guiding questions for key informant interviews

Interviewee name	
Organisation	
Role	
Date of KII	

1. Have you/your organisation used the MPC Outcome Indicators? (https://tinyurl.com/MPCoutcomes) (if NO, please skip to question)
2. If YES, how has your organisation been using the indicators? (e.g., for specific MPC project(s), integrating some or all of the indicators into organizational monitoring frameworks, etc.)
3. Which indicators have you used? (note all indicators from the 'MPC Outcome Indicators - Draft for Testing' that the organisation has used)
4. Did you encounter any challenges using the indicators? Was the guidance on selecting and using the indicators sufficient? Do you think the indicators are measuring outcomes as intended, e.g., do they capture outcomes attributable to MPC? (be as specific as possible – state the indicator(s) you're referring to, or the elements of the process e.g., if there were problems encountered with selecting which indicators to use, or at a practical level – e.g., time/resources, who was involved in data collection and analysis)
5. What are your recommendations for how to improve the indicators and/or the accompanying guidance? Please be as specific as possible: state the indicator(s) you're referring to and make a clear suggestion. Are there broader recommendations about the overall approach, e.g., selecting effective combinations of indicators
6. Are there any indicators which aren't included in the original draft for testing which you think should be included (e.g., in addition to, or as an alternative, to the existing indicators)?
7. If you've collected expenditure data to help monitor and analyze the use of MPC, what approach/methodology have you applied and/or would you recommend?
8. Is there anything that has changed due to COVID-19 that you think is relevant to these indicators and associated guidance (e.g., any additional process indicators, changes in data collection approaches or reflections on indicators that can't be collected remotely)?
9. If you are not using the MPC outcome indicators, why not? Are there changes to the indicators, how they are used, or how they have been shared and disseminated, that would make a difference?
10. Uptake: in your opinion, how might we best increase the uptake and use of the indicators across the humanitarian community?
11. Further contacts: is there anyone else you think we should also speak to? (ask for contacts with local NGOs or field staff who have tested the use of the indicators)
12. Anything else you'd like to share with us? Any other questions about the process? Thank you for speaking to me / us today, etc.

Review of the Grand Bargain Multipurpose Cash (MPC) Outcome Indicators: Summary Report of Feedback from the Testing Phase

This report comprises a compilation and analysis of feedback gathered from a broad range of humanitarian stakeholders on the use of the Grand Bargain (GB) MPC Outcome Indicators, which were originally published in July 2019. It may be of interest to practitioners and others involved in implementing, monitoring, and evaluating cash assistance. The review was conducted from March-May 2021 by a consultant hired by the CaLP Network, on behalf of the GB sub-workstream on MPC Outcome Indicators. The purpose of this review is to inform the revision of the draft indicators and guidance, a process which is coordinated by the co-leads of the sub-workstream (CaLP, CRS, USAID), and guided by a dedicated Reference Group.



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