



# Ethiopia Cash Working Group

## Minutes of the CWG Meeting

Tuesday, 30 October 2018

10:00 am, IOM Offices

### 1. Review of 25 September minutes and action points

- OCHA Secretariat led the overview of the action points, highlighting that all action points related to the Gedeo-West Guji cash suspension were completed.
- The 25 September meeting minutes were reviewed and endorsed by the group.

### 2. Red Rose presentation

- RedRose provide an overview of the service provided by the ONEsolution platform for the humanitarian and development sector. The delivery mechanisms include Closed Loop, One Loop and Special Types. Key features of the ONEsolution include beneficiary management, assistance delivery, surveys and feedback and data analytics.
- RedRose currently has 28 partners across 32 countries with 116 programs currently using the system, covering 15 million beneficiaries.
- As part of its mission in Ethiopia, RedRose has been having conversations with FSPs for possible integration. RedRose would be potentially be able to utilized existing agents while FSPs would be able to take advantage of RedRose's platforms.

### 3. Guji & Gedeo cash response updates

- The CWG Technical Advisor provided an overview of the cash suspension in Gedeo and West Guji zones, in place since August, and provided an update on advocacy efforts with the NDRMC and the Ethiopian Humanitarian Country Team (EHCT) in the 11 and 25 October meetings.
- To address protection and targeting issues identified by NDRMC, the CWG strengthened mitigation measures to the Gedeo-West Guji cash implementation guidelines and conducted an analysis of the issues which led to the suspension of CBIs. An advocacy note was also shared with the EHCT on 25 October.
- CWG co-leads informed that a subsequent meeting with NDRMC was scheduled for 31 October to address the suspension and inquire whether any flexibility was available in lifting the freeze.
- CWG co-lead reaffirmed to need to commit to the mitigation measures include in the Gedeo-West Guji cash guidelines as at the core of the groups advocacy messages was that partners would abide by the guidelines to the best of their abilities.
- DRC noted that at the zonal and woreda levels, there was a preference for CBIs by authorities and lamented that this was not transmitted to the NDRMC.
- Partners noted there had been genuine protection and targeting concerns, but that all assessment had confirmed cash interventions were feasible, including six feasibility assessments in Gedeo and West Guji. Local authorities were also supportive of cash, so receptiveness from the local authorities was sought throughout the planning process.
- WV informed that in Gedeo zone, it had received written permission from zonal authorities to implement a joint (together with CARE) voucher program for an ES/ NFI response.
- OCHA noted the two most recent feasibility assessments undertaken by DRC and Plan International (shared with all CWG members), which deemed CBIs feasible in both zones.



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## Action point

- Partners planning/implementing programs to share response updates into the Gedeo - West Guji 4w matrix. Any issues in implementing should be reported to CWG co-leads of any possible action/advocacy.
- CWG partners to review the latest version of the Gedeo-West Guji CBI guidelines and provide any necessary comments.

## 4. Highlights from the Nairobi cash learning event

- The CWG WFP and Oxfam co-leads provided an overview of the CaLP led Regional CWG leads event held in Nairobi in 3-4 October. Among the issues discussed was the capacity of CWGs, which require a lot of effort, seeing that members can only commit so much time to CWGs due to separate responsibilities. This often comes down to how much time staff can spend on their roles within the group. From observations among other CWGs, the ECWG was noted as one of the more developed.
- OCHA's role as secretariat was also seen as an added value, due to the links between the CWG and the ICCG.
- Other issues included the lack of CBIs in response plans, including Ethiopia's HDRP, whose template does not allow for distinctions between in-kind and cash. Partners noted the need to explore the inclusion of cash feasibility questions in the seasonal assessments.
- Partners noted the lack of secure resources for CWGs, as there are not too many external sources for CWG support. Aside from the CashCap support for the CWG Technical Cash Advisor, there were no other alternate sources for assistance.

## 5. Operational update (CWG members)

- ICRC informed that together with ERCS it was scaling up its CBI in Moyale to 1,632 households, of which 85 per cent were reached. ICRC noted the challenge of conducting PDM due to the mobile nature of the communities. Partners faced challenges with the complaints mechanisms, which received a high volume of calls on a 24-hour basis. Complaints were referred to CBE Birr which served as the FSP for this project. ICRC also noted targeting challenges, as these are conducted solely by woreda officials with no oversight by implementing partners. ICRC noted this was a learning process but was further identifying method in which to make the CBIs more efficient and on a continual basis despite the mobile nature of the IDPs. Security is still an issue, despite initial data showing 70 per cent of Somali beneficiaries accessing markets in Moyale on the Oromia side of the border.
- ICRC noted it was exploring the possible use of CBIs in East and West Wellega to respond to the new incidents of displacement, and asked whether any other partners had similar planning. Partners mentioned that it might be worthwhile to call a small group of interested partners to discuss a coordinated approach. ICRC stated it would be happy to meet with any other partners interested in doing the same.
- FH informed it completed a CBI using PSNP transfer mechanisms and recently conducted a PDM assessment in LayAint woreda of Amhara region. FH noted its interest in providing a presentation on its findings at the next CWG meeting scheduled for 27 November.
- CARE, via EHF funding, is implementing a CBI in Borena zone, Oromia region, for 2,300 households towards durable shelter. CARE is also planning on implementing CBI in Filtu zone via IOM funding, next week.
- ZOA, via IOM's Rapid Response Fund (RRF), will be distributing vouchers for ES/NFI support to some 420 HHs. ZOA also submitted a proposal for EHF funding to implement a CBI to 1,400 HHs. ZOA is also implementing a cash-for-work forestry project in Gambella for both refugees and host community.



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- IOM is looking at conflict-induced displacement in Tigray region and exploring a possible CBI once the IDP caseload is determined and funding becomes available.
- Oxfam informed that in Koraha zone of Somali region, it had distributed cash to some 3,500 HHs via the Somali Microfinance Institution (SMFI). It also plans to implement CBIs in Dollo and Jarar zone of Somali region, Millennium Camp in Dire Dawa, and two camps in East and West Hararge.
- On SMFI, partners asked whether SMFI was still operational following reports that it was lacking funding following the events in Jijjga in August and subsequent change in administration, to which Oxfam noted that it was still using SMFI with payments being made.
- Plan International noted it implemented 3 million ETB worth of cash transfer for food security and livelihood interventions via vouchers and direct cash in West Guji for 12,000 HHs. This included vouchers for livestock drugs and cash for work to rehabilitate graze land.
- FH informed that it was implementing cash e-payments with CRS using RedRose.
- IOM informed it was exploring the use of CBIs (cash for work) in Gedeo-West Guji, especially for the construction of communal latrines, and planned to target 1,090 HHs. SCI also noted it was exploring use of cash in Gedeo-West Guji.
- The World Bank informed it completed a mapping of FSPs with a draft expected to be finalized on 8 November and would be willing to present its finding at the 27 November CWG meeting.
- NCA provided an overview of its CBI in East Hararge for 4,800 Households in Deder IDP site for WaSH response.
- IOM noted it would be useful to get a lessons-learned overview of those partners conducting CBIs in non-traditional sectors.
- DCA informed it conducted multipurpose cash for 1,600 refugees and signed a funding agreement with ECHO to provide multipurpose cash distributions in Bale for 3,000 HHs. The Bale program would provide 550ETB/month for seven months. DCA also secured funding for the continuation of e-voucher assistance in Gambella for 5,600 HHs.
- Islamic Relief noted that as of October, it began CBIs for IDPs and host communities in Mieso, Oromia region, targeting 1,500 HHs with direct cash transfers, providing 1,500ETB/month for three months. Voucher were also distributed for animal health treatment.
- LWF informed it conducted CBIs in Bale and the Hararges, and was now looking now implementing CBIs in Amhara region. LWF highlighted the challenges in targeting and in responding to mobile populations. Interference by woredas and their request to shift targeting was an additional challenge.
- Participants noted that though operational update from partners were useful, capturing the wealth of information is challenges, and suggested reverting to the “Operational Update” template, in which implementing partners could complete before coming to the meetings. This would allow participants to have all the pertinent information in front of them, including contact information, in which to follow up on.

### Action points

- Partners considering CBI in East and West Wellega zones of Oromia to reach out to Tsegahun Tesfaye from ICRC to explore possible creation of an CBI implementing partners group for East/West Wellega. Tsegahun can be reached at [ttsegahun@icrc.org](mailto:ttsegahun@icrc.org).
- FH to present its Amhara CBI program in the 27 November CWG meeting.
- The World Bank to present its FSP mapping exercise in the 27 November CWG meeting.
- OCHA to share the blank “Operational Update” template for CWG member willing to share their programmatic details ahead of the monthly CWG meetings.



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### 6. AoB

- **CRS- led Lessons Learned Workshop (CRS):** CRS reminded participants of the upcoming lessons learned workshop on 7 November, and thanked those who RSVP'd. The workshop will entail facilitated discussions around key areas of cash transfer implementation in Ethiopia (registration/verification, delivery mechanisms, and FSPs), with select NGOs presenting and sharing their experiences and results in these areas. The event is intended to promote experience-sharing within the community, as well as identifying best practices and recommendations for the cash transfer community.
- **Linkages with Social Protection Working Group:** The CWG co-leads noted that some regional CWGs had engaged with the SPWG on see how to strengthen protection mitigation measures in CBI planning and noted it would be worthwhile to establish linkages with the group.

Name	Organization/Agency
Praemeenah Poobalan	WFP Co-Chair
Theodros Tefera	Oxfam Co-Chair
Lilian Mutiso	ES/NFI Cluster/CWG Technical Advisor
Mahlet Tekalegne	ZOA
Solomon Medhane	IRC
Vitcotria Murtagh	IOM
Serkalem Getachew	CARE
Yeshiwas Assefa	DRC
Kourtney Rusow	DFID
Tabata Fioretto	IOM
Tsegahun Tesfaye	ICRC
Hussein Ibrahim Rasool	ICRC
Tewodros Assefa	World Bank
Sophie Daniel	CRS
Halima Dahir	IOM
Otto Farkas	WVI
Shwaib Ibrahim	WFP
Abraru Sherif	Islamic Relief
Nick Bennet	SimPrints
Zelalem Getachew	FH
Yifru Ambello	Plan International
Zelalem Ayichew	NCA
Rick Carbone	USAID/FFP
Negus Mesele	SCI
Agustin Orengo	OCHA Secretariat

\*\*\* The next CWG meeting will be held on 27 November in the World Bank offices \*\*\*