Ethiopia Cash Working Group

Minutes of the CWG Meeting
Tuesday, 25 July 2017
10:00 a.m., OCHA Office

1. Review of the 27 June meeting and action points
- OCHA co-chair led the review of the 27 June meeting minutes and action points. The minutes were endorsed.
- Co-chair reiterated that the main purpose of the meeting would be to reach an overall agreement on the approach taken to determine Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) and to take advantage of the World Bank representative to discuss PSNP and humanitarian linkages in determining both MEBs and agreed upon transfer values.

2. Updates from CWG members
- A quick overview of the "CWG programme update" template was given, and endorsement was sought on the indicators listed in the template. Overall agreement on the template was reached, with the World Bank requesting that an additional indicator be listed indicating whether the programmatic areas overlapped with PSNP areas of intervention.
- A member reiterated the difference between PSNP beneficiaries, who are generally above the emergency threshold and have the capacity to engage in public works, and those in the humanitarian caseload. However, World Bank reminded that not all of its beneficiaries engage in public works, and that several of its most vulnerable beneficiaries, such as the disabled and elderly, did receive in-kind assistance from the PSNP. Due to such instances, World Bank encouraged implementing partners to differentiate between PSNP-receiving beneficiaries and those strictly on the humanitarian caseload.
- World Bank highlighted however, that its max beneficiary household size was five family members and that humanitarian partners could target those family members outside of the five-member limit.
- WFP informed of its intended Fresh Food Vouchers Programme to be rolled out in South Wollo zone, Habru/ Dessie Zuria/ Raya Kobo woredas of Amhara region for about 11,000 households approximately on 1 October. A delivery agent is still being determined.
- To support the government in its implementation of the PSNP, WFP plans to introduce a pilot Insurance for Asset (IfA) programme in the Somali regional state for 5,000 households. The Satellite Index Insurance for Pastoralists in Ethiopia (SIIPE) programme will provide pasture drought insurance cover to PSNP beneficiaries. Participants will be provided with a mobile bank account on which they can receive notification of the insurance pay-outs, and are then able to cash-out at a proximate service point. These cash transfers are envisioned to be used by the participants to access livestock services (e.g. veterinary care, water, fodder) which keep their core-breeding animals healthy during the drought.
- WFP is also exploring the feasibility of rolling out cash transfer for 80,000 households in Somali region using the PSNP structure for the period October – December.
- HelpAge provided an overview of its emergency response for drought affected communities in Miyo, Teltele, and Adami Tulu *woredas* of Oromia Region with the use of direct cash, food, vouchers. The third month cash and food distribution was completed in July and the fourth month distribution will be conducted in August. The first phase of the project will be complete in September 2017.

- HelpAge reiterated that those it was working in some PSNP receiving *woredas*, it worked with *woreda* officials to ensure there was no overlap with beneficiaries. World Bank informed of its Pass System detailing who were PSNP beneficiaries to ensure no overlap.
- Oxfam informed that in the month of June it distributed cash to a total of 13,023 households as part of its drought response program in Somali region. The payment modality is cash in hand through Somali Micro Finance.
- OXFAM also expressed concerns about cash transfer values, which are not covering even half of the MEB let alone the full MEB of food and non-food Items. OXFAM recommended cash transfer values be aligned with the MEB (Food MEB and Non Food MEB) in view of prevailing IPC level 4 in some *woredas*.
- Save the Children informed of its direct cash program for host communities in five zones of Somali region with OFDA and Canadian grants. SCI to share initial assessments reports conducted ahead of the implementation of the program.
- World Vision informed that SNNP and Amhara would be conducting Regional CWG meetings in August. Regional cash transfer trainings focusing on program and operational skill development would be taking place in Tigray (either Mekele or Hukero) and Somali regions in September or October.

Action points
- HelpAge to share their post distribution assessment with the co-chair for wider circulation to the group.
- SCI to share their assessment reports conducted in Somali region.

3. **Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)**
- The OCHA co-chair provided a summary of the discussion held during the CWG Steering Committee meeting which focused on the need to identify an agreed upon MEB at the regional level. This would then allow the CWG to determine recommended/suggested average transfer amounts at the regional level. The co-chair reiterated that reaching consensus on the both MEBs and average transfer amounts was one of the core objectives of the 2017 CWG Workplan.
- The ES/NFI Cluster provided a list of standard items in ES/NFI kits and WASH cluster provided the minimum water requirements at the household level. The Food Cluster provided an initial food basket to reach the minimum 2,100 calories/person/day, but further efforts will be required to determine a food MEB at the regional level.
- The WASH Cluster suggested identifying two MEBs, one to address the needs after a sudden emergency, such as floods, and another to address slow onset emergencies, such as drought. This would allow for a tailored response, depending on the emergency.
- Participants suggested having a baseline MEB, followed by additional MEBs to "top up" the response package based on the emergency.
- Though some initial steps have been taking into identifying MEBs, this has not been finalized. Members stressed the urgency for an agreed upon MEB and average transfer values as some initial programs are waiting to be costed to present to donors.

Action points

- CWG Steering Committee to work with specific cluster members to determine sector specific MEBs and present initial MEBs before the next CWG meeting.

4. Review of the CWG web repository outline

- OCHA co-chair provided an overview of the proposed Ethiopia CWG webpage repository of Ethiopia specific reports and documents. A proposed outline was provided and the CWG endorsed the concept and suggested outline.
- Aside from providing market analysis and assessment reports, the webpage will also include background documents of the CWG and the Steering Committee. The repository is intended to serve as a reference tool to operational partners to assist in program development and avoid duplications.

Action points

- OCHA to finalize development of webpage and begin to populate with documents.

Participants

Name	Organization/Agency
Vikas Goyal	UNICEF
Zinaw Kebede	Trocaire
Thoedros Eshete	Oxfam
Abomsa Kebede	DRC
Abebe Belay	HelpAge
Tsegoye Asrat	IOM
Dawit Mulatu	IOM
Addisshiwot Samuel	IOM
Joanna Olsen	CRS/JEOP
Tesfaye Tilahun	World Bank
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Tesfaye Abebe	SCI
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Agustin Orengo	OCHA
Dereje Megersa	FH

*** The next CWG meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 August in FH Offices ***