

Background:

The frequency, nature and complexity of humanitarian crisis is changing. At the same time there is greater recognition of the link between pre existing vulnerabilities and people's ability to cope and recover from the impacts of the crisis. These form some of the key factors that are influencing the ways in which humanitarian assistance is delivered to women, men, boys and girls affected by crisis and are driving the need for better connectedness between humanitarian and development programming. In the past decade, cash transfers have emerged as an important part of the humanitarian toolbox to support the crisis affected populations. Cash transfers, in the form of social cash transfers or social assistance are also central to social protection and often form an important part of government strategies to reduce poverty and vulnerability. The expansion of social cash transfers in many countries offers great potential for linking humanitarian cash transfers and social protection in crisis prone countries and areas.

In May 2016, the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) renewed commitments to reduce suffering and deliver better for people caught in humanitarian crises and to demonstrate support for a new Agenda for Humanity. In light of this trend, achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness in emergency response and support to countries and communities to better prepare for and respond to crises, and be resilient to shocks were among the cardinal focus. One recommended way is by better linking work across the development humanitarian nexus, which includes the commitment in the Grand Bargain to ***“increase social protection programmes and strengthen national and local systems and coping mechanisms in order to build resilience in fragile contexts”***. A full-spectrum approach has been specifically advised with regard to cash transfer programming, (CTP), by the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) as well as by the DFID-funded High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Cash Transfers. It is argued that cash transfers to crisis-affected populations could be timelier, more cost-efficient, and capable of being implemented at scale if delivered through existing social protection systems.

In 2016, the Federal Government of Nigeria recommitted to implementing Social Protection (SP) initiatives as an instrument for poverty reduction. One major intervention is the World Bank supported National Social Safety Net Programme (NASSP), a flagship programme under the Social Investment Programme (N-SIP) aimed at reducing poverty, improving livelihoods of vulnerable groups and supporting citizens facing economic challenges. This programme has been designed to receive \$1.3 billion from the Government of Nigeria as well as \$500 million grant from the World Bank. The programme is intended to benefit 1,000,000 poor and vulnerable households per year across all the 36 states and FCT. The N-SIP comprises N-Power, National Home Grown School Feeding Programme, Government Enterprise Empowerment Programme, and the National Cash Transfer Programme (NCTP). Specifically, the NCTP has disbursed unconditional cash transfer of N5,000 monthly to the poor and vulnerable persons across some states including states in the northeast where the humanitarian partners are currently providing support to 1.6 million IDPs through cash and in-kind assistance. As at December 2018, 24 humanitarian partners have disbursed \$USD16.2 million to 212,395 HH across 37 local government areas in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno States. ***The ongoing social protection programs and humanitarian cash transfers activities in the north east provide an opportunity to link both interventions***

The Government of Nigeria launched its National Policy on Social Protection on 24th of January 2019 at the second Social Protection Learning Summit. The breakout session on humanitarian and social protection (HSP) nexus led by the CWG helped to ***experiences and deliberate on the different ways humanitarian aid can be linked with social protection (including making social protection shock responsive) while at the same time focusing on the existing opportunities and challenges in Nigeria for making these links.***

Following the SPEEC summit, the Humanitarian Cash Working Group (HCWG) and Social Protection Working Group (SPWG) will support a Government-led coordination mechanism that will ensure that the recommendations from the summit are implemented at the state level especially in the north east where the humanitarian and social protection actors are supporting interventions.

Objective of the SHSP Forum

The HSP forum will create a platform for common learning, information sharing, operational and technical collaboration to promote linkage between humanitarian and social protection programs at the state level.

Specific Objectives:

- Share information on humanitarian and social protection programs.
- Jointly develop plans and identify opportunities to link humanitarian with social protection.
- Document lessons learned and best practice in linking humanitarian with social protection.
- Continue to designing, implementation and monitoring of humanitarian and social protection programs.

Leadership

The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and State Ministry of Budget and Planning (SMBP) in the respective states will co-lead the SHSP.

Composition and Membership

The HSP will be an inclusive platform for humanitarian and Social Protection actors. The group is open to government, international and national NGOs, the Red Cross Movement, UN Agencies, community based organizations, financial service providers and relevant government agencies involved in the humanitarian response and social protection programs. Other interested agencies are welcome to join as observers or share experiences. There is no limit on the number of members and all organizations involved. Consistency of representation for each participating member is appreciated. An updated list of members will be maintained by the Secretariat.

Secretariat

State Emergency Management Agency and State Ministry of Budget and Planning will act as de facto Secretariat, and will establish and maintain a list of member focal points, ensure collaborative and strategic agenda setting, and the development, dissemination and record keeping of meeting minutes.

Meeting Frequency, Location and Modus Operandi

The HSP will meet once in a month. The venue for meeting will be alternated between SEMA and SMBP. The HSP will endeavor to take all decisions by consensus. Members commit to consider the recommendations of the HSP and follow the agreed upon recommendations, where possible.

Interface with Coordination mechanisms

OCHA, UNICEF and a representative of the INGO forum will coordinate the interface between the State Humanitarian Social Protection Forum and other Coordination mechanism. Their responsibilities will include: mobilizing actors from these coordination mechanisms to attend the meeting, ensure a two-way information flow, provide coordination and technical support, link the SHSP with relevant coordination bodies including ISWG, Sectors, OHCT, National SPWG and CWG e.t.c

Agendas, Records, Action Points & Information Management

The Secretariat will consult with members to agree on a draft agenda for meetings at least three days in advance. Draft minutes of meetings will be prepared by the secretariat and circulated within five working days of the meeting. The secretariat has standing authority to publish a summary of the meeting for public dissemination.

The secretariat will track all action points generated by the meetings in an Action Point Tracking Matrix. The Action Points agreed at the meeting will indicate deadlines and the agency or individual responsible for implementation. Action Points will be reviewed at the start of each meeting.