

REGIONAL CASH WORKING GROUP WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Minutes of meeting

Date: 20th April 2021

Venue: Zoom (meeting recorded)

Number of participants: 22

Organisations: IRC, World Vision, CRS, ECHO, OCHA, WFP, Mercy Corps, FAO, Belgium Red Cross, CaLP

1. CWG Borno, Nigeria: Challenges and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic' restriction" 20 April 2021

The main sectors covered by cash and voucher assistance are food security representing 40% of assistance to the sector as well as the early recovery sectors, livelihoods, shelter / non-food items, protection, WASH and gender-based violence, with a proportion of 30% of the total CVA implemented at the level of the three local governments (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe).

The Cash Working Group also hosted a virtual meeting to review the impact of COVID-19 in the three local governments (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe). At the same time, other initiatives have also been put in place by the Cash Working Group, in particular:

- A COVID-19 task force;
- A risk matrix related to cash transfers in the context of COVID-19 adopted;
- Joint monitoring of markets and food security organized in collaboration with the Food Security Sector;
- Relevant CaLP documents shared;
- Advocacy messages on CVA in the context of COVID-19 were developed with a focus on markets, financial service providers, security, the link between CVA and social protection;
- Support for the continuity of CVA activities during lockdown and restrictions.

Participants highlighted the importance to disaggregate modalities (cash and vouchers) in data collection. They are also interested in knowing the volume of cash transfers made during the COVID. It was also pointed out the problem related to the registration of SIM cards which is becoming more and more widespread.

2. CaLP Pilot online training "Core CVA skills for program staff"

Learning lessons from the COVID-19 crisis early on, CaLP initiated the adaptation of its training materials into a virtual format. One of the biggest projects is the design, management and launch of the online training for the "Core CVA skills for program staff". It is a 12-week virtual training (including 9 weeks of learning and 3 weeks of break) is structured in micro-learning freely accessible to everyone at any time and online workshops and locked assessment scenarios, available only for specific cohorts. After a successful pilot session in English in the

Middle East / North Africa, CaLP plans to launch another pilot session in French in West and Central Africa next June. Registrations will be open soon and will mainly target participants from the region to consider the time difference and the contextualization of the training.