Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) Design, MENA Community of Practice

Terms of Reference

Background

The purpose of **the Community of Practice on Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) design** is to provide a forum for issues, lessons learnt and best practices in relation to MPCA, an aid modality which aims to offer maximum flexibility, dignity, and efficiency to people affected by crisis. The rationale for the focus on MPCA design is that whilst there is a growing body of evidence on the many benefits of MPCA in appropriate contexts, it requires new ways of collaborating between humanitarian actors, at all stages of the programme cycle, and across sectors. In addition, while solid tools exist to support collaboration, they have not been widely adopted and MPC is still often used in an ad-hoc way[1]. Challenges remain to be addressed for MPCA to be successfully fitted into the humanitarian system.

This Community of Practice (CoP) follows the definition of a CoP as: "A group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly."[2] CoPs are usually informal, self-organizing, and rooted in peer-to-peer exchange and collaboration. The MPCA design CoP is one of four that have been established with support from the CALP Network in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, along with health, localization, and social protection. The Terms of Reference is intended to be a living document.

Scope

For the first three months of the Community of Practice (November 2021 to January 2022), the primary focus will be learning-orientated exchanges on topics of mutual interest related to MPCA design. These topics were identified by the members during the first kick-off meeting for the Community of Practice meeting held on 10 November 2021. There will be a stock taking session in February 2022 to determine whether the group wishes to retain a broader learning focus or narrow in on more specific objectives, for example, the creation of specific written outputs.

Membership

Members should be involved in MPCA delivery in the MENA region and be able to actively contribute to discussions. The CoP will remain open to welcoming new members through its lifespan. The ambition is to create a foster a trustful and open space to talk, where members of the community relate to each other as peers.

---

1 CaLP Network

2 Étienne Wenger, "Communities of practice: A brief introduction"

Frequency and format

The meetings will take place on a monthly basis for the first three months of the Community of Practice, and will then be reviewed. The duration of the meetings will be 90 minutes. Notes will be taken but meetings will not be recorded.

Sharing of Information

Microsoft Teams will be used to share and access documents related to the CoP. A summary of the agenda available beyond the group, but the notes from meetings will remain limited to CoP members.