Uganda Technical Working Group on Cash-Based Activities

Meeting #15- Notes for the Record

14<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

### Agenda

- 1. Update on Actions from last meeting and CWG CO Leads/Chairs meeting
- 2. Brief presentation of the CWG Dashboard
- 3. Presentation on WFP's Retailer Engagement Strategy
- 4. Presentation of MEB calculator
- 5. Presentation by Airtel on network expansion
- 6. Presentation by GiveDirectly on the outcomes of the Unconditional Cash Transfers in Kyaka II
- 7. AOBs (Next Meeting Date, Proposed Agenda, Action Points)

### 1.0 Update on Actions from last meeting and CWG CO Leads/Chairs meeting

**Key Highlights** 

- The draft report of the MEB household and market assessment was ready and would be shared with all members immediately after the meeting for final comments and input before it can be published.
- Pertaining CFW harmonization, the co-chairs met the OPM to present the decision/case of the CWG as per the discussions from the previous meeting. In that meeting OPM asked the CWG to submit a letter to OPM for further actions and suggested that a workshop be conducted at national level with participation of OPM, Ministry of Gender, District and local authorities to enable all concerned stakeholders be on same level.
- The CaLP workshop of CWG co-leads that took place from 24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018 attracted 24 participants from 9 countries and 16 organizations to learning and experience sharing around cash working groups in various countries.

#### Feedback and Next Steps

The next step in moving forward was to send a letter to OPM about the decision of using the government CFW rates and request for a lead at the Ministry of Gender for further engagements and consultative sessions towards organizing the workshop as the focal person is to lead the discussions

## 2.0 Update Brief presentation of the CWG Dashboard

**Key Highlights** 

- The cash dashboard was presented by the UNHCR CBI data management associate having collected the updated 4W data from partners.
- A key element of the dashboard was the visibility of the CBi donors whose logos appeared at the bottom of the dashboard.
- The essence of the dashboard is that there has been of recent a growing need by donors to see the cash dashboard as part of accountability to donors.

Feedback and Next Steps

- The dashboard lacked contact information, this needs to be addressed in the next round of updating the dashboard
- > The dashboard to be shared by all CWG members through an updated mailing list and also uploaded to the refugee portal
- Some participants were concerned that the figures stated in the dashboard were conflated with planned figures. Depending on what was reported by partners, this could not completely be ruled out

## 3.0 Presentation on WFP's Retailer Engagement Strategy

Key Highlights

- The WFP retailers strategy for Uganda seeks to achieve lower retail prices while increasing or maintaining the beneficiary purchasing power
- > The pilot to run in Rhino and scale up to different zones and settlements
- > The role of WFP in this strategy is to facilitate a better market linkage

Feedback and Next Steps

Members pointed out that a number of agencies have selected value chains to develop in various settlements thus WFP would need to coordinate with the livelihoods sector working group to find out possible synergies

## 4.0 Presentation of MEB calculator

**Key Highlights** 

- > The prototype on which MEB will be derived was presented during the session
- There were 4 components suggested i.e. Food (WFP Scale), Food (Complementary Scale), Basic Needs, CRI/NFI and Livelihoods
- For the food component, members asked to decide whether to go by the WFP scale or the complementary scale

Feedback and Next Steps

- Members suggested that the sector coordinators be consulted to provide the contents of specific MEB categories. It was agreed that since most sector coordinators are in UNHCR, an in-house consultation should be done to get have this information as soon as possible. This would save time compared to waiting for sector coordination meeting to take place.
- > The feedback from sector coordinators would then be used to refine the MEB consequently
- DRC did mention that they are conducting weekly price monitoring in Rhino and Kyaka II settlements. This would also quickly help to provide information for calculating MEB
- > To move further, Stephen asked to send an email to all partners to asking for price data for the various settlements

### 5.0 Presentation by Airtel on network expansion

**Key Highlights** 

- Airtel did clarify that their presentation was not really focused on expansion rather on the state of the mobile telecom eco-system
- Pointed that there are 9 masts on 3G network in West Nile while Rhino is still on 2G. Plan in place to upgrade Rhino and Omugo into 3G networks in March 2018.
- > There are 46 registered active agents in West Nile with an average liquidity of UGX 1.000.000
- > Expansion will depend on payers, payees and availability of agents.
- Airtel recognises that there are still untapped opportunities in SACCO payments, merchant payments, loans and savings, GSM, etc that they would be exploring in due course
- Major challenges faced being around KYC (for beneficiaries and agents), network limitedness, low phone ownership, logistics and low literacy levels to use to open and use mobile money among refugees and host communities.

Feedback and Next Steps

- There was a major concern from members wanting to know whether refugees can become agents given that it would be easy for a refugee to withdraw or send money from a fellow refugee mobile money agent. This is currently not possible because of the requirements however the regulator (UCC) is reviewing the requirements to enable refugees enrol as agents.
- > To address the issue of lack of confidence in using mobile money, Airtel in embarking on customer service education which is vital in increasing confidence.

# 6.0 Presentation by GiveDirectly on the outcomes of the Unconditional Cash Transfers in Kyaka II

**Key Highlights** 

> This presentation was deferred to the next meeting

## 7.0 AOB (Next Meeting Date, Proposed Agenda, Action Points)

Stephen to share the state of the world cash report with the information management (IM) unit for uploading to the refugee portal

#### Next Meeting Agenda items

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday  $21^{st}$  March 2018. The tentative agenda will be as follows;

- MEB Session Validation Exercise (40 mins)
- Cash Dash Board Revision and Presentation (10 mins)
- GiveDirectly Presentation (15 mins)
- Mercy Corps: Refugee Markets Brief (15mins)
- Save the children (Tentative) 15 mins
- AOBs 15 mins

#### **List of Participants**

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