

Uganda Technical Working Group for Cash-Based Interventions

Meeting in Kampala, WFP office, March 26th, 2019.

Attendance: AVIS, DRC, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, CashCap, UNDP, REACH, UNWOMEN, LWF, Red Cross, World Vision, Mercy Corps, ACF, Save the children, DCA, ECHO

Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Presentation on MEB-final version and next steps
3. Vulnerability and Essential Needs Assessment (VENA)
4. CBT Challenge Mapping
5. Communication with Communities and Accountability- Participatory Video-pilot-Adjumani-Maaji 1 UNWOMEN-CashCap
6. UNHCR-WFP Joint Action Plan: Financial Inclusion and Cash Based Interventions for Refugees in Uganda: brief update-Q&A
7. CWG-CashCap support new deployments-feedback and recommendations open discussion-online survey
8. AOB

Agenda	Discussion	Action Points
Introduction	After a brief roundtable introductions, the meeting agenda was reviewed and the meeting started with a presentation on MEB final version and next steps by CashCap-Jimena Peroni.	

<p>Presentation on MEB-final version and next steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Technical MEB Taskforce was established to design the MEB and 23 consultative meetings were held; the final version of the MEB is shared at different levels including at interagency level, CCD platform, and West Nile CWG meeting. • Rights based, Market and Household expenditure Approaches are used to identify sectorial and non-sectorial minimum basic household needs and to analyze unmet needs and priorities. • On average, a household spends 60% of their income on food, followed by education, and Energy and Environment related expenses. • Current food assistance only addresses around 73% of the required amount of food per person/month; this could lead to diversion of other assistances to cover food needs that could negatively impact the achievement of other sectorial objectives; for instances livelihoods objectives could not be met if basic needs are not fulfilled. In summary, an estimation of 1000UGX is provided per person per day when an estimation of 2000-2500UGX is required to cover minimum basic needs. • Next steps; it is recommended that the MEB analysis should be used to inform the design of interventions to address refugees' need in Uganda; a thorough feasibility assessment that includes market analysis for selected types of food, non-food and services should be conducted at local level to determine the appropriateness of MPC at settlement level. Joint targeting mechanisms should be established and consensus on the transfer value should be done through a proper gap analysis; where this is not possible blanket distribution using the MEB as a transfer value is recommended. • ECHO emphasized the need to operationalize the MEB in 2019 and the CWG in this regard should support endorsement of the final MEB harmonization guideline. • DRC in the consortium is planning to implement the MEB in South West (Kyangwali and Kyaka); and experience of the first-round cash distribution will be shared with the CWG partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final MEB Harmonization guideline will be shared to partners by the CWG chairs • Advocacy and technical support to rollout the MEB should continue.
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<p>Vulnerability/Essential Need Analysis Technical Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Taskforce is formed and terms of reference (ToR) is designed to conduct a joint Vulnerability/Essential Need Analysis by WFP and REACH. • The analysis will help to establish common targeting system by determining refugees profiles whose needs are entirely and/or partially unmet; will capture monetary and non-monetary needs that are not included in the MEB. • The assessment report will also help to validate the design and implementation of the MEB towards the end of 2019 and for 2020. • Recommendations made by partners; the need to include Government stakeholders in the exercise also to ensure the assessment is done in line with National policies. • Next steps will include: Establish steering and technical teams to guide the assessment, review available data, KII interview, and preparation and presentation of findings. 	<p>Membership is open to join the technical taskforce for all partner organizations that are interested, willing to engage and contribute. Partner organizations and sectors with protection and other areas of focus are encouraged to join the taskforce.</p>
<p>CBT Challenge Mapping</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CBT challenge mapping is a tool designed to show challenges at different levels of cash programming. The CBT challenge mapping also helps to understand actors involved and factors to consider for a better cash programming. • The map was created on behalf of the cash innovation Taskforce by the Uganda response innovation lab (RIL). The RIL is hosted by save the children. 	<p>The tool will be shared at national and field levels</p>
<p>Communication with Communities and Accountability-Participatory Video-pilot-Adjumani-Maaji 1 UNWOMEN-CashCap</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint CashCap and UNWOMEN Communications with Communities(CWC) initiative was piloted in Adjumani-Majji 1 using a participatory video. • The video is prepared to capture refugees and host communities situation, priorities and needs, in their own voice. • The approach contributes to moving towards people-centered approach and grand bargain commitment by improving communications with communities to receive and respond to their feedbacks. 	

<p>UNHCR-WFP Joint Initiative “ one bank ac- count for all ref- ugees’ house- holds’ brief up- date-Q&A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint UNHCR and WFP action plan is underway to promote financial inclusion and scale up cash assistance intervention as an assistance modality for all refugees in the settlements. • The plan is to open bank accounts for over 300,000 households in settlements as well in urban settings. • UNHCR opened accounts in Oruchinga for 1,600 head of households last year; While in Imvepi, the bank account opening is currently ongoing. • WFP will work with Post Bank to gradually transform existing accounts into full beneficiary-owned accounts. • Regarding KYC, refugee identity cards and/or attestation certificates issued by the government of Uganda are accepted by selected FSPs as valid documents for opening a bank account. It is believed that this modality will reduce challenges associated with setting up a cash delivery mechanism and will help to scale-up cash assistance. • WFP mentioned that this is <u>not a comprehensive financial inclusion strategy</u> and is not a comprehensive common cash delivery platform but should pave the way towards establishing a common cash delivery platform for refugees in Uganda. • Consultation and collective effort is needed by all partners (Development and Humanitarian) to formalize engagement and contractual issues with banks, linkages with mobile money, etc... <p>Questions and concerns raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Can other partners use this bank account facility? By when? 2. Which other documents are required to open accounts? 3. What was the rationale behind opening bank accounts as opposed to mobile money account? 4. UNDP is concerned with the fact that host communities are not included, and this will worsen tension between host and refugees. 5. Accessibility and availability of banks around settlements? Transport facilities for refugees to access banks, or banks will be set up at settlement level? Which bank agents are already available? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR and WFP will share the final draft of the action plan with the CWG • FAQ-document will be prepared and shared with partners in the next CWG meeting • On the common cash facilities, a Taskforce will be established to facilitate consultations and dialogue between partners, discuss pros and cons. and reach a consensus on common delivery mechanisms. The taskforce will also work on technical issues to advice on contractual issues, mitigation of power abuse, beneficiaries’ preference, risk and protection concerns, communication, etc. • UNHCR will share PDM report of the first cash distribution in Imvepi
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6. If bank accounts will be opened for head of households, what is the plan for unaccompanied children and minorities?
7. Consideration for women beneficiaries who are targeted in another program but who would like to use this facility; how will this be solved if bank account is opened for the head of a household, this could create tension in the household.
8. What cost is involved with the service? Are there other costs incurred by refugees to maintain the bank accounts their own? Do they have the capacity?
9. If linked to financial inclusion, it might pose a challenges to other programs like saving and loan...?
10. What is the plan, strategy and all? Would be good if the CN is shared.
11. Why and where mobile money, why and where agent banking?
12. Wouldn't this initiative create competition between banks? How many banks?
13. What is the plan around messaging- to minimize protection related risks?
14. What is the link between this initiative and UNDCF?
15. Have you started any debate with local authorities on mobility issues? How will you mitigate this If you have not opened dialogue with local authorities on this issue yet?

Responses were given to most questions, but UNHCR & WFP agreed to prepare FAQs and respond to the questions in the upcoming CWG meeting.

<p>CWG-CashCap support new deployments-feedback and recommendations open discussion-online survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new cash and markets technical advisor is deployed by CashCap (Meron G. Dori) to technically support the CWG and sectors. Similarly, cash coordinator will be deployed by CashCap to take on the CWG coordination functions. • Online survey is designed to assess CashCap contribution to the cash community in Uganda and to help develop a work plan to support the CWG. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All members of the Cash Working Group to complete the online survey before April 10th/2019. • Survey result and workplan will be shared in the next CWG meeting.
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting on cash activities using Activity info. dashboard for CFW and MPC. • The meeting was concluded with a vast expression of appreciation to CashCap/Jimena and her contribution to the CWG during her 7 months deployment period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work together with sectors to harmonize cash activities reporting particularly CFW and MPC on Activity info. • Share the indicators and details of information to report on activity info.