**GSC Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting – 15th August 2016**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees;**

Victoria Stodart – IFRC, Davide Nicolini – UNHCR, Joseph Ashmore – IOM, Jake Zarins - Habitat for Humanity (chair and minutes)

**Agenda;**

**Where we are now;**

1. Current status of activities (Guidance doc)
* Guidance doc V2 has been shared – CWG members to comment
* V3 will be prepared integrating these comments
* Consultant to be engaged (with cluster WG funds?) to help review the document and improve, simplify and make more visual. Consultant to perhaps be someone with more specific cash expertise – Lili Mohiddin was mentioned as a good option if available.
* Consult with ECHO over the development of their cash guidance to ensure complementarity.
1. Update on other relevant initiatives we could link to (forums/organisational work/initiatives)
* JZ to follow up with CRS on their housing market study.
* CWG membership have engaged in a wide number of relevant forums and interest groups prior to the WHS (DfID, CaLP, World Bank, ODI, etc) to ensure the views of the shelter sector had been factored with reasonable levels of success. Engagement continues – but there have been lower levels of interaction since the end of the WHS.
* Communication will be sent to each group to reinforce the interest of the CWG to continue participating in such discussions on behalf of the shelter sector. (JZ)
* JZ will engage with ‘Markets in Crisis’ group. This informal interagency group of market experts (predominantly from the food sec/livelihoods sector) is closely linked to CaLP and supports them with markets based issues etc. JZ/HFH will propose to be Shelter focal point within the MiC group to channel relevant information to the CWG/GSC.
* All CWG members (and SAG?) to ensure in-house cash/markets discussions are aware of the CWG and interest in engaging in any developments or discussions around cash and the promotion of the shelter message. (E.G UNHCR/Oxfam/Save emergency market mapping work)
1. Feedback to ODI/High level panel
* JZ to draft a response to the key questions/points of the ODI panel paper to highlight where there is agreement on points (such as scale up etc), but also where the cluster/sector is not happy and in particular around the push for unconditional MPCG’s and lack of capacity around M&E of shelter outcomes with MPG’s
* SAG to review prior to submission to ODI
1. Attracting more members;
* NRC have been approached and Roger Dean (Regional Cash Assistance Adviser – Syria) has agreed to join the Cash WG
* JZ to approach CRS and SDC to see if they are interested in supporting either from a shelter or ‘cash’ angle.

**What next;**

1. Capacity building/training
2. CaLP/CASHCAP shelter content (meeting in London on 31st August)
* JZ and others as available will attend this meeting to see how training has developed
* However key message is that ½ day is not enough for participants to know how to coordinate cash/shelter
* CWG will continue to support development of the materials
* CWG will push for clarity on how CaLP/CASHCAP training strategy has been designed to support specific sectors
1. Save the Children (Training in September – Save might make it available to the cluster)
* JZ and others as available will attend this training to observe and facilitate the development of the materials to help ensure a product that would be useful for all shelter cluster members.
* CWG will work with Save to ensure the materials can be accessed and used by the cluster as part of the cash capacity building agenda.
1. Other options/ideas
* CWG to do capacity assessment and profiling of GSC coordinators
* Consider needs of 3 specific groups; Coordinators, Shelter Programme staff, Operational support staff (finance/logs etc) that support shelter/cash implementation
* Engage with CaLP about where perceived capacity gaps around cash remain, how have they devised their capacity building strategy and where shelter sits in this.
1. Advocacy/Promoting shelter in the cash discussion
2. CaLP
* JZ to reach out to CaLP to arrange a meeting to discuss where the direction for the cash discussion is coming from (especially unconditional MPCG’s), who is driving these decisions and what their consultation plan/strategy is around engaging more sectoral representation into these discussions.
* Further investigate what CaLP’s formal position is around coordination of cash and how this is done and by whom.
1. Forums (food sec/market/cash networks)
* Engage with existing forums and networks to see how to build the capacity of current ‘cash experts’ around shelter issues.
* Given most money within MPG’s is spent on shelter (get stats – VS) it is clear that cash experts need to better understand some of the technical concerns of the shelter sector
* Are markets the way into exposing the complexity of shelter/cash? The need for market assessments to form the basis of cash/shelter M&E is a key gap given complexity and lack of capacity around shelter market mapping and analysis.
1. Agencies internal engagement of shelter in cash discussions
* CWG (and SAG?) members to consider how engaged shelter are with ‘in-house’ cash discussions and ensure appropriate consultation with cash colleagues is encouraged.
1. Ideas to take forward
2. Expanding on guidance – e.g markets?
* CWG to engage with World Bank, Asian Development Bank or similar to try and find a suitable case study that highlights the changes that occur within economies post crisis and during reconstruction to illustrate how the (re)construction processes impact and changes local markets around labour, materials, land, etc over time. This to be used to illustrate the kind of considerations shelter actors have to deal with and where finance (cash) inputs can be positive or negative.
* JZ/HFH to consult with CRS around current work on shelter markets.
1. Developing proposals/consortia to tackle specific issues
* HFH developing proposal to adjust developmental tools and approaches to housing market analysis for emergency purposes.
1. What else do we need?
* Link with safer construction project (CARE/Bill Flynn) around importance of developing key construction messages to support shelter/cash programming
* Link with other (?) initiatives around communication of technical messaging in a timely fashion to affected communities and devising the most impactful ways to do this
* Highlight the need for training to be given prior to dispersal of cash to ensure ‘accountability’ when using MPG’s
* Currently the Shelter sector is unable to measure outcomes of unconditional cash – KEY GAP. Can donor/agency M&E experts work with us on how this might practically be done?
* Currently the shelter sector is unable to do detailed market assessments – KEY GAP

**AOB;**

* Approach cluster about need for half day session @ cluster coordinators meeting to discuss cash and coordination to get feedback and make suggestions.
* Approach cluster to suggest 1 ½ hour session on cash @ cluster meeting – needs more focus than possible in market place to highlight gaps in M&E/Markets to broader audience including donors.
* Request cluster funds for consultant to help finalise cash/shelter guidance – make more visual etc.

**Key Points;**

* Work to date (position paper/literature review/IM in cash & shelter work) has highlighted the key gaps of knowledge, skills and tools are within Market Assessment and M&E of shelter outcomes and tracking of how people use cash. These will be the focus of future efforts.
* Capacity building within the sector needs a broad approach and must include outreach to build understanding of the cash experts into the needs of the shelter sector