**GSC Cash Working Group (CWG) Meeting – 21st March 2017**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:** Andrew Powell & Francesca Battistin (Save the Children), Dave Ray & Sam Hewett (Shelter Box), Ciara O’Malley (CARE), Jamie Richardson (CRS), Jake Zarins (HFHI – Chair and minutes)

**Apologies:** Roger Dean (NRC), Joseph Ashmore (IOM), Davide Nicolini (UNHCR), Marta Pena (IFRC), Other agencies/individuals did not respond to the meeting invitation which was sent at short notice.

**Agenda:**

The meeting was held with the **key objectives** of further **reviewing the proposed activities** for the 2017 work plan, discussing particular **ways to action these activities**, **identifying possible champions** to do this work, and to update the returning WG chair (JZ) who has been on extended paternity leave.

A handover call was held earlier in the day between JZ and DN to update on a number of aspects of ongoing work of the WG and related initiatives

**Activities and Updates;**

**1)** **Finalisation of Shelter Cluster cash and shelter guidance**

* Enquiries within UNHCR around possible funding to engage a consultant to help finalise this document is ongoing.
* Suggestion made to see if CASHCap might be able to assist with this – however suspected low shelter expertise among the CASHCap Roster. JZ to ask NRC to investigate.

**2) Capacity building proposals**

* UNHCR still need to draft a proposal for cluster capacity cash building needs - outlining audience, learning needs and scale required for roll out, linked with HR and staffing strategy. DN to do this on return from leave
* CWG need to revisit plan to undertake basic learning needs assessment – as was done by the Food Sec cluster last year. JZ to revisit issue and dig out questionnaire.
* Save the Children are keen to offer their developed Cash/Shelter training resources and take a role as ‘training/capacity building champions’.
* They require partners and suitable support to action such a commitment
* ECHO proposal seen as key to this in terms of offering potential source of resources
* Markets component of the training has good potential to be built upon to form the basis of analysing and adapting existing markets tools to shelter sector needs
* There is a need to engage with CaLP to check on the status of their shelter/WASH standalone module
* Feedback suggested this module had too much of an advocacy agenda to promote MPG’s rather than inform on how to ensure quality programming when using CTP modalities
* ECHO had trainings related to their new shelter and settlement guidelines – including cash which was delivered by Caroline Dewast and Antonella Vitale and drew upon information and assistance provided by the CWG. JZ to enquire about accessing these materials for comparison purposes.
* Shelterbox are developing their capacity around cash and are keen to engage in any way possible at an organisational level – possible ‘guinea pigs’ for training etc.

**3) Market assessments**

* There is a great deal of interest in developing guidance on market assessments from a shelter perspective
* HFHI, Save the Children, CRS and CARE all expressed an interest in potentially taking this forward and maybe becoming champions for this work stream.
* A meeting on the 3rd of April originally scheduled between CARE and Save the Children opened up to all interested agencies and will now be organised through the CWG to allow specific space to discuss this in more detail. JZ to send out invites for this meeting.

**4) Advocacy**

* Discussion was held on the current drafting of the shelter/WASH joint position paper
* Currently seen as some as coming across as negative. Offer from CO’M & FB to assist in proofing language etc to ensure more positive feel to the position
* Perhaps too focused on MPGs rather than being a true statement of an agreed position
* Separate MPG position paper needed????
* JZ to take over from Seki Hirano in drafting duties on behalf of CWG so will bring this feedback into discussions
* CWG to assist process of 3rd draft development
* There are a huge number of cash/markets related initiatives ongoing that would benefit from the involvement of shelter expertise, feedback and involvement.
* Some triangulation of these different initiatives is required so CGW member organisations can more systematically contribute on behalf of the sector/cluster as well as their agencies.
* Basic mapping will be undertaken involving CWG members and networks. Possible topic for the next CWG meeting?

**5) External understanding of the shelter sector**

* As last 3 points above.