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Facts in a nutshell:

- **May 2017:** SDC/HA Basic and Advanced Cash trainings took place in Spiez.
- **June 2017:**
 - Grand Bargain cash workstream meeting.
 - ECHO consultations with partners, London meeting with the private sector, Geneva Cash working group.
 - Good Humanitarian Donorship (GHD) cash workstream meeting.
 - CaLP Global Cash Forum and annual meetings.
- **September 2017:** SDC/HA tailored Cash training for Cooperation Office staff and Swiss NGOs in Haiti.

CaLP's Global Cash Forum & events

A serie of CaLP events took place in Geneva between 27 and 30 June 2017 thanks to SDC/HA financial and logistical support. These included the CaLP Global Cash Forum, the annual CaLP Members' day, the CaLP Board meeting and the CaLP Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting. They were a culmination of the work and discussions which took place during the first half of 2017 and specifically earlier in June through the Grand Bargain cash workstream and the GHD cash workstream. For the full recording of the event please see [here](#).



Some of the key highlights were the following:

- **Manuel Bessler made the welcome speech:** he highlighted the shift from 'why not cash?' to 'how to do it' more effectively and at scale, yet challenges remaining as still only 7% of assistance globally is delivered through cash and vouchers, the opportunity to link with national social protection systems, as done in Sri Lanka after cyclone Roanu, and with local financial service providers, the importance to improve communication within and among constituencies, and better coordinate as per interest shown by the Grand Bargain and the GHD cash workstream meetings earlier in June, efforts also need to be done with advocacy internally, with parliamentarians, the public, and he stressed the importance of CaLP as the gateway for guidance and collaboration globally.





- **Broad attendance:** the Global Cash Forum day was the **first event of this kind globally and showed CaLP's capacity as a unique convener around cash**. Unlike the Grand Bargain and the GHD cash workstream meetings, and in addition to the usual suspects, the CaLP Global Cash Forum saw the participation of the Private Sector, of national representatives of NDMA's or Social Protection programmes from various countries, and academics.
 - **Advancing on the single agency delivery model:** concerns over the ECHO guidelines on new operational models (i.e. separation of the cash delivery from the rest of the programme cycle) were addressed directly and reactions stayed on public record, including those from ECHO Director for Africa, Asia, Latin America, Caribbean and Pacific, and ECHO Advisor on Cash. ECHO informed that the highly contested guidelines will be revised based on feedback collected by CaLP from all stakeholders.
 - **Best practices and current developments:** this included the Turkey Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) whereby multi-purpose cash is implemented at large scale for 800'000 beneficiaries by WFP, the Turkish Red Crescent and the Government's social protection programme; or the Sri Lanka response to cyclone Roanu using the social protection system with 1'074 community-based banks, allowing for delivery of cash in 21 days; or cash as being the default transfer modality in Somalia with the use of WFP SCOPE system, hawalas and mobile transfers.
 - Throughout the main event, what was most reiterated was the **importance of context** and of analyzing the feasibility of use of the different transfer modalities accordingly with the programme/response objective, accountability to affected populations, that local and national systems should be prioritized when possible, caution on all forms of cash "propaganda" and that the scale up of cash globally will inevitably bring issues to light and that the humanitarian community should be ready to address those, including through communication to the public.
 - **The Members' day**, exclusive to the 53 CaLP members, was an opportunity to reflect on CaLP itself and on the meaningfulness of the membership. CaLP will continue to build on its work on evidence, coordination, policy and organizational development. CaLP will also strive to **do a bit less but do it better** (i.e. learn to say no and focus on the highest impact activities).
 - **Some upcoming CTP products:**
 - CaLP's State of the World Cash report will be published in December.
 - SPHERE handbook revision with CTP, along a CTP Programme Quality toolbox.
 - **SDC/HA will have a Cash expert seconded to CaLP starting on 1 September 2017.**
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From the field: A Swiss Cash expert in Myanmar

Marc Gschwend, SHA Cash Assessor, has been working for WFP Myanmar since May 2016. Now 15 months into his secondment, we check in with him.

What is WFP's experience with cash and vouchers in Myanmar?

Cash Transfer Programming

Newsletter # 8

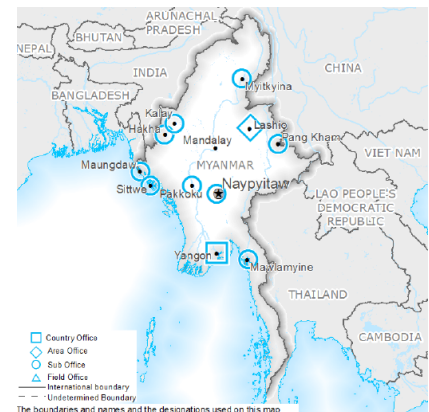
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WFP has been ahead of other actors in the use of cash and vouchers globally, including for years in many of the Asian countries where it has operations. This is true also for WFP Myanmar where the use of cash in relief operations was launched in 2012, albeit with a relatively small caseload. Since I joined the Yangon Country Office, Cash-based transfers (CBT) operations have increased more than fourfold from a total disbursed of 1,9 million USD in 2015 to 8,6 million USD in 2016. Key target groups include people affected by natural disasters such as floods or droughts, IDPs in Shan and Kachin States. This includes conditional cash (Cash for Assets), and unconditional cash (Cash for Relief).



WFP offices in Myanmar

The security and access situation in Rakhine state as well as in a vast part of Kachin state hamper the capacity to provide relief everywhere it is needed, including through cash transfers; WFP together with the UN Country Team and other stakeholders are working on this.

In line with the Government's increasing interest in the use of cash, WFP will endeavor to scale-up this transfer modality in 2018. Furthermore, CBT has been included as a key delivery mechanism in the new WFP Country Strategic Plan covering the period from 2018 to 2022, with the overall approach being guided by the principle: "Why not Cash? And if not now, when?"

How is your work making a difference in WFP's scaled-up use of cash in Myanmar?

My presence has certainly contributed to the Country Office as well as Field Offices' capacity to increase quantitative implementation while maintaining a high level of quality of services provided to beneficiaries. Internal processes were reinforced as per corporate guidelines. The internal cash team in Yangon office was strengthened. Members are international and national staff from all units such as Programme Support, Finance, Supply Chain, VAM, M&E and Gender & Protection. This group is chaired by the CBT unit which I lead. The CBT unit also provides technical support to the nine sub-offices in the country.



Marc Gschwend (right side, in white) is consulting beneficiaries receiving mobile cash transfers in an IDP camp, July 2017. Myittha, Kachin state @WFP.

The main transfer modality here is cash in envelopes. However since February we are experimenting mobile money disbursements to IDP beneficiaries in Kachin State. This was the first time in Myanmar that an aid agency (WFP) used this modality. Based on the positive results of this pilot phase we are currently preparing to roll-out this mobile money/"electronic money wallet" in the coming months to reach some 20'000 beneficiaries in 2018. Bringing-in and rolling-out this kind of innovation is a challenge both internally for us and for the beneficiaries. The learning curve is steep, lessons learned

are numerous for us to ease the process and improve sensitization of all involved. Fortunately all stakeholders are convinced that this is the way forward and there is a great team spirit.

What I especially like about the “electronic money wallet”, with a mobile money financial service provider, is that the process implies opening a personal financial account for each beneficiary head of household and teaching him or her to use it to cash-out or save money or receive money from third parties: this means lasting capacity-building and financial inclusion. Introducing electronic money transfers has involved another challenge: leading the first deployment in Myanmar of the WFP Beneficiary Management system, SCOPE. This digital platform is used to enroll beneficiaries and to plan and manage securely the disbursement process.

During the first eight months of my mission, I also trained a new SHA cash expert, Ms. Fabienne Müller, on the job in what is called an SHA cash tandem scheme. She helped me conduct the above-mentioned tasks, learning also from my counterpart, a National CBT Policy Officer, Ms. Thin Thin Aye. The CBT unit is also leading capacity building of WFP staff and Cooperating Partners staff in project planning and implementation. Last May we organized a three-day workshop to this effect, attended by close to fifty participants from all parts of the country. Staff from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR) also took part in the training. The MSWRR has then asked WFP to organize a similar CBT training in Nay Pyi Taw later this year.

What about the work with other actors? And cash coordination platforms?

My secondment to WFP has allowed the reactivation of the national Cash Working Group (CWG) that I am chairing on behalf of WFP. More than 30 organizations are represented in the CWG. Chairing the CWG involves communication and cooperation with very different stakeholders such as the Myanmar Red Cross, OCHA, UNHCR, international NGOs and even our “Genevois” ICRC which is also one of the cash actors in the country. A key objective is to achieve tangible and useful results in terms of coordination, agreeing on shared protocols such as Minimum Expenditure Baskets and Cash feasibility assessments. Sharing knowledge and lessons learned is also important. The CWG has established formal links with the Department of Social Welfare since 2016 to communicate on future possible linkage between humanitarian aid and social protection. Overall, I feel that this is an important Swiss contribution through my secondment as it impacts many actors within the humanitarian and the development communities in Myanmar. It is also in line with SDC’s objective to support the coordination of cash as per its operational concept of 2017-2020.



Marc Gschwend conducting consultations with beneficiaries of the e-wallet in an IDP camp, July 2017. Myitkyina, Kachin state @WFP.

Among the work done jointly with other actors, I was actively involved in conducting joint cash feasibility studies across the country. This is done by WFP together with UNICEF, OCHA and UNHCR, under DFID funding. Joint assessments were conducted in Afghanistan and Burundi and this will be replicated further. The aim is to avoid having duplications with actors separately analyzing the same markets, the same risks, mapping and separately contacting the same service providers in country, to assess whether cash would be feasible or not. This is positive but in my view it is only a small first step. Hopefully the data collected will not only inform

Humanitarian Response Plans for Myanmar but also lead to further collaboration, such as joint targeting, beneficiary data exchange, or joint delivery of cash or vouchers for instance.

Are there other initiatives you are working on?

In Myanmar, for humanitarian actors like WFP, there is a real opportunity to work on the link of humanitarian assistance with emerging national social protection programmes. The Government intends to significantly engage in the set-up or the extension of such social policies and allocation systems. This involves cash transfer expertise and WFP is in a good position to share this expertise, in addition to technical assistance on nutrition, schools, targeting, monitoring, and shock-responsiveness of programmes. I am in regular contact with the MSWRR and I participate, working closely with UNICEF, in working groups at the Department of Social Welfare within the Ministry.

To conclude, if we all agree that cash is cross-cutting, here in Myanmar the opportunities to illustrate CBT multiple potentials are numerous: lots to look forward to!

Sharing and capacity building: the SDC/HA Cash trainings

This year the **Basic SDC/HA Cash Transfer Programming course** took place from 8 to 10 May in Spiez, and the **Advanced course** took place on 11 and 12 May.



The Basic course, over three days, provided a mix of technical and hands-on knowledge of CTP, welcomed SHA members of various profiles and backgrounds (e.g. Protection, DRR, WASH, Logistics, Shelter) including SET members as well as a few external persons from Swiss partner NGOs, and included feedback from cash experts coming back from the field. This training is the gateway to becoming part of the SHA cash pool.

The Advanced course is held annually if possible and is a unique opportunity for the sharing of knowledge and best practices between SDC/HA cash experts. This year, external participants included the Head of UNHCR global Cash team and Caritas Switzerland's Regional Director for the Syria crisis.

Discussions gravitated around global dynamics and concrete field feedback. Among the topics specifically discussed were:

- **Coordination of cash:** global issues and where Switzerland stands.
- **Cash in emergencies:** SDC/HA SET response with cash in Haiti, readiness of UN partners to respond to the Somalia drought of early 2017 with the use of WFP electronic platform for common delivery between partners in country, and use of the same platform for vouchers in complex conditions in Syria.
- **SDC/HA Cash pool of experts.**
- **UNHCR:** where it stands and where it is going, with Waheed Lor Mehdiabadi, the global head of Cash within the organization. The [UNHCR cash strategy](#) focuses on expanding the use of cash across all operations, aligning processes and systems & institutional structures, and looking at how to best deliver it.

- **Operational delivery models:** update and short discussion of concerns over some of the recently proposed new large-scale models.
- **Social protection:** feedback was provided from a secondment to WFP in Asia & the Pacific where Government social safety nets and social protection programmes were used recently to respond to shocks through cash (Fiji, Sri Lanka) and where work is being done to ensure more alignment and shock-responsiveness.

The discussions gave rise to ideas and recommendations around Switzerland's evolving role, and HA will certainly have to strengthen the link with the Development in SDC.

It is expected for both courses to take place again in June 2018.

Other events since the last edition:

Terminology

- Stakeholders have agreed on two formal occasions to use the [CaLP glossary](#) when it comes to Cash transfer programming technical jargon. While it won't yet solve all problems (such as the very name of CTP as below), it does already clarify a large amount of definitions and it will be further revised by end of 2017.



CTP – Cash Transfer Programming

CBT – Cash Based Transfers

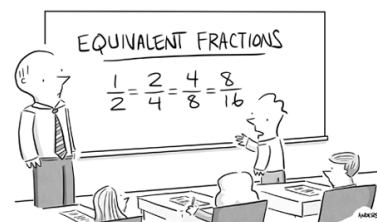
CBI – Cash Based Interventions

CBA – Cash Based Assistance

CBP – Cash Based Programming

Cash & Vouchers

= **All the same thing** -> assistance provided through cash and/or vouchers for beneficiaries to access good and services.



"I understand they all have the same value, but I have to tell you, the ones on the right feel like more bang for your buck."

Grand Bargain cash workstream

- 30 May and 1 June in Rome: **Switzerland participated in the Grand Bargain cash workstream meeting and gave a presentation on Risks.** It was the first specific cash meeting after the World Humanitarian Summit. The meeting focused on opportunities and challenges for scaling up CTP, delivering on the commitments, measuring CTP, risks related to CTP and coordination of CTP interventions. Over 70 people (UN, NGOs, Global Clusters, Donors, Red Cross Red Crescent) participated in the meeting.
 - The co-leads of the workstream, WFP and DFID, shared a workplan this August prioritizing **key actions** based on the interest of the participants:
1. **Measuring Cash**, incl. by ensuring consistency between actors (agreement on how to track and on terminology).
 2. **Donor Coordination**, incl. to facilitate host Government involvement.
 3. **Measuring value for money, efficiency, effectiveness, and outcomes**, with a paper to be developed with marker options.
 4. **Clarification with the IASC on cash coordination.**
 5. **Risk**, incl. building an understanding of what is acceptable, with a working group facilitated by WFP.
 6. **Mapping of Cash work**, incl. gaps in capacity and preparedness.

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- These actions will complement, not duplicate, ongoing work. All stakeholders can choose which priorities they want to support and a status update will be provided in six months' time.

GHD Cash workstream

- 15 June 2017 in Geneva: **Switzerland participated to the workshop organized by the Good Humanitarian Donorship and gave a presentation on Measuring Cash.** Some of the takeaways are:
- **High interest from all the donors to better coordinate** and to do it through the GHD. This will include identifying challenges and lessons learned for coordination of donors on cash, and work on improving it.
- **Importance for each donor to work internally first** i.e. mainstreaming cash between each donor's HQ/field,

different branches, Government, public, have best material identified together and share best practices, including policies on CTP.

- **Formally request the IASC to formalize the coordination of cash** (to support Grand Bargain cash priority).
- **Common messaging:** identify the principles all donors have in common (and know the bottlenecks on the other ones), and have common messages for governing bodies, field donor representations, CERF and other funding mechanisms.
- **Unpack the topic of earmarking versus un-earmarking:** clarify how partners can be incentivized to work differently and promote innovation in cash without the pressure of earmarked funds.
- **Speak the same 'cash language':** use CaLP's glossary on cash.

Good recent reads & resources:

General papers:

- CaLP [A review of inter-agency collaboration for CTP delivery](#), April 2017.
- GPPi, final version of the paper on [Coordination of Cash](#), June 2017.
- CGAP [Role of financial service providers in Crises](#), April 2017.
- WFP [Comparative study on transfer modalities](#) by BCG in Jordan, April 2017.
- OPM, [Lessons learned from the CARE project in Zimbabwe](#), July 2017.
- ODI case studies, *Challenging the system* [Iraq](#), *Humanitarian CTP in* [DRC](#), April 2017.

Tools:

- Advocacy material: CaLP, the [power of financial aid](#) (making the case for cash), 2017.
- UNHCR [Multi-sector Market Assessment guide](#) January 2017.
- UNHCR assessment tool for financial service providers, [CDMAT](#), 2016.
- CaLP [CTP Monitoring guidance](#), July 2017.

Learning:

- Cash learning hub hosted by Kaya, register [here](#).

Upcoming key dates:

- **Currently:** CaLP is conducting a review of the Common Cash facility in Jordan, and ODI is conducting a review of the Lebanon model.
- **September:** A new SDC Programme Officer for Cash Transfers will join HQ in Bern. You will be informed of changing contact person very soon.
- **December:** CaLP's "State of the World Cash report" will be finalized and published.

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