

Yemen

Secondary Desk Review of Cash and Markets Data for Yemen

November 2019



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About REACH

REACH facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. For more information please visit our website: www.reach-initiative.org. You can contact us directly at: geneva@reach-initiative.org and follow us on Twitter @REACH_info.

SUMMARY

Introduction

The ongoing conflict in Yemen has led to a severe and protracted humanitarian crisis, with over 24 million Yemenis in need of some form of humanitarian assistance in 2019.¹ The economy of Yemen has been hit drastically, and the resulting higher prices and decreased purchasing power have contributed to increased food insecurity and an increased use of negative coping strategies by large portions of the population.² In order to address the basic needs of vulnerable groups across Yemen, humanitarian actors are employing an increasing number of cash and voucher-based programs.

With this increased use of cash programming in Yemen, it is critical to have reliable, relevant, and accessible data sources that can inform the design and implementation of cash-based programs. Additionally, since the volatile context can cause the economic situation and needs of the population to change rapidly, access to up-to-date information is crucial for humanitarian actors to plan their interventions appropriately. However, publicly available data sources related to cash in Yemen are limited, largely due to the difficulties associated with data collection, as well as a lack of coordinated systems for the sharing of information amongst humanitarian and development actors.

In line with the Grand Bargain, the CMWG is actively pursuing the means to increase the coordination and harmonization of data collection, analysis, and dissemination.³ To this end, the Cash and Markets Working Group for Yemen (CMWG), with support from REACH, launched a secondary desk review of publicly available data related to cash and markets in Yemen. **The overall objective of this SDR is to develop key recommendations for how to expand and improve the evidence-base available to inform cash and markets programming in Yemen.** The SDR aims to achieve this objective through:

1. Cataloging existing relevant data and analysis that is publicly available on cash and markets in Yemen;
2. Identifying global guidelines for data and information that are critical for organizations to make informed decisions about cash and markets programs, and comparing these standards to available data in Yemen in order to highlight possible evidence gaps;
3. Identifying key areas where CMWG data collection and analysis processes could be streamlined and/or harmonized.

Methodology

The methodology for this review was structured around three main components:

1. **A review of publicly available datasets and reports** to catalog the current state of cash and markets literature related to the Yemen response.
2. **A review of international guidelines⁴ related to information needs for cash and markets programs.** Key questions from these guidelines were compared with the evidence base for Yemen in order to highlight potential gaps in the Yemen evidence base.
3. **A primary data collection survey of CMWG partners** to understand what data is currently being collected, used, and shared by CMWG partners, as well as priorities for future data collection. A matrix of price monitoring tools was also created to compare the types of information collected in order to identify potential areas of harmonization.

Limitations of this methodology include the fact that the review only includes data and reports that are publicly available and were published online, and so may not include all data being used by cash actors if that data is internal. Additionally, many reports did not distinguish between addressing sectoral versus multi-purpose cash assistance, and the international guidelines that were selected may not accurately reflect the priority data needs for

¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Yemen, Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019, 2018.

² Ibid.

³ Grand Bargain Goals 3 and 5; World Health Organization, 'The Grand Bargain – A Shared Commitment to Better Serve People in Need', 2016.

⁴ Guidelines included manuals developed by Oxfam, ICRC, WFP, Mercy Corps, CaLP and the Humanitarian Practice Network.

Yemen. Finally, the secondary desk review (SDR) survey of ongoing CMWG activities and tools was limited to only participating CMWG partners, so the results can only be based on those participating organizations.

Findings

Review of Publicly Available Research, Assessments and Reports

Publicly available information reviewed in relation to cash programming for Yemen included one-off publications, recurring reports, and datasets. This review prioritized studies that were conducted since the current crisis began in 2015, as well as reports that are published on a recurring basis. Overall, the review uncovered that there are few resources that are published on a regular basis, meaning that published information can quickly become outdated. The data that is updated and made available to the public is mostly focused on price and market monitoring, with less information related to needs and risk assessments or monitoring and evaluation, which are necessary in order to appropriately design cash programs as well as to adjust programs based on lessons learned.

The literature reviewed was organized into five main themes which represent the types of information necessary to adequately inform cash transfer programming, of which each had a different level of information available to inform it. These five themes included:

1. **Overall Macroeconomic Factors:** Several published reports and datasets speak to the overall macroeconomic situation in Yemen, and are useful for understanding the wider economic situation of Yemen as a whole, including inflation, the state of the financial system, and impact of the conflict on the economic situation. However, these materials may be most useful for informing a general contextual understanding of the economy, since the majority of these reports utilize outdated data from two or more years ago.
2. **Market Systems:** A number of publications provide data on the prices of food and non-food items, the functionality of supply chains, information on the exchange rate, and issues related to market access. Though there are still gaps related to the geographical coverage of this information, cash actors in Yemen currently have access to a range of data related to market systems.
3. **Financial Service Providers:** Currently only one study provides an assessment of financial service providers in Yemen. However, the CMWG is also currently conducting an additional internal mapping and review of the financial services providers used by its partners.
4. **Needs and Risk Assessments:** The types of beneficiary needs assessments that inform cash programming are not substantially different to those that inform other programming, although more detailed information may be required relating to access of beneficiaries to markets, the viability of different cash delivery methods, beneficiary preferences, the financial literacy of beneficiaries, and the risks and vulnerabilities related to cash for both beneficiaries and implementing agencies. In relation to risk assessments for cash-based programs, little information was found to be publicly available.
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** There have been relatively few studies published relating to the impact, effectiveness, or cost-efficiency of cash programming in Yemen. Although some organizations conduct post-distribution monitoring (PDM) and evaluations of their cash programs, few of these studies are published publicly.

Alignment of Available Cash and Markets Evidence for Yemen with Global Evidence Guidelines

Six general guidance manuals for cash-based programming were identified, based on a review of guidelines that are publicly available, in order to determine what key data and information is necessary to adequately inform cash programming in Yemen. These guidance documents were selected based on the comprehensiveness and quality of the key questions they outlined relating to cash data and information, and included manuals produced by Oxfam, ICRC, WFP, Mercy Corps, and CaLP. From these selected guidance manuals, 82 questions were identified that could be useful for Yemen CMWG partners to improve their understanding of market systems, financial service providers, needs and risk assessments, and monitoring and evaluation exercises.

The SDR found that there is an adequate level of evidence related to **market systems and financial service providers** in Yemen, although some data sources are older, and the amount of data may vary depending on

geographical area. One key gap which is not addressed by the existing public evidence base is an analysis of the potential impact of cash on inflation and the local economy in areas where cash programming may be implemented.

In relation to **needs and risk assessments**, there is a limited amount of nation-wide multi-sectoral data available to address many of these key questions. Key gaps in the evidence base related to needs and risks assessments include:

- An overview of people's access to food, their income, livelihoods, and spending patterns prior to cash transfer interventions.
- Generalized assessments relating to the feasibility and appropriateness of different cash modalities.
- The risks and vulnerabilities related to cash-based programming.
- An overview of how community relations and household gender relations might be affected by cash transfers.

Key questions related to **monitoring and evaluation** appear to have the least publicly available evidence, since this information is often gathered in a program-specific or organization-specific manner, and is not always published. Key gaps in the evidence base related to monitoring and evaluation include:

- Whether current cash programs are cost-efficient, appropriately-designed, and well-coordinated with other initiatives.
- Whether cash programs are effective and result in the impact or outcome that they aim to achieve.
- Whether the impact or outcomes of cash programs are likely to be sustainable.

CMWG Partner Survey of Evidence Generation and Use, and Tools Review

The purpose of the CMWG partner survey and tool review was to uncover what data is currently being collected, used, and shared by CMWG partners, in order to identify the current level of information sharing as well as highlight potential areas for harmonization. The results of the survey highlight that most respondent organizations are conducting regular monitoring related to cash and markets, using a variety of methodologies. Most organizations are also developing some form of output based on this data collection, although only some of these outputs are shared publicly. This indicates that although organizations may be actively collecting cash and markets related information and using it to generate outputs to inform their own programs, much of this information remains internal and cannot be utilized by other cash actors.

The survey also asked whether partner organizations would be willing to share their internal price monitoring tools for comparison. A tool matrix was compiled to present a snapshot of what organizations are collecting from the field, as well as the differing goods that they are prioritizing for price monitoring. There was found to be substantial overlap in the items measured by these tools, which highlights opportunities for harmonization and standardization of data collection and analysis processes.

Recommendations

This report provides a set of recommendations which could contribute to an increase in the quality, quantity, and accessibility of cash-related evidence within the Yemen response, and lead to programming that is more effective, efficient, and accountable to affected populations. These recommendations include:

- 1. Increased sharing of data and information related to cash programming in Yemen, both within the CMWG and also with other relevant coordination mechanisms.** There is already a variety of data and information related to cash and markets in Yemen. However, much of this is not shared in a systematic way with relevant stakeholders. Additionally, many organizations collect data for internal use, and do not share it in a way that it can be used by other actors. A system, facilitated by the CMWG, for compiling and categorizing data related to cash and markets would benefit all partners. This should include the sharing of datasets where possible, as well as full methodological details related to each assessment. This would allow for both replication and increased transparency of findings.
- 2. Increased sharing of baseline and beneficiary needs assessment data for informing cash programming by partners, and increased use of standardized baseline indicators where possible.**

As baseline and needs assessments are time-consuming and resource-intensive, increased sharing of this information and coordination of data collection would make access and resource allocation easier for participating partners, as well as increasing the utility of data for a wider range of actors.

3. **Improved harmonization of tools and methodologies for price and market monitoring to facilitate greater coverage, quality, and utility of this data across a wider area.** For certain data collection activities, the CMWG should consider utilizing a coherent methodology to allow for common comparison of data across a wider coverage area. For example, market monitoring in Yemen is currently undertaken using several different methodologies and tools. While each of these address a slightly different need, cross comparison of this information is difficult. A harmonized, robust methodology and tool would help to increase the comparability of data collected by different organizations, reduce duplication, and increase cost-efficiency. Joint analysis of this data would also allow for a wider coverage area than any single organizational assessment.
4. **Development of a set of harmonized indicators related to the monitoring of cash programming to promote comparability of findings across partners, and increased sharing of monitoring data and analysis publicly or within the CMWG.** There is currently both a lack of sharing and coordination of harmonized processes for monitoring data related to cash programming. A first step to improve this could be for CMWG partners (with input from relevant Clusters) to define a united set of indicators that could be included in an organization's PDMs. These indicators should be based on current CMWG partner PDMs for both sectoral and inter-sectoral cash programs. If analysis of these common indicators could be shared with the CMWG, it would provide partners with a wealth of data to inform future programming.
5. **Development of a process to help CMWG partners coordinate impact assessments and share lessons learned.** The lack of publicly available evaluations on the impact, effectiveness, or efficiency of cash and markets programming in Yemen means that information on best practices specific to the Yemen context is limited. The CMWG should consider developing a system to help partners coordinate their evaluations, share lessons learned, and identify gaps that could be addressed through future evaluations. Additionally, the CMWG should provide technical guidance on the methodologies and tools used to conduct these evaluations. This support and coordination should occur in collaboration with other Clusters when necessary.
6. **Discussion within the CMWG partners to agree which evidence gaps related to cash-based programming in Yemen are a priority to address, and collection of additional data collection if necessary, to fill these prioritized gaps.** To begin, partners can review the evidence gaps highlighted in Table 2 of this report, as well as the summary of evidence gaps describing the key areas where information may be particularly needed. If priority areas are identified by partners, the CMWG could provide technical guidance and coordination for conducting any additional data-collection exercises.

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List of Acronyms

ACAPS	Assessment Capacities Project
CaLP	The Cash Learning Partnership
CBY	Central Bank of Yemen
CMWG	Cash and Markets Working Group
CTP	Cash Transfer Program
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning System
FSAC	Food Security and Agriculture Cluster
FSLA	Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
IPC	Integrated Phase Classification
JMMI	Joint Market Monitoring Initiative
MCLA	Multi-Cluster Location Assessment
MEB	Minimum Expenditure Basket
MoPIC	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
mVAM	Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
OEC	Observatory of Economic Complexity
PDM	Post Distribution Monitoring
SDR	Secondary Desk Review
SFD	Social Fund for Development
SMART	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition
SMEB	Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN	United Nations
WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
WFP	World Food Programme

Measures

gms	Grams
kg	Kilograms
ltr	Liters
ml	Milliliters
USD	United State Dollar
YER	Yemeni Riyal

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INTRODUCTION

Cash Transfer Programming in Yemen

The ongoing conflict in Yemen has led to a severe and protracted humanitarian crisis. According to the United Nations (UN), over 24 million Yemenis require some form of humanitarian assistance, and the conflict has contributed to widespread poverty, political instability, and economic collapse across the country.⁵ As highlighted in the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Yemen, the contraction of the economy is one of the primary factors affecting overall food insecurity, due to “constrictions on the supply and distribution of goods, diminishing purchasing power, exchange rate volatility, and related issues”.⁶

Due to the substantially constricted and volatile economy, which relies primarily on imports, the purchasing power of the population has significantly declined.⁷ Food prices in Yemen are approximately 150% higher than pre-crisis prices, and in 2018 the cost of a food basket to cover minimum nutritional needs rose by 60%.⁸ The difficulties faced by the population in affording basic goods have been compounded by increased transportation costs, since these additional costs are transferred to the consumer.⁹ Higher prices and decreased purchasing power have contributed to increased use of negative coping strategies to deal with food insecurity, including “selling assets, reducing food consumption and clean water purchased, and taking up debt.”¹⁰

To address the reality that vulnerable populations in Yemen have a reduced ability to meet their basic needs, one assistance modality being increasingly employed by humanitarian actors is the use of cash transfer programs. According to a 2018 Cash and Learning Partnership (CaLP) study, cash transfer programming is perceived by humanitarian actors as “highly appropriate for, and suited to, the Yemeni context” due to existing infrastructure and systems to support the scaling up of programming, as well as the reduced risk involved with cash compared to in-kind modalities.¹¹ As outlined in the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan for 2019, a majority of sectors are utilizing cash transfer programming to support households in meeting their basic needs and reducing negative coping strategies.¹² Apart from sector-specific cash programming that aims to address a specific need, such as improved nutrition or rent assistance, humanitarian actors are also providing multi-purpose cash transfers to allow cash recipients to address their cross-sectoral needs more flexibly. In 2019, these cash-based interventions aimed to support millions of families in acute need to bolster their purchasing power.

Currently, operational coordination of cash and markets programming takes place at the sector level, and there is no inter-sector operational coordination mechanism for cash transfers.¹³ However, in 2017 the Yemen Cash and Market Working Group (CMWG) was established to serve as a technical advisory group for organizations conducting cash-based programming. The CMWG provides a platform for consultation amongst cash actors, and helps to establish standards and recommendations for cash and market-based responses.¹⁴ The primary role of the CMWG is therefore to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned, best practices, and guidelines, as well as to coordinate assessments and monitoring related to cash programming.¹⁵

⁵ UNOCHA Yemen, *Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019*.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ The Observatory of Economic Complexity, ‘Yemen Exports, Imports, and Trade Partners’, 2019.

⁹ UNOCHA Yemen, *Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019*.

¹⁰ Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS), *Crisis In Sight*, 2019.

¹¹ UNOCHA Yemen, *Humanitarian Needs Overview 2019*.

¹² The Cash Learning Partnership, *Cash-Transfer Programs (CTP) in Challenging Contexts: Case Study on CTP and Risks in Yemen 2015-2018*, 2018.

¹³ UNOCHA Yemen, *Humanitarian Response Plan 2019* (Sana’a, Yemen, 2019).

¹⁴ CaLP, *CTP in Challenging Contexts: Case Study on CTP and Risks in Yemen 2015-2018*, 2018.

¹⁵ Cash and Markets Working Group, ‘Terms of Reference Cash & Market Working Group (CMWG)’, 2017.

¹⁶ CaLP, *CTP in Challenging Contexts: Case Study on CTP and Risks in Yemen 2015-2018*, 2018.

Rationale and Objectives for the SDR

With the increasing use of cash transfer programming in Yemen, it is critical to have reliable, relevant, and accessible data sources that can inform the design and implementation of this programming. Additionally, since the volatile context can cause the economic situation and needs of the population to change rapidly, access to up-to-date information is crucial for humanitarian actors to plan their interventions appropriately. The collection of this information is hampered, however, by pronounced access barriers linked to the active conflict. Furthermore, a comprehensive review of the evidence base underpinning cash and markets programming in Yemen has not been conducted for two years, meaning that a review of the current evidence base would assist in informing future cash programming.

Accessing publicly available information related to cash programming is further limited by a lack of a coordinated information sharing systems for cash and markets data. Although organizations may be collecting relevant data, much of it is collected for internal use, and is therefore not shared externally. In addition, there are few harmonized systems for humanitarian actors to collaborate on the collection and analysis of cash and markets data. In line with the Grand Bargain, the CMWG is actively pursuing the means to increase the coordination and harmonization of data collection, analysis, and dissemination.¹⁷

To this end, the Cash and Markets Working Group for Yemen (CMWG), with support from REACH, launched a secondary desk review (SDR) of all available data sources related to cash and markets in Yemen. **The overall objective of this SDR is to develop key recommendations for how to expand and improve the evidence-base available to inform cash and markets programming in Yemen.** The SDR aims to achieve this objective through:

1. Cataloging existing relevant data and analysis related to cash and markets in Yemen;
2. Identifying global guidelines for data and information that are critical for organizations to make informed decisions about cash and markets programs, and comparing these standards to available data in Yemen in order to highlight possible evidence gaps;
3. Identifying key areas where CMWG data collection and analysis processes could be streamlined and/or harmonized.

Structure of the SDR

The findings of this SDR are structured into three distinct sections:

1. A summary of the current available data sources related to cash and markets in Yemen, with additional consideration being given to regular publications that chart the changing context. These publications are categorized into five main thematic areas.
2. A summary of the key questions that should be answered in order to best inform cash transfer programming, based on a review of several international guidance manuals for the design and implementation of cash programming. These key questions are mapped against the existing evidence base for Yemen in order to highlight areas where data and evidence may be insufficient or unavailable.
3. A summary of the results of a survey completed by participating CMWG partners that highlights what types of data are being collected related to cash and markets, and how this data is being utilized and disseminated. Additionally, this section includes a comparison of price monitoring tools submitted by participating partners, as a means to identify areas for potential harmonization.

Based on these findings, the SDR provides key recommendations for the CMWG and its partners relating to the expansion of the evidence base for cash transfer programming in Yemen.

¹⁷ Grand Bargain Goals 3 and 5; World Health Organization, 'The Grand Bargain – A Shared Commitment to Better Serve People in Need', 2016.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology for this SDR involved three main components. These three components are:

1. Review of available publications and sources of data related to cash and markets in Yemen.
2. Review of international guidelines related to the assessment and monitoring of cash transfer programming.
3. Consultation of CMWG stakeholders via a survey and a related review of price monitoring tools.

Secondary Desk Review and Analysis

The review of secondary sources was divided into two parts. The first involved a review and summary of data and research relevant to cash transfer programming in Yemen, in order to understand what information is available to help humanitarian actors inform their programming. Only publicly available data and research was reviewed, as this information is the most easily accessible by cash partners. Additionally, as the context in Yemen is rapidly changing, recently produced outputs were prioritized.

The second component of the review of secondary sources involved consultation of international guidelines on cash transfer programming. From these guidelines, key questions that should be addressed in order to inform cash-based interventions were identified. Once these questions were identified, they were compared with the evidence base for Yemen (identified in the previous step), to determine whether the available data addresses these questions. Questions were categorized as having available data, unavailable data or limited data based on the number and quality of data sources available to address each one. The purpose of this exercise was to highlight key areas where the evidence base for Yemen may be incomplete.

Primary Data Collection and Analysis

The primary data collection component of this report involved a short survey that was sent to members of the CMWG. The purpose of the survey was to understand what data is currently being collected, used, and shared by partners, as well as priorities for future data collection. This survey had 19 respondents, representing 14 organizations in total. Responses from participants from the same organization were merged into one observation so comparisons could be done by organization. In total, 14 different organizations participated in the survey during the late summer of 2019.

Within the survey, organizations were asked if they would be willing to share the tools, they use to conduct price and market monitoring. Four organizations shared tools, and a matrix was created to compare the types of information collected by these tools and by the CMWG Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI). Within this matrix, the names of each organization are anonymized, and the items for which prices are collected are displayed and organized thematically. The items were then reviewed against each other to identify whether there are overlaps regarding the types of price data being collected by different organizations, and to identify potential areas of harmonization.

Limitations

The primary limitations of this SDR include:

1. The SDR survey was limited to participating CMWG partners and therefore only represents a portion of those actors participating in cash and markets activities in Yemen.
2. The data sources reviewed for this CMWG SDR only focused on publicly available information. Organizations may collect information that is not disseminated publicly, but since the focus of this review was on data readily accessible to cash actors, internal information and publications were not reviewed.
3. The distinction between data necessary to inform multi-purpose cash assistance compared to sectoral cash was not made in the gathering of sources, as this was beyond the scope of this study. Instead, the information reviewed here pertains to evidence and guidance for cash transfer programming.
4. Gaps in the overall evidence base were identified based on comparison with international guidelines, which may not reflect priority data needs for Yemen. Further discussion of the gaps identified is necessary to determine priority evidence needs.

FINDINGS

1. Publicly Available Research, Assessments, and Data

Over the past three years, there has been an increase in the amount of published studies related to the cash and markets context in Yemen. This section summarizes some of the key one-off publications, regular reports, and datasets that are publicly available to humanitarian cash actors to inform their programming in Yemen. One-off publications include stand-alone assessments or studies designed to explore a topic in-depth, while regular reports provide periodic monitoring information about key indicators or themes, meaning that trends can be tracked over time. Datasets refer to the underlying data that was collected to inform both one-off or regular reports. However, most datasets linked to those reports summarized in this section are not public or not regularly updated, and therefore only a limited number of datasets could be reviewed. The majority of the reports and information reviewed were published after the beginning of the current crisis in 2015; however, some pre-conflict reports were reviewed to provide an economic snapshot of Yemen prior to the crisis.

This section is disaggregated into five thematic sections which represent the types of information necessary to adequately inform cash transfer programming. For each thematic area, publications relevant to the current crisis in Yemen are briefly summarized in order to give an overview of the extent and type of information available for cash actors to use to inform program planning. The thematic areas explored in this report include:

1. **Overall Macroeconomic Factors:** Macroeconomic factors describe the overall economic situation of a country (such as GDP, inflation, and employment), and the impact of external or internal events on the national economic and humanitarian situation.
2. **Market Systems:** This theme covers the functionality of markets, prices of goods, availability of goods and services, supply chains, market actor behavior, and accessibility of markets for affected populations.
3. **Financial Service Providers:** This theme refers to the coverage and capacity of financial institutions, beneficiary access to these institutions, the services provided, costs associated with using financial services, and adequacy of financial infrastructure.
4. **Needs and Risk Assessments:** The types of needs assessments that inform cash programming are not substantially different to those that inform other programming, although more detailed information may be required relating to access to markets, risks and vulnerabilities related to cash, and beneficiary preferences.
5. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** This covers studies relating to the impact, effectiveness, efficiency, or appropriateness of cash transfer programming, such as PDM reports and program evaluations.

Overall Macroeconomic Factors

An understanding of national macroeconomic systems and trends of a country is necessary in order to appropriately design cash transfer programs that support these existing economic systems. Several published reports and datasets speak to the overall macroeconomic situation in Yemen, and are useful for understanding the wider economic situation of Yemen as a whole, including inflation, the state of the financial system, and the impact of the conflict on the economic situation.¹⁸ However, while the information that is publicly available related to overall macroeconomic systems in Yemen may be useful for informing a general contextual understanding of how the economy has historically functioned, a majority of available studies utilize older data sources and may not be relevant to informing current programs.

One-off Publications

A market study conducted in 2010 by the World Food Programme (WFP) involved key informant interviews with local traders to assess price shocks in Yemen brought on after the global financial crisis of 2008-2009.¹⁹ This study provided a snapshot of the economic health of Yemen before the conflict, and outlined the overall

¹⁸ Macroeconomic indicators such as exchange rates and price indicators are addressed in the section related to market systems.

¹⁹ WFP, *Market Study Yemen*, 2010.

macroeconomic drivers of food insecurity, the ability of importers to deal with fluctuating prices, and the subsequent consumer response to decreased purchasing power. It also tracked the credit available in markets, as well as the ripple effect throughout communities as vendors were given decreased lines of credit by suppliers, which in turn caused less credit to be offered to consumers. The tightening of possible credit sources was shown to have drastically decreased purchasing power and increased the cost of basic goods.

Two major reports have been published since the crisis began that relate to how national level economic trends have affected the humanitarian situation. The first, published in 2016, was a **WFP special focus report on the effect of the public sector crisis on food security**, highlighting how national financial instability has led to decreased purchasing power, and therefore decreased food security, for a majority of the population.²⁰ The report indicated that Yemen's inability to cope with the economic shocks related to a falling currency and continued armed conflict was likely to lead to a deteriorating food security situation.

The second major report was published in January 2017 by the Humanitarian Foresight Think Tank, and was an **analysis of the factors, decisions, and actors that led to the economic collapse in Yemen**.²¹ The report assessed the failure and collapse of the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) and the lack of leadership by portions of the government and bank as possible factors for continued large scale problems with addressing humanitarian needs. The authors of the report expressed concern that rising food prices and the ineffectiveness of the CBY would affect the long-term ability of the bank to contribute to solving humanitarian problems.

Recurring Reports

Yemen Socio-Economic Update (monthly): The Yemen Socio-Economic Update assesses a new economic topic in Yemen for each monthly issue, with the aim of these publications being to provide macroeconomic updates on developing trends.²² This publication provides some economic forecasting, as well as updates on economic indicators such as exchange rate fluctuations, inflation, and the long-term ramifications of various potential outcomes related to the current crisis.

Datasets

Observation of Economic Complexity Database for Yemen (Dataset): The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Observation of Economic Complexity (OEC) database for Yemen is a resource that uses UN Comtrade data from 2001-2017 to highlight trends related to Yemen exports and imports.²³ Currently, the database only includes information up until 2017, and only provides data on reported trade, not black-market activity. However, despite these limitations, the OEC database provides an insight into the state of the country's economy. According to the most recent complete dataset of trade in 2017, Yemen has a \$4.57 billion trade deficit, which has not always been the case. In the early 2000s Yemen had a trade surplus, which evaporated as the economic strain of growing unrest and conflict diminished the country's export ability.

World Bank Republic of Yemen Dataset (Dataset): The World Bank's dataset on Yemen provides a broad dataset that follows key economic and social trends.²⁴ For instance, some of the indicators tracked by the World Bank include GDP, school enrollment, life expectancy, and carbon dioxide emissions. The data is disjointed as some observations are from 2017 or 2018. While this data can provide interesting and insightful overview of high-level economic trends, its use of less recent data means that it may not be completely relevant to the current humanitarian situation.

²⁰ WFP, *Yemen Special Focus*, 2016.

²¹ Humanitarian Foresight Think Tank, *Yemen Six Month Economic Analysis Economic Warfare & the Humanitarian Context*, 2017.

²² Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation, 'Basic Social Services', *Yemen Socio Economic Update*, May.43 (2019); Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation, 'Yemen in International Reports', *Yemen Socio Economic Update*, March.41 (2019); Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation, 'Prospects for Yemen's Economy and Livelihoods Priority', *Yemen Socio Economic Update*, February.40 (2019); Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation, 'Food Insecurity in Yemen', *Yemen Socio Economic Update*, April.42 (2019).

²³ The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Observatory of Economic Complexity, 'Yemen Exports, Imports, and Trade Partners', 2019.

²⁴ The World Bank, 'World Bank Dataset for Republic of Yemen', *Datasets / Dashboard*, 2019.

Market Systems

A comprehensive overview of how national, regional, and local market systems function is critical not only for determining the cost of living for vulnerable populations (which informs the value of cash transfers), but also for understanding the processes by which basic goods make their way to the populations that need them, and the challenges associated with accessing these basic goods. This information is necessary in order to appropriately inform the implementation strategies of cash transfer programs.

The number of assessments related to market systems has increased considerably since an SDR conducted by REACH in February 2017, which highlighted gaps in information related to the functionality of markets.²⁵ There are a number of one-off and recurring publications related to markets in Yemen that provide data on food and non-food item prices, the functionality of supply chains, exchange rate information, and issues related to market access. Though there are still gaps related to the geographical coverage of this information, cash actors in Yemen currently have access to a range of data related to market systems in Yemen. The wide variety of resources being published also presents opportunities for increased coordination and harmonization between actors producing these information sources.

One-off Publications

In February 2017, REACH conducted an **SDR summarizing the current state of cash and markets literature** in Yemen.²⁶ The review highlighted publications related to market systems for goods and services, financial service provider capabilities, risk analysis, and cost-benefit analysis. **Key findings highlighted that the available data related to the functioning of market systems was limited**, and that only the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster was conducting regular public market monitoring.

An additional REACH review in December 2017 focused on **market functionality and community perceptions of market access** across Yemen.²⁷ The report found that markets were functioning along two parallel market systems, with each side in the conflict having created their own separate supply chain and distribution systems. Although communities were accessing markets, their ability to participate in those markets was severely hampered by falling purchasing power and increased transportation costs associated with increases in fuel prices. **Overall, while markets were still functioning, there were major barriers to entry for both vendors and consumers.**

Other published reports investigate how market systems are structured in Yemen. WFP's 2018 **rapid market assessment** offered an overview of the Yemeni economy and the factors that have led to the current food crisis.²⁸ The report outlined the extensive supply chains for food, as well as fuel and the impact that exchange rate fluctuations had on purchasing power and the local economies of three cities: Sana'a, Hodeidah, and Hajjah. **The paper concluded that in order to monitor future supply chains and consumer demand, it is imperative to have data that is accessible, coherent, reliable, and timely.** Additionally, the report advised that if cash-based interventions for food assistance were introduced in the cities assessed, a larger market basket of goods should be covered.

In 2018, CaLP published a **study on the economic risks associated with cash transfer programs** and found that risks were associated with fluctuating exchange rates, low liquidity, and the precarious position of the Yemeni banking system.²⁹ The volatile market saw transportation constraints, price fluctuations, and a limited number of suppliers and vendors. These factors can make it difficult for cash transfer programs to predict and respond to demand shifts as situation changes. The CaLP study also looked at the heavy reliance on remittances within Yemen and the subsequent dependence on *hawalas*, which are an informal lending network with relationships to banks, to facilitate cash transfers. As part of this study, CaLP found that risk monitoring was occurring especially for exchange rates, market monitoring, and food basket value, although there was a lack of coordination between cash actors. In

²⁵ REACH Initiative, 'Desk Review of Cash and Market Studies in Yemen', 2017.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ REACH Initiative, 'Inter-Agency Joint Cash Study: Market Functionality and Community Perception of Cash Based Assistance', 2017.

²⁸ WFP, *Food Markets in the Time of Conflict and Cholera*, 2018.

²⁹ The Cash Learning Partnership, *CTP in Challenging Contexts: Case Study on CTP and Risks in Yeme 2015-2018*; The Cash Learning Partnership, *The State of the World's Cash Report*, 2018.

addition, two main risks were identified: that suppliers would not be able to keep up with demand, and that the subsequent price volatility would be linked to decreased supply along with a faltering exchange rate. **Overall, CaLP recommended a combined approach to risk identification and analysis to be formalized amongst humanitarian actors, with further data sharing and consistency in risk monitoring.**

Recurring Reports

WFP Market Watch Report (monthly): The Market Watch Report is a monthly output of WFP focused on both the macroeconomic situation in Yemen as well as the prices of many staple household food and fuel items.³⁰ The report breaks down price differences by location, as well as highlights locations of shortages and price fluctuations by type of goods. It also provides a retail price index of various goods over the last one month, three months, six months, and pre-crisis. This can help humanitarian actors to understand price shifts over time and across various locations in Yemen. Finally, the Market Watch Report has created an alert for price spikes by comparing the current price to the seasonal average, which helps to highlight possible recurrent supply and demand issues within those markets.

Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin (monthly): The Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin is published as part of a partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), and the Food Security Technical Secretariat of Yemen. The bulletin provides in-depth comparisons of locally produced and imported goods as well as a comparison of rural versus urban market prices.³¹ Exchange rates are compiled for all cities and compared to the exchange rates of previous months. The bulletin offers an excellent synopsis of the situation regarding exchange rates and food prices in urban and rural markets throughout Yemen.

Yemen Food Security Outlook, Famine Early Warning System Network (6-monthly): The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) conducted a Yemen food security outlook for June 2019 to January 2020, which expands on the work of the February 2019 to September 2019 issue.³² The June 2019 to January 2020 edition highlighted the increased food security issues predicted for early 2020.³³ Major concerns were drawn around the increased conflict, damaged infrastructure, and stifling of trade and supply routes. The previous outlook highlighted these possibilities with particular interest in the fighting around Al Hudaydah City and the fact that insecurity around the port would strain trade lines and place more people at risk of famine.

Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMIMI) Situation Overview (monthly): This monthly situation overview, developed by REACH Initiative on behalf of the CMWG, tracks price fluctuations for key water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) goods such as soap, laundry powder, sanitary napkins, and water (all components of the WASH section of the CMWG Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB)).³⁴ In addition to those goods there is also data related to fuel and exchange rates. Furthermore, the JMIMI provides information on other aspects of market

³⁰ WFP, 'Yemen Market Watch Report: February', February.³³ (2019); WFP, 'Yemen Market Watch Report: March', March.³⁴ (2019); WFP, 'Yemen Market Watch Report: January', January.³² (2019).

³¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and MoPIC - Food Security Technical Secretariat, 'Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin: Issue Number : 49', *Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin*, August.49 (2019); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and MoPIC - Food Security Technical Secretariat, 'Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin: Issue Number : 44', *Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin*, March.44 (2019), 1–14; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and MoPIC - Food Security Technical Secretariat, 'Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin: Issue Number : 48', *Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin*, July.48 (2019); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and MoPIC - Food Security Technical Secretariat, 'Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin: Issue Number : 43', *Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin*, February.43 (2019).

³² Famine Early Warning Systems Network, *Yemen Food Security Outlook February to September 2019 Continued Conflict Expected to Prolong Famine Risk in Yemen in 2019*, 2019.

³³ Famine Early Warning Systems Network, *Yemen Food Security Outlook Major Food Security Emergency in Yemen Expected to Continue into Early 2020*, 2019.

³⁴ REACH Initiative, 'Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative | February 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative | January 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative | July 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative | June 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative | March 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative | May 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative | August 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen Joint Market Monitoring Initiative | April 2019', 2019.

systems in Yemen, including maps of supply chains and an overview of barriers faced by vendors in conducting their business. Data for the JMMI is collected through interviews with vendors in locations throughout Yemen.

Yemen mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) bulletin (monthly): The mVAM bulletin, produced by the WFP, monitors overall food security indicators in Yemen and provides regular situation updates.³⁵ Contextual updates provide data related to women's nutrition, poverty analysis, food consumption, and coping strategies. The bulletin provides a comparison of these indicators from month to month to offer trend analysis over time. The mVAM is a good resource for information related to household food security in Yemen. Monitoring occurs monthly through randomly dialing individuals using a bank of Yemeni phone numbers.

Datasets

WFP Price Monitoring Data (Dataset and dashboard): The WFP currently reports on a variety of goods related to food prices. The data provided on the WFP website is comprehensive for 24 market locations in Yemen, with a market basket of 22 items.³⁶ The Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (VAM) economic explorer dashboard on the WFP website provides an easy to use interface to produce clear graphs by selecting food and non-food items, regions, and times. The dashboard is continually updated, and data feeds into the monthly Market Watch Report. The full dataset is available to download from the dashboard.

In the raw data for the WFP Global Food Prices Database, monthly observations for Yemen only come from one market in each location. While these locations may provide a suitable understanding of economic trends, it may be difficult to extrapolate to areas with different characteristics than the specific market listed. The data serves as an excellent way to assess the overall health of broad economic price indicators as well as surveying an ample market basket of essentials for a Yemeni household. The longevity of this price monitoring also allows for an analysis of price shocks across different areas of the country.

JMMI Data (Datasets): Based on data gathered by CMWG partners, REACH produces monthly datasets on behalf of the CMWG, which are used to inform the JMMI situation overview, and highlights the nature of markets in governorates throughout Yemen.³⁷ These datasets present all data collected by partners of the JMMI, and are available for download on the REACH Resource Center.

The scope of the survey employed for the JMMI is small and relies on buy-in from partners to initiate and sign up for data collection. Therefore, the location of data collected shifts from one month to the next. The market basket assessed by REACH only pertains to fuel, WASH items, and currency exchanges, thus limiting the overall scope of the assessment. However, recent questions have been added relating to re-stocking times and supply chains, providing some insight into the state of trade networks in Yemen.

Financial Service Providers

As cash transfer programming becomes prevalent in Yemen, it is critical to understand the capacity of financial service providers to facilitate this type of programming. Currently only one study, published in 2018, provides an assessment of financial service providers in Yemen. However, the CMWG is also currently conducting an internal mapping and review of the financial services providers used by its partners. Review of the capacity of and best practices associated with using financial service providers in Yemen could be implemented on a more regular basis, as a way to keep cash actors updated on the landscape of potential partnerships.

³⁵ WFP, 'Yemen MVAM Bulletin No. 45', *Yemen MVAM*, May.45 (2019); WFP, 'Yemen MVAM Bulletin No. 46', *Yemen MVAM*, June.46 (2019); WFP, 'Yemen MVAM Bulletin No. 44', *Yemen MVAM*, April.44 (2019); WFP, 'Yemen MVAM Bulletin No. 47', *Yemen MVAM*, July.47 (2019); WFP VAM, 'Yemen MVAM Methodology' (WFP, 2019); WFP, 'Yemen MVAM Bulletin No. 48', *Yemen MVAM*, August.48 (2019).

³⁶ WFP VAM, 'Prices - Dataviz | WFP-VAM', *VAM Price Database*, 2019.

³⁷ REACH Initiative, 'Yemen JMMI Dataset | January 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen JMMI Dataset | February 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen JMMI Dataset | March 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen JMMI Dataset | April 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen JMMI Dataset | May 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen JMMI Dataset | June 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen JMMI Dataset | July 2019', 2019; REACH Initiative, 'Yemen JMMI Dataset | August 2019', 2019.

One-off Publications

In 2018, the CMWG and REACH conducted an **assessment of financial service providers** in Yemen and their capacity to facilitate cash transfer programs.³⁸ The report focused on potential cash delivery modalities, the speed of delivery, and risk assessment and mitigation. Many of the financial service provider representatives interviewed reported possible liquidity issues, but also described new adaptive ways of dealing with security threats related to both data breaches and cash transportation. The report noted that while this assessment was not a comprehensive overview of the challenges associated with working with financial service providers in Yemen, it was a crucial first step to providing a basis for the humanitarian community to further investigate financial service provider practices when delivering cash transfer programming.

Needs and Risk Assessments

In order to effectively design cash-based programs and develop appropriate targeting strategies, the needs of the affected population must be understood. The types of needs assessments that inform cash programming are not substantially different to those that inform other programming, although more detailed information may be required relating to access to markets, the viability of different cash delivery modalities, financial literacy of beneficiaries, and beneficiary preferences for different types of cash assistance. There should also be a specific focus on the risks and vulnerabilities related to cash-based programs, since they involve a different set of risks compared to in-kind programs.

There are several sectoral and multi-sectoral assessments conducted regularly in Yemen. Although this section does not provide a comprehensive overview of all needs assessments for Yemen, it lists several of the national-level assessments that are particularly relevant to cash and markets programming. In relation to risk assessments for cash-based programs, little information is publicly available, although CaLP has published studies related to economic risk (highlighted in the Market Systems section) and a review of how cash-transfer programs in Yemen address risk (highlighted in the Monitoring and Evaluation section).

Recurring Reports

Multi-Cluster Location Assessment (Yearly): The Multi-Cluster Location Assessment (MCLA) is a yearly, national level assessment that evaluates the “local demographic profile, displacement dynamics, key vulnerabilities, access to basic services, and humanitarian needs of six population groups” across Yemen.³⁹ The MCLA provides a good overview of the inter-sectoral needs of different groups across different geographical regions of Yemen, which is vital for informing the targeting of cash and other types of programming. The MCLA also explores some indicators strongly related to cash programming, such as market accessibility, economic opportunities, and the livelihoods strategies of affected populations.

Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Analysis: The IPC is an integrated analysis framework that describes the food security situation in all districts in Yemen.⁴⁰ The IPC is published quarterly, and it draws on various information sources, including Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition (SMART) survey data and Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) data. The IPC is relevant for cash transfer programming because of its strong focus on understanding the levels of food insecurity across the country. Food security and access to adequate nutrition are the primary needs that cash transfer programs in Yemen aim to address.

Cluster and sectoral assessments: Humanitarian Clusters in Yemen conduct a variety of assessments relevant to their particular sectors, some of which are available online, and many of which are relevant for informing the design of sectoral cash programs (cash programs that address specific sectoral needs, such as WASH, health, or shelter). Some of the major recurring resources published by Clusters which may help cash actors to understand sector-specific needs include:

- Expanded Famine Risk Monitoring
- WASH Partner Assessments (various)
- Protection Assessments (various)

³⁸ REACH Initiative, *Financial Service Providers Assessment | Yemen*, 2019.

³⁹ MCLA Technical Working Group, *Multi-Cluster Location Assessment*, 2018.

⁴⁰ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, ‘Yemen: IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis’, *IPC*, July-September 2019.

- Displacement Tracking Matrix Assessments and Rapid Displacement Tracking
- Health Resources Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS)
- Electronic Disease Early Warning System (eDEWS)
- District Health Information System (DHIS)

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation of cash programs is necessary to determine whether and to what extent these programs are meeting the needs of targeted populations, as well as how they can be improved to increase effectiveness and impact. There have been relatively few studies published relating to the impact, effectiveness, or cost-efficiency of cash programming in Yemen, and although some organizations conduct PDMs and evaluations of their cash programs, few of these studies are available publicly.

One-off Publications

In 2015, a journal article in *International Peacekeeping* described **Yemen Social Fund for Development's (SFD) role in delivering foreign aid in Yemen through cash transfers**.⁴¹ The publication stated that the SFD's ability to continue operating within the conflict derived from local connections, perceived neutrality, and a flexibility to adapt project funding structures. The report lauded the SFD for being a paradigm on how to operate cash programming in difficult locations, and charged other social funds to emulate SFD's success.

CaLP conducted a **review of cash transfer programs and risks in Yemen between 2015 and 2018** with a focus on the expanded role of cash transfer programs as a means of delivering assistance.⁴² CaLP asserted that unconditional cash transfers were the most widely utilized transfer modality within Yemen as the country already had institutional mechanisms established for the distribution of cash from post offices, banks and *hawalas*. Security and exchange rates were shown to be monitored extensively by various partners.

In 2016, **UNHCR conducted a monitoring of their cash programs** in Yemen. The sample selected for this monitoring consisted of 593 internally displaced persons (IDPs) across 75 households, who collectively received 16,322 USD over the period monitored (between March and May 2016).⁴³ Many of the respondents to the survey found that the money provided did not meet some of their needs. However, the report concluded that the program was implemented well, and that the distribution was satisfactory in terms of the timeliness of payments, distance to distribution sites, and safety of the distribution process.

In 2019, CARE Yemen, in conjunction with Action Against Hunger, conducted a **PDM survey and evaluation on the effect of multi-purpose cash transfers on the residents of Abyan and Amran**.⁴⁴ This report was one of the few PDMs made public that relates to the impact cash transfers have on the households that they targeted. The objectives of the program were to "...enhance food and nutrition security, promote livelihood recovery and resilience of vulnerable households, and stimulate local markets."⁴⁵ The results showed that cash transfers were useful to beneficiaries with regards to paying off debts and easing coping strategies, and that the nine month timeframe of the program allowed families to invest in future income-generating activities. One conclusion was therefore to have longer multi-purpose cash transfer timeframes to allow people to better implement investment and saving strategies.

Recurring Reports

The WFP provides a monthly **Emergency Dashboard that encompasses the number of people aided by WFP's initiatives**.⁴⁶ The dashboard highlights potential food insecurity throughout Yemen, as well as transportation

⁴¹ The Yemen Social Fund for Development: An Effective Community-Based Approach Amid Political Instability, 2015.

⁴² The Cash Learning Partnership, *CTP in Challenging Contexts: Case Study on CTP and Risks in Yemen 2015-2018*, 2018.

⁴³ UNHCR, 'Cash and Assistance Post Distribution Monitoring Report', 2016.

⁴⁴ CARE and Action Against Hunger, *The Gendered Dimension of Multi-Purpose Cash Supporting Disaster Resilience*, 2019.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ WFP, *Yemen Emergency Dashboard | January 2019* (WFP, 2019); WFP, 'Yemen Emergency Dashboard | February 2019' (WFP, 2019); WFP, *Yemen Emergency Dashboard | March 2019* (WFP, 2019), MARCH; WFP, *Yemen Emergency Dashboard | April 2019*, 2019; WFP, *Yemen Emergency Dashboard | May 2019*, 2019; WFP, *Yemen Emergency Dashboard | June 2019* (WFP, 2019); WFP, *Yemen Emergency Dashboard | July 2019* (WFP, 2019).

constraints for both sea shipments and road closures. Overall, the emergency dashboard provides an easily consumable update on the previous month's activities and how many beneficiaries were affected by those activities.

Comparison of Recurring Reports related to Cash and Markets in Yemen

The table below highlights some of the differences between various regular reports with regards to methodology, coverage area, sampling, and sectors assessed. The variety of methodologies, coverage areas, and sectors are indicative of the differing goals of these publications. Of note, there is a heavy representation of food security and multi-sectoral reports available for cash actors to draw upon.

In addition, most recurring price and market monitoring outputs are related to food security, since the price of food is a large determinant of the value of cash transfers. WASH-related price data is also collected regularly through the JMMI. However, other costs generally associated with a Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB),⁴⁷ such as health and education-related expenses, are not regularly tracked or made available to the public. This may mean that the estimation of sectoral cash transfer values, apart from WASH and Nutrition, are more likely to be calculated using data from one-off assessments conducted by individual agencies.

Table 1: Comparison of Recurring Reports related to Cash and Markets in Yemen

Report	Frequency	Methodology	Sampling	Coverage Area	Sectors
MCLA (2018)	Annually	KI analysis of location	Purposive sampling	All of Yemen	Multi-sectoral
MCLA (2019)	Annually	Household interviews	District level Household Sampling	All of Yemen	Multi-sectoral
IPC	Quarterly	Analysis of secondary data sources (SMART and FSLA data)	Differs between the data sources used	All of Yemen	Food security
WFP Market Watch Report	Monthly	Weekly interviews with KIs at governorate capitals and from partners throughout Yemen	Purposive Sampling	Up to all 22 Governorates	Food security
Yemen mVAM Bulletin	Monthly	Phone questionnaires	Rotating Panel Design from pool of participants from previous surveys	Up to all 22 Governorates	Food security
Monthly Market Monitoring Bulletin	Monthly	KIs at three market centers in main cities and three or four rural markets per governorate	Purposive sampling	13 Governorates	Food security
Yemen Socio-Economic Update	Monthly	Secondary data review	N/A	All of Yemen	Multi-sectoral
FEWS NET	Biannually	Secondary data review and forecasting future scenario development through assumptions	Methodology selected does not use sampling	All of Yemen	Food security
JMMI	Monthly	In-person KIs with at least three markets per district	Purposive sampling	Fluctuates based on partner participation	WASH

2. Alignment of Available Cash and Markets Evidence with Global Guidelines

As part of this SDR, six general guidance manuals for cash-based programming were reviewed in order to determine what key data and information is necessary to adequately inform this type of programming. These manuals included:

⁴⁷ For details on MEB and SMEB values utilized by cash actors in Yemen, see Annex I.

1. Cash-Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Oxfam, 2006.
2. Guidelines for Cash Transfer Programming, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2007.
3. Good Practice Review, Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Humanitarian Practice Network, 2011.
4. Cash and Vouchers Manual, WFP, 2014.
5. Cash Transfer Programming Toolkit, Mercy Corps, 2015.
6. Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multi-Purpose Cash Grants, CaLP, 2015.

From these guidance manuals, 82 questions were identified that are important to be assessed or tracked in order to adequately inform cash-based interventions. These key questions relate to market systems, financial service providers, needs and risk assessments, and monitoring and evaluation. After these questions were identified, they were compared with the available evidence base for Yemen to determine whether these questions were adequately addressed. Questions were categorized as having available data, unavailable data, or limited data based on the number and quality of data sources available to address each question, as well as whether the available data is up-to-date. The list of questions, along with the level of evidence identified, can be found in Table 2 below. Matrices comparing these questions, the guidance manuals that recommend them, and the evidence available related to each question can be found in Annex IV.

The purpose of this exercise was to highlight key areas where the evidence base for Yemen may be incomplete. This report does not recommend that cash actors track every question highlighted in this table. Rather, this was an exercise to help partners identify particular thematic areas where the evidence base is weaker, and where additional assessment may help to improve cash program planning. Additionally, the table below only reflects the data and evidence that is publicly available, and therefore may not reflect all information utilized by cash actors in Yemen.

Table 2: Key Questions and Potential Evidence Gaps

Market Systems		
Theme	Key Question	Data Available?
Exchange rate	What is the current exchange rate and how does it affect the local economy?	Data available
Availability of essential items	What are the prices of essential food and non-food items, and what are their seasonal variations?	Data Available
Availability of essential items	What are the stocks of goods for wholesalers, intermediaries, traders, or vendors?	Limited Data Available
Availability of essential items	Can the market supply what people need (essential items) at prices they can afford?	Data Available
Availability of essential items	Are traders able and willing to respond to possible increases in demand?	Limited Data Available
Availability of essential items	Will government policy or other factors affect food availability?	Data Unavailable
Availability of essential items	Is food available nationally and locally in sufficient quantities and quality?	Limited Data Available
Market Functionality	Is there credit available for traders?	Limited Data Available
Market Functionality	What are the risks that cash will cause inflation in prices of key products? What impact is a cash injection likely to have on the local economy?	Data Unavailable
Market Functionality	What are the costs to transfer goods to the market?	Data Available
Market Functionality	Are markets competitive and integrated (are market services functioning and enabling goods to move from areas of surplus to areas of deficit)?	Limited Data Available
Market Functionality	How have markets been affected by the shock/prevaling situation (disruption to transport routes, death of traders, loss of stocks, loss of produce)?	Data Available
Financial Service Providers		
Theme	Key Question	Data Available?
Financial institution functionality	To what extent are banking systems or informal financial transfer mechanisms functioning?	Data Available
Debt and credit systems	Do debt and credit systems function? How will an injection of cash affect this?	Limited Data Available
Needs and Risk Assessments		
Theme	Key Question	Data Available?

Context	Where are people food insecure? What is causing the insecurity?	Data Available
Coping Strategies	What strategies are people using to cope with food insecurity or income insecurity? What impact do the strategies have on livelihoods and dignity?	Limited Data Available
Cost of living	What is the normal cost of living (to meet basic needs)?	Data Available
Cost of living	What is the level of household debt? What is people's usual access to credit/ banks?	Limited Data Available
Cost of living	What are people likely to spend cash on?	Limited Data Available
Cost of living	What are the average income and expenditure of different groups within the population?	Limited Data Available
Food And Livelihoods	What are the key assets of the population?	Limited Data Available
Food And Livelihoods	What are people's sources of food and income?	Limited Data Available
Food And Livelihoods	What do people commonly buy and sell?	Limited Data Available
Food And Livelihoods	Are people able to meet their basic needs with the food and income available after the shock?	Data Available
Food And Livelihoods	What was the impact of the shock on people's assets, in particular those essential to their livelihoods?	Limited Data Available
Food And Livelihoods	How far are different groups of people able to meet their basic needs or recover their livelihoods using their own resources?	Limited Data Available
Food And Livelihoods	What are the priority needs and gaps for support?	Data Available
Food And Livelihoods	How do remittances impact the community?	Limited Data Available
Market Access	Are there particular groups that need special consideration with regard to market access?	Limited Data Available
Modality	Do emergency affected populations have a preference for cash or in-kind approaches? What is the level of financial and digital literacy of affected populations?	Limited Data Available
Modality	What are the government and related bodies providing? How would cash transfers fit in with government policies and will it be possible to obtain permission to implement such projects?	Limited Data Available
Modality	How would a cash project complement other forms of assistance that are being provided or planned?	Limited Data Available
Modality	What are the likely costs of a cash or voucher program, and how do these compare to in-kind alternatives?	Limited Data Available
Modality	What is the most appropriate option for delivering cash to people? How viable are different cash delivery models (consider financial infrastructure, transport networks)?	Limited Data Available
Risk	How near to the recipients are possible safe distribution sites and how many such sites are there?	Limited Data Available
Risk	What are the risks of cash benefits being taxed or seized? What are the risks of cash being diverted by local elites or project staff?	Data Unavailable
Risk	What are the relative security risks of a cash transfer compared to in-kind distributions? Are there other modalities that are safer than others?	Limited Data Available
Risk	What accountability safeguards are available to minimize these risks? Are there ways in which these risks could be minimized?	Data Unavailable
Social and Gender Relations	Do men and women have different priorities?	Limited Data Available
Social and Gender Relations	How is control over resources managed within households? How will cash be used in the household?	Limited Data Available
Social and Gender Relations	Will cash distributions have any impact on existing social and political divisions within communities?	Data Unavailable
Social and Gender Relations	Are there risks of exclusion of a particular group?	Limited Data Available
Social and Gender Relations	What are the characteristics of gender and social/ethnic relations at household and community levels?	Data Unavailable
Monitoring and Evaluation		
Theme	Key Question	Data Available?
Appropriateness	Were community representatives and key stakeholders involved in the needs analysis and design of the program?	Data Unavailable
Appropriateness	What were the needs of the population, and was a cash intervention the most appropriate means of meeting those needs?	Data Unavailable
Appropriateness	Were community perceptions of cash programming, and past experience with cash programming, taken into account?	Limited Data Available
Appropriateness	How was the value of the cash grant determined? Did the process take account of people's existing income, coping strategies, and household debt?	Data Unavailable

Appropriateness	Were the criteria for targeting beneficiaries appropriate, and did they relate to the assessment findings and the objectives of providing cash grants?	Data Unavailable
Appropriateness	Was a risk analysis carried out before starting the project? What measures were taken to minimize security risks?	Data Unavailable
Appropriateness	Did the project have an impact on security for the implementing agency or the beneficiaries?	Data Unavailable
Coordination	How were the cash interventions linked with other livelihood support interventions, including other short-term emergency responses and longer-term livelihood support?	Data Unavailable
Coordination	How did the response relate to government policies and strategies? Did the project take into account existing social safety net mechanisms?	Data Unavailable
Coordination	How were the cash interventions coordinated with the programs of other organizations or government agencies working on similar projects or in the same area?	Limited Data Available
Cost-Efficiency	Was there a difference between the planned costs provided for in the project budget (staff needs, materials, running costs) and the actual costs of implementing the program?	Data Unavailable
Cost-Efficiency	What are the administration costs of the intervention compared to the proportion of funds that went directly to the beneficiary?	Limited Data Available
Cost-Efficiency	What are the likely costs of a cash or voucher program, and how do these compare to in-kind alternatives?	Limited Data Available
Coverage	What was the coverage of the cash intervention? Which groups were targeted and did these groups represent the groups most in need of support?	Limited Data Available
Effectiveness	Were beneficiaries able to access goods and services in the required quantity and of the required quality?	Data Unavailable
Effectiveness	Did any recipients find it difficult to reach markets? (distance and time)	Data Unavailable
Effectiveness	Did beneficiaries face any constraints in the way they used cash? How could these be minimized?	Data Unavailable
Effectiveness	How did beneficiaries use the additional cash income (what did they purchase)?	Limited Unavailable
Effectiveness	Was the value of the cash transfer sufficient to meet the objectives of the program? Was the timing of the project appropriate for meeting the identified needs?	Limited Data Available
Effectiveness	Did cash meet specific objectives, such as shelter recovery, small business promotion or promoting savings?	Data Unavailable
Impact	Have there been any changes in consumption or expenditure patterns?	Limited Data Available
Impact	What was the impact of cash transfers (positive or negative) on the local economy? Have prices or availability changed? How has the cash project influenced local debt and credit markets?	Limited Data Available
Impact	Were there any problems or negative impacts associated with the program?	Data Unavailable
Impact	How has the cash project affected traditional systems of community self-help?	Limited Data Available
Impact	What were the changes in sources of food and income, and asset levels?	Limited Data Available
Impact	What were the changes in debt levels and coping strategies? How has the cash project influenced local debt and credit markets?	Data Unavailable
Impact	Was there an impact on employment, labor, production systems?	Data Unavailable
Process	Were beneficiaries and other stakeholders satisfied with the coverage, process and methods of implementation?	Limited Data Available
Process	Did the beneficiaries / suppliers receive the correct sums of money?	Data Unavailable
Process	Were the payments made on time?	Data Unavailable
Process	Was cash delivered safely and spent safely? Were any security issues reported as a result of the distribution itself or increased cash on the market?	Data Unavailable
Social and Gender Relations	What was the impact on gender relations in the household and the community?	Data Unavailable
Social and Gender Relations	Was there an impact on social relations between groups? Did any conflict arise between households/areas that were targeted and those that were not?	Limited Data Available
Social and Gender Relations	What was the impact on control of cash resources and expenditure within the household? Who controls the money?	Limited Data Available
Social and Gender Relations	Were those receiving/not receiving cash integrated/reintegrated/excluded from the community? What were the views of the non-recipients?	Limited Data Available
Social and Gender Relations	Was the method chosen for the cash transfer the safest method? Were any recipients disadvantaged by the transfer system chosen?	Data Unavailable
Sustainability	Are the positive changes that have been achieved likely to be sustained?	Limited Data Available
Sustainability	How were local resources and capacities strengthened in order to respond more effectively in the future?	Data Unavailable

Summary of Evidence Gaps

Market Systems and Financial Service Providers

As indicated in the table above, key questions relating to market systems and financial service providers in Yemen are fairly well addressed by the existing evidence base. There is a relatively large amount of data, although some of those data sources are older, and the amount of data may vary depending on geographical area. Additionally, although many studies and recurring reports address these themes, there may still be gaps in information or inconsistent information due to a lack of harmonization in the ways that these key questions are tracked. One key gap which is not addressed by the existing evidence base is an **analysis of the potential impact of cash on inflation and the local economy in areas where cash programming may be implemented.**

Needs and Risk Assessments

In relation to needs and risk assessments, there is a limited amount of nation-wide multi sectoral data available to address many of these key questions. Ideally, data related to the questions outlined in this section should be gathered before a program begins, either through primary data collection or by using existing data if available and relevant. These questions should inform every stage of cash transfer program design, including targeting and registration, choice of cash modality, risk mitigation strategies, distribution procedures, duration of assistance, and whether complementary interventions should be used.

Key gaps in the evidence base related to needs and risks assessments include:

- **An overview of people's access to food, their income, livelihoods, and spending patterns prior to cash transfer interventions.** This information would not only help cash actors to better structure their programs to be more effective, but would also help them to measure the impact of their program.
- **Assessments relating to the feasibility and appropriateness of different cash modalities in different areas.** There is limited information related to how different cash modalities, such as cash for work, unconditional versus conditional cash transfers, or vouchers, are chosen or recommended.
- **The risks and vulnerabilities related to cash-based programming.** Limited information was available that spoke to the relative risks that cash programs may pose to their staff or to aid recipients when compared with in-kind interventions.
- **An overview of how community relations and household gender relations might be affected by cash transfers.** There were no public data sources explicitly investigating to what extent community social relations or gender relations may be affected by cash interventions.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Key questions related to monitoring and evaluation appear to have the least publicly available evidence. This is likely due in part to the fact that this information is often gathered in a program-specific or organization-specific manner, and is not always published beyond that particular program or organization. However, the evidence that is publicly available has clear limitations. Some of the public baseline, PDM and evaluation reports reviewed for this report do address these key questions related to monitoring and evaluation, but generally there is little evidence related to the impact, effectiveness, or efficiency of programs. Since this type of information is crucial for the design and adjustment of programming, cash actors that do integrate these indicators into their PDM should consider sharing lessons learned and best practices from their programming with other cash actors. Additionally, the CMWG could support this process by developing standard indicators that can be tracked across organizations. For example, a set of standard baseline and PDM indicators would allow data related to the key questions above to be jointly analyzed and shared between organizations.

Key gaps in the evidence base related to monitoring and evaluation include:

- Whether current cash programs are **cost-efficient, appropriately-designed, and well-coordinated** with other initiatives.
- Whether cash programs are **effective and result in the impact or outcome** that they aim to achieve.
- Whether the **impact or outcomes of cash programs are likely to be sustainable.**

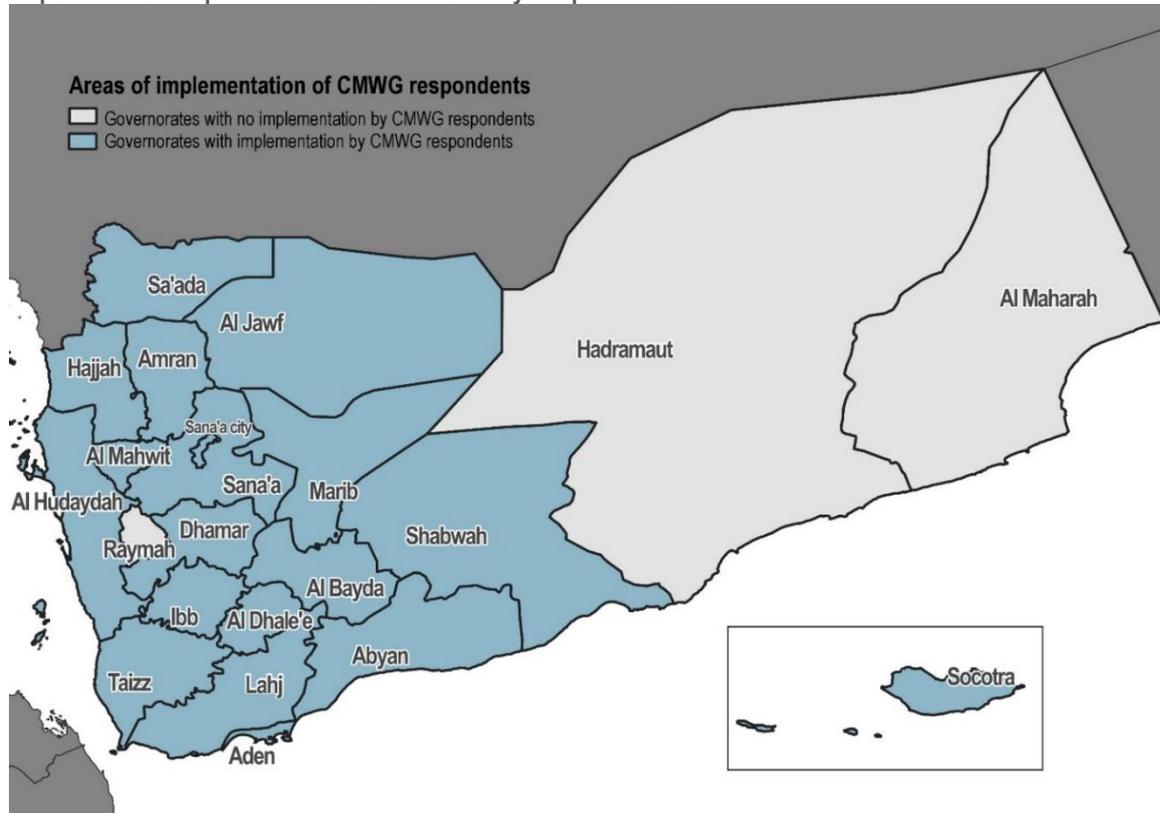
3. CMWG Partner Survey of Evidence Generation and Use

The third component of this report involved a consultation of CMWG partners via an online survey and a review and comparison of price monitoring tools. The purpose of the survey was to understand what data is currently being collected, used, and shared by partners, as well as priorities for future data collection. Within the survey, organizations were also asked if they would be willing to share the tools, they use to conduct price and market monitoring. The purpose of the tool review was to identify overlaps in the types of price data being collected by different organizations, and to identify potential areas of harmonization.

CMWG Partner Survey Results

Partners of the CMWG were asked to complete a voluntary survey outlining their current practices around data collection and data utilization related to cash and markets. This short survey was answered by 19 respondents, representing 14 organizations in total. Answers from participants from the same organization were merged into one observation so that comparisons could be made across organizations. Together, these organizations reported conducting cash programming in 19 of the 22 governorates of Yemen.

Map 1: Areas of Implementation of CMWG Survey Respondents



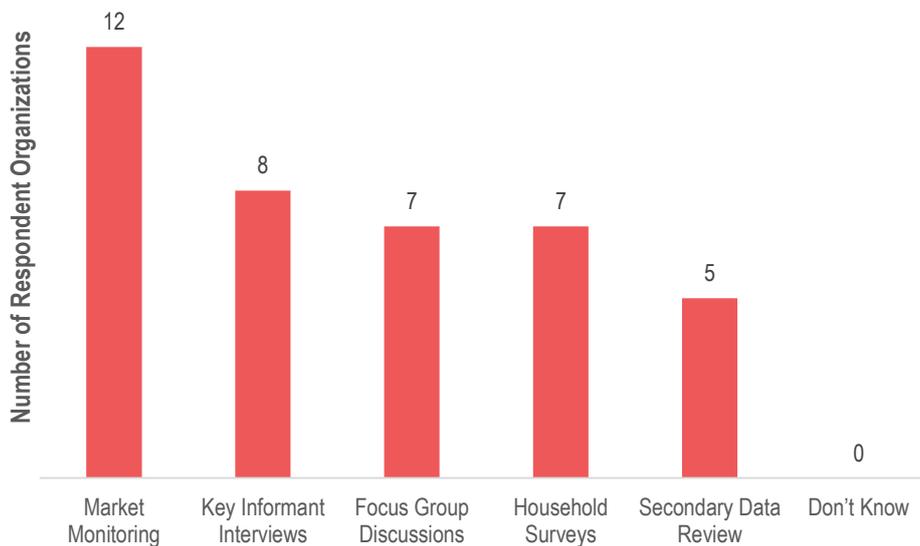
Of the 13 partners that described the type of cash transfer modality utilized in their programming, the top three modalities included cash for work (62% of the participating partners), unconditional cash transfers (46% of the participating partners), and conditional cash transfers (31% of the participating partners). Respondents were permitted to select more than one modality (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Cash Transfer Modalities Used By Respondent Organizations



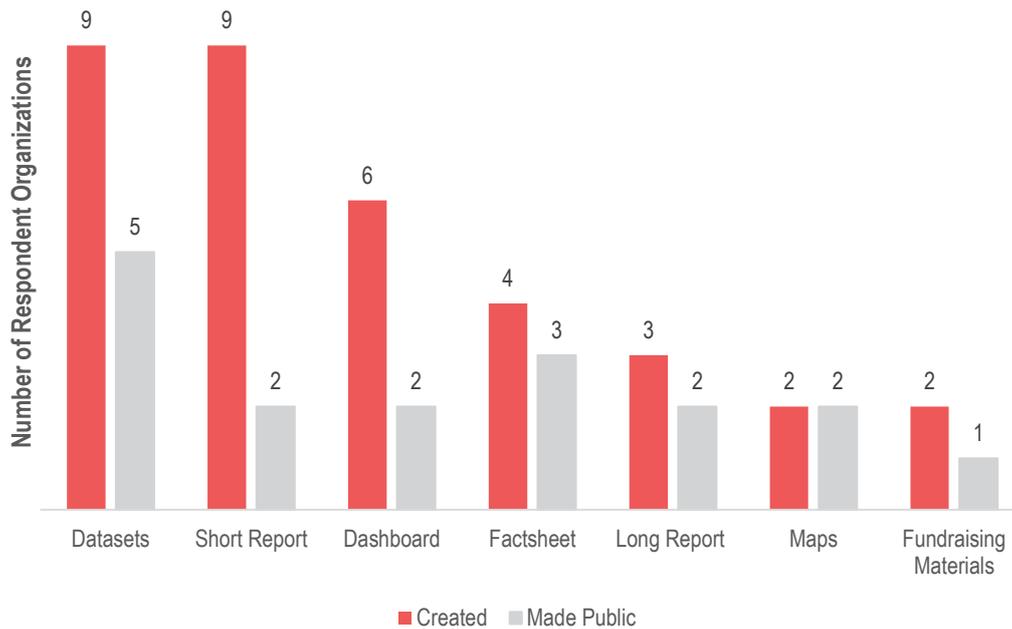
Of the 14 organizations, 13 reported conducting regular monitoring related to their cash programming, with one conducting monitoring weekly, ten monthly, and two quarterly. Of those, 12 organizations conduct price monitoring at markets (92%), with key informant interviews (62%), focus group discussions (54%), and household surveys (54%) also utilized heavily (see Figure 2). The one respondent who reported not engaging in any monitoring activities indicated that financial issues prevent them from doing so. Of the partners who conduct regular price monitoring at markets, ten indicated which items they monitor: eight stated that they collected information about fuel prices, seven recorded food prices, and another seven tracked the cost of water. Only one partner monitored education services, and one partner reported on non-food items. Six partners also indicated that they monitored the exchange rate.

Figure 2: Cash-Related Data Collection Methodologies Employed by Respondent Organizations



Partners were also asked what types of outputs and information products they developed using the data collected as part of their regular cash monitoring activities. All 14 partners reported developing outputs, and seven partners reported sharing some of these outputs publicly. The major outputs organizations reported developing included: nine constructed datasets (five made them public), nine wrote short reports (two made them public), and six built dashboards (two made them public). A full overview of the types of outputs developed and shared can be found in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: Outputs Generated by Respondent Organizations using Cash-related Monitoring Data



This survey also aimed to understand which public resources are utilized by partners to inform their outputs and products. The top three cash-related products that are utilized by these partners were reported to be the WFP market analysis outputs (64%), the JMMI situational overview (50%), and the CMWG SMEB calculations (43%). Partners indicated that they utilize this available data to inform programming (86%), to develop program proposals (71%), to inform donors (57%), and to contribute to a regional database (29%).

Figure 4: Cash and Markets Information Products Utilized by Respondent Organizations



The results of this survey highlight that most respondent organizations from the CMWG are conducting regular monitoring related to cash and markets, using a variety of methodologies. Most organizations are also developing some form of outputs based on this data collection, although less than half of these outputs are shared publicly.

This indicates that although organizations may be actively collecting cash and markets related information and using it to generate outputs to inform their programs, much of this information remains internal and cannot be utilized by other cash actors. Therefore, there is an opportunity to increase the amount of data sharing among cash actors in Yemen, which could potentially contribute to better-informed cash responses. The majority of survey respondents indicated that they use public cash information products to inform their programming, with a particular emphasis on regularly recurring publications. In order to widen the evidence base on which organizations can inform their cash and markets programs, an effective system for sharing information could be put in place for cash actors in Yemen to increase their access to existing evidence.

CMWG Partner Tool Review and Comparison

The CMWG partner survey also asked whether partner organizations would be willing to share their price monitoring tools for review and comparison, in order to better understand if there are opportunities for coordination and harmonization of price monitoring across organizations.

The focus on price monitoring tools, as opposed to other cash-related data collection tools, was chosen for three main reasons. Firstly, price monitoring is a basic type of data collection necessary to inform a cash-based response. An understanding of the cost of basic goods is needed to determine the value of a Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB), which outlines the cost of items an average family requires to meet their survival needs for a month. The SMEB amount is then used to inform the value of cash transfers in Yemen (for more details on SMEB calculations in Yemen see Annex I).

Secondly, price and market monitoring represent one of the most common types of cash-related data collection in Yemen, as demonstrated by both the literature review in this report and partner responses to the CMWG survey. Since many organizations are conducting this type of data collection, it represents a clear opportunity to avoid duplication and investigate areas for coordination and harmonization.

Finally, the comparison of price monitoring tools, as a basic and common data collection activity, can act as an example for how there may be opportunities for streamlining and harmonizing cash-related data collection in other areas. It is important to highlight that while the focus in this exercise is on a comparison of price monitoring tools, it could serve as a model for a similar comparison between other regular data collection tools used by cash partners, such as PDM surveys.

Price Monitoring Tool Matrix

Four CMWG partners opted to share their price monitoring tools, and a matrix was created to compare the types of information collected by these tools, as well as by the CMWG JMMI. Table 3 presents an anonymized comparison of the goods assessed by each organization's tools, as well as which unit of measure they are using to quantify each item. This tool matrix represents a snapshot of what price data organizations are collecting, as well as the differing goods that they are prioritizing for price monitoring.

There was shown to be substantial overlap in the tools in terms of the items that they monitor. For example, all organizations who shared their tools collected food prices, and all included items in the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) market basket, including beans, rice, flour, sugar, salt, and cooking oil.⁴⁸ All partners also indicated that data on the prices of these core food items are being collected on a monthly basis.

A majority of the tools also collect price data for petrol, diesel, and various WASH items, all of which are also monitored by the JMMI. As indicated by the other items being monitored by partners, there is a wide divergence of types of data being collected, likely based on the type of programming being conducted by each organization. Additionally, Organization B is a JMMI partner, which utilizes the JMMI in conjunction with the internal tool reviewed as part of this SDR. This allows the organization to avoid duplication of resources for price monitoring and overlap with regard to the JMMI items.

⁴⁸ For more details on the market baskets for Yemen, see Annex I.

Table 3: Partner Tool Matrix

Good Assessed	Org A	Org B	Org C	Org D	JMM I	Different Measures Used
Food						
Lentils	X	X				5 Kg; 1 Kg
Peas	X			X ^		1 Kg; in gms
White beans	X					in gms
Red beans (kidney)	X	X	X *	X ^		5 Kg; 1 Kg; in gms; 1 can
Chickpeas		X				3 Kg; 1 can
Sorghum		X				10 Kg
Fava beans				X ^		1 Kg
Vegetable oil	X	X	X *	X ^		in Ltrs; 0.75 Ltrs
Fats (animal fat for cooking)		X				1 Kg
Butter		X				0.5 Kg
Rice	X	X	X *	X ^		10 Kg; 1 Kg
Pasta	X					in gms
Dates	X					1 Kg
Wheat flour		X	X *	X ^		50 Kg; 1 Kg
White flour	X					25 Kg
Red flour	X					25 Kg
Bread		X				300 pieces
Egg	X	X				2 Trays; 30-piece tray
Tuna	X					Big can
Milk	X	X				5 Ltrs: pack 250 ml
Yogurt	X					in gms
Meat		X				2 Kg
Chicken		X				4 Kg
Cheese	X					24 Pack
Salt	X	X	X *	X ^		2.5 Kg; 2 Kg; 1 Kg
Sugar	X	x	X *	X ^		5 Kg; 1 Kg
Onion			X *			1 Kg
Potatoes			X *			1 Kg
Vegetables (assorted)		X				10 Kg
Condiments		X				0.5 Kg
<i>General resupply issues</i>				X		
Fuel						
Petrol	X		X		X ^	1 Ltr
Diesel	X		X		X ^	1 Ltr
Cooking gas	X	X	X	X ^		2 Cylinders; 1 Cylinder; 1 Cylinder 18 Kg
Kerosene	X					1 Ltr
Firewood		X				1 Pile
Black market petrol	X					1 Ltr
Black market diesel	X					1 Ltr
Black market gas	X					1 Ltr
Black market kerosene	X					1 Ltr
<i>General resupply issues</i>				X	X	

Good Assessed	Org A	Org B	Org C	Org D	JMM I	Different Measures Used
WASH						
Bottled water			X *	X ^	X ^	0.75 Ltrs; 0.5 Ltrs
Treated water			X *		X ^	20 Ltrs; 10 Ltrs
Soap			X *	X ^	X ^	150 gms; 80 gms; Specific 70 gms
Laundry powder			X *	X ^	X ^	5 Kg; 1 Kg; 100 gms
Sanitary napkins			X *	X ^	X ^	Pack of 10
Water trucking			X		X ^	1 cubic meter
<i>General resupply issues</i>				X	X	
Other NFIs						
Toothbrush			X *			5 pack
Toothpaste			X *			2 pack
Broom head			X *			1 piece
Long room			X *			1 piece
Short broom			X *			1 piece
Water container w/ cover			X *			1 piece
Jerry can			X *			1 piece (1 Ltr)
Plastic jug			X *			1 piece (1 Ltr)
<i>General resupply issues</i>						
Economic						
Exchange rate			X		X	YER to USD
Daily unskilled labor			X			1 day of work
Daily skilled labor			X			1 day of work

^ indicates follow up on restocking times

* indicates follow up on quality

The tools compared in this table represent a small portion of the price monitoring data collection that organizations are conducting in Yemen. However, it does serve to demonstrate that, although there is some difference in the kinds of items monitored, there is also substantial overlap. This may mean that there is an opportunity for harmonization and standardization of price monitoring tools and methodologies (including unit measurements and sampling) to allow for more comparable data across organizations and locations.

In addition, the tools reviewed above are internal tools (with the exception of the JMMI) and the outputs of the data they collect are not shared beyond the implementing organization. This lack of data sharing means that the price monitoring data being generated is only available and useable by a small subset of cash actors in Yemen.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this SDR, the following recommendations have been compiled related to improving the evidence base – including data collection, data analysis, and data sharing processes – that inform cash transfer programming in Yemen.

1. **Increased sharing of data and information related to cash programming in Yemen, both within the CMWG and also with other relevant coordination mechanisms.** There is already a variety of data and information related to cash and markets in Yemen. However, much of this is not shared in a systematic way with relevant stakeholders. Additionally, many organizations collect data for internal use, and do not share it in a way that it can be used by other actors. A process, facilitated by the CMWG, for compiling and categorizing data related to cash and markets would benefit all partners. This should include the sharing of datasets where possible, as well as full methodological details related to each assessment. This would allow for both replication and increased transparency of findings.
2. **Increased sharing of baseline and beneficiary needs assessment data for informing cash programming by partners, and increased use of standardized baseline indicators where possible.** As baseline and needs assessments are time-consuming and resource-intensive, increased sharing of this information and coordination of data collection would make access and resource allocation easier for participating partners, as well as increasing the utility of data for a wider range of actors.
3. **Improved harmonization of tools and methodologies for price and market monitoring to facilitate greater coverage, quality, and utility of this data across a wider area.** For certain data collection activities, the CMWG should consider utilizing a coherent methodology to allow for common comparison of data across a wider coverage area. For example, market monitoring in Yemen is currently undertaken using several different methodologies and tools. While each of these address a slightly different need, cross comparison of this information is difficult. A harmonized, robust methodology and tool would help to increase the comparability of data collected by different organizations, reduce duplication, and increase cost-efficiency. Joint analysis of this data would also allow for a wider coverage area than any single organizational assessment.
4. **Development of a set of harmonized indicators related to the monitoring of cash programming to promote comparability of findings across partners, and increased sharing of monitoring data and analysis publicly or within the CMWG.** There is currently both a lack of sharing and coordination of harmonized processes for monitoring data related to cash programming. A first step to improve this could be for CMWG partners (with input from relevant Clusters) to define a set of indicators that could be included in an organization's PDMs. These indicators should be based on current CMWG partner PDMs for both sectoral and inter-sectoral cash programs. If analysis of these common indicators could be shared with the CMWG, it would provide partners with a wealth of data to inform future programming.
5. **Development of a process to help CMWG partners coordinate impact assessments and share lessons learned.** The lack of publicly available evaluations on the impact, effectiveness, or efficiency of cash and markets programming in Yemen means that information on best practices specific to the Yemen context is limited. The CMWG should consider developing a system to help partners coordinate their evaluations, share lessons learned, and identify gaps that could be addressed through future evaluations. This could help minimize overlap of areas and allow for greater resource-sharing. Additionally, the CMWG should provide technical guidance on the methodologies and tools used to conduct these evaluations. This support and coordination should occur in collaboration with other Clusters when necessary.
6. **Discussion within the CMWG partners to agree which evidence gaps related to cash-based programming in Yemen are a priority to address, and collection of additional data collection if necessary, to fill these prioritized gaps.** To begin, partners can review the evidence gaps highlighted in Table 2 of this report, as well as the summary of evidence gaps describing the key areas where information may be particularly needed. If priority areas are identified by partners, the CMWG could provide technical guidance and coordination for conducting any additional data-collection exercises.

Conclusion

A robust evidence base related to cash and markets programming in Yemen is necessary for cash actors to adequately inform their programs. Humanitarian agencies across Yemen face a variety of issues related to data collection, including access issues and an ever-changing context. In addition to these challenges, much of the data collected by cash-implementing organizations is not shared publicly, and the information that is shared publicly often has gaps in coverage. The purpose of this secondary desk review was to identify areas where, within the constraints of a complex context like Yemen, there may be opportunities to further expand and improve the evidence-base available to inform cash transfer programming.

Due to the volatile context in Yemen, reliable, relevant, and regular data is crucial for informing the cash-based responses. A review of publicly available sources of data related to cash and markets highlighted that there are few resources that are published on a regular basis, meaning that published information can quickly become outdated. The data that is updated and made available to the public is mostly focused on price and market monitoring, with less information related to needs and risk assessments or monitoring and evaluation, which are necessary in order to appropriately design cash programs as well as to adjust programs based on lessons learned.

International guidelines for cash recommend that a wide range of information be collected or consulted before designing and implementing a cash transfer program. However, for Yemen, the data needed to do this is often unavailable or only partly available, or is not disseminated widely. Much of the available data has to do with understanding how market systems function, and while this is an important part of a robust cash response, it is not the only information that is necessary. Key evidence gaps in Yemen include the existence of baseline information, the appropriateness of using different cash modalities, the risks and vulnerabilities related to cash-based programming, how social and gender relations are affected by cash, and the effectiveness, impact, and sustainability of programs.

CMWG partners report regularly collecting cash-related data and developing outputs using this data, although much of this is not publicly shared. There is therefore an opportunity to increase the amount of data sharing between these organizations, which could contribute to better-informed cash responses. Additionally, there are further opportunities for cash actors to adopt more harmonized tools and methodologies for certain types of data collection, and to increase coordination around the collection and sharing of data and analysis. Increased harmonization through tools like the JMMI would allow for organizations to access commonly understood data and analysis that is comparable across geographical regions.

In summary, the key recommendations for improving the evidence base underpinning current cash transfer programming in Yemen centers on strengthening data sharing systems, increasing the harmonization and standardization of data collection and analysis, enhancing the coordination of data collection, and conducting additional assessments in order to address key evidence gaps. Addressing these recommendations would contribute to an increase in the quality, quantity, and accessibility of cash-related evidence for Yemen, which could ultimately help cash partners to make their programming more effective, efficient, and accountable to affected populations.

ANNEXES

Annex I: Minimum Expenditure Basket Values

The monetary value of cash transfers for humanitarian assistance should be based on a calculation of the standard minimum expenditure basket (MEB) amount for an average household residing in a particular location. CaLP defines an MEB as "...what a household requires in order to meet basic needs."⁴⁹ Items and services covered by an MEB will vary depending on context, but it should include the total costs of goods and services required to meet a family's basic needs as defined by humanitarian law. Actual cash transfer amounts commonly do not equal the total value of the market basket, but rather may cover a portion of the MEB in order to supplement a particular need. This is based on the assumption that targeted families have other forms of income or are receiving other forms of assistance, and therefore do not require the full MEB amount to meet their needs.

In Yemen, cash transfer values are currently based on the amounts outlined in a Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB). The SMEB differs from the MEB in that it is less extensive, and covers "just the minimum amount required to maintain existence and cover lifesaving need."⁵⁰ The SMEB, with its focus on lifesaving goods, is often utilized in contexts where the value of a full MEB is considered to be too high to be used to calculate cash transfer values, such as in contexts where funding is limited or the number of people in need is very high.⁵¹ The MEB and SMEB therefore have different purposes in humanitarian response, and should complement each other.

The FSAC cluster in Yemen has established a market basket specifically for meeting minimum food needs, which was most recently revised in April 2018 and is used to inform the cost of cash transfers for FSAC programming. The total value of this market basket is 45,000 YER, or \$94 USD, and is designed to meet 80% of the monthly needs of a household of seven people. This market based is composed of:⁵²

- Wheat flour – 50kg
- Rice – 20kg
- Dry beans/lentils – 10kg (35 Cans/1.5 cartons of canned beans)
- Vegetable Oil – 8 liters
- Sugar – 2.5kg
- Iodized Salt – 1kg

In addition, in 2019 the CMWG established an SMEB established to encapsulate all "standard basic recurrent needs which an average household in acute need will always need to survive without undertaking catastrophic coping mechanisms"⁵³ This SMEB includes many of the food items indicated above, but also covers costs associated with basic WASH items as well as transportation costs. The CMWG SMEB is designed for a family of seven and is worth 65,000 YER, or \$140 USD. It includes:⁵⁴

- Wheat flour – 75kg
- Beans Kidney – 10kg
- Vegetable Oil – 8 liters
- Sugar – 2.5kg
- Iodized Salt – 1kg
- Trucked in water – 3150 liters
- Soap – 1050g
- Washing powder (laundry detergent) – 2kg
- Disposable female sanitary napkins – 2 (packs of 10)

⁴⁹ The Cash Learning Partnership, 'Part 1.2 The Minimum Expenditure Basket', in *Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multipurpose Cash Grants* (The Cash Learning Partnership, 2015), LXIX, 22–25.

⁵⁰ WFP, *Minimum Expenditure Baskets Interim Guidance Note*, 2018.

⁵¹ WFP, *Minimum Expenditure Baskets Interim Guidance Note*.

⁵² Cash and Markets Working Group, 'Multi-Sector SMEB Guidance Data Sheet May 2019', 2019.

⁵³ Cash and Markets Working Group, 'Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket, Yemen Guidance Document for Multi-Purpose Grants', 2017.

⁵⁴ Cash and Markets Working Group, 'Revised Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket - Yemen 2019', in *Revised Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket - Yemen 2019*, 2019.

- Cooking fuel – 20 liters
- Transport to the market – 1 trip (paid as lump sum)

The SMEB value and other aspects of cash and markets programming are informed by reports, bulletins, and market studies that have been produced for Yemen as well as continually updated resources that allow actors to stay informed about the current values of basic goods.

Annex II: CMWG Partner Survey

A.1 Name of Organization

List of organizations

A.2 Name of Organization: Other

A.3 Which Governorates are you currently conducting cash and markets related programming in?

List of governorates to select from

A.4 Which districts are you currently conducting cash and market related programming in?

List of districts to select from

B.1 What types of cash-based modalities do you currently support in the field?

- a) Cash for work
- b) Conditional cash transfers
- c) Microfinance
- d) Mobile money
- e) Unconditional cash transfers
- f) Vouchers
- g) Other
- h) None

B.2 Do you conduct data collection exercises related to your cash and market programming?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.2.1 If yes, how often do you conduct exercise related to your cash and market programming?

- a) Weekly
- b) Monthly
- c) 3-Month
- d) 6-Months
- e) Yearly

B.2.2 If yes, what tools do you use to collect the data?

- a) Key informant interviews
- b) Focus group discussions
- c) Household surveys
- d) Market monitoring
- e) Secondary data review
- f) Do not know

B.2.3 If not, why do you not collect data related to cash and market programming?

- a) Do not have the money
- b) Do not have the enumerators
- c) Do not have the training
- d) Do not have the technical expertise
- e) Do not want to collect data on cash and markets
- f) Do not see benefits of collecting data on cash and markets
- g) Other
- h) None of the above

B.3 Do you engage in price/market monitoring?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.3.1 If yes, what types of items do you regularly monitor?

- a) Food
- b) WASH
- c) Fuel
- d) Health Services
- e) Medicine Distributions
- f) Education Services
- g) Exchange Rates
- h) NFIs
- i) Shelter Services (i.e. Rent)
- j) Other
- k) None of the above

B.4 Besides the items/services you already selected, are there other items/services that would be beneficial for future programming?

- a) Food
- b) WASH
- c) Fuel
- d) Health Services
- e) Medicine Distributions
- f) Education Services
- g) Exchange Rates
- h) NFIs
- i) Shelter Services (i.e. Rent)
- j) Other
- k) None of the above

B.4.1 If not, what items would you like to monitor in the future?

- a) Food
- b) WASH
- c) Fuel
- d) Health Services
- e) Medicine Distributions
- f) Education Services
- g) Exchange Rates
- h) NFIs
- i) Shelter Services (i.e. Rent)
- j) Other
- k) None of the above

B.5 Is there a consistent set of tools you use for price/market monitoring data collection?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.6 Would you and your organization be comfortable sharing your cash and market-related monitoring tools with the CMWG?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.6.1 If yes, what email should be used to coordinate sharing the tools with the CMWG?

- a) Text

B.7 What types of outputs does your organization produce to present data and analysis from these data collection exercise?

- a) Datasets
- b) Short Reports (less than 10 pages)
- c) Long Reports (10 pages, or more)
- d) Factsheets
- e) Dashboards
- f) Situational Overviews
- g) Maps
- h) Fundraising Materials
- i) Newsletters
- j) Other
- k) None of the Above
- l) Do not know

B.7.1 Are the datasets available to the public?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.7.2 Are the short reports (less than 10 pages) available to the public?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.7.3 Are the long reports (10 pages, or more) available to the public?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.7.4 Are the factsheets available to the public?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.7.5 Are the dashboards available to the public?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.7.6 Are the situational overviews available to the public?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.7.7 Are the maps available to the public?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.7.8 Are the fundraising materials available to the public?

- a) Yes
- b) No
- c) Do not know

B.7.9 Are the newsletters available to the public?

- a) Yes
- b) No

- c) Do not know

B.8 Which current CMWG products do you utilize?

- a) Datasets
- b) Short Reports (less than 10 pages)
- c) Long Reports (10 pages, or more)
- d) Factsheets
- e) Dashboards
- f) Situational Overviews
- g) Maps
- h) Fundraising Materials
- i) Newsletters
- j) Other
- k) None of the Above
- l) Do not know

B.8.1 How do you use the JMMI situational overview?

- a) Informing your programming
- b) Informing donors
- c) Contributing to regional database
- d) Proposal development
- e) Do not know

B.8.2 How do you use the JMMI datasets?

- a) Informing your programming
- b) Informing donors
- c) Contributing to regional database
- d) Proposal development
- e) Do not know

B.8.3 How do you use the Financial Service Provider Report?

- a) Informing your programming
- b) Informing donors
- c) Contributing to regional database
- d) Proposal development
- e) Do not know

B.8.4 How do you use the SMEB calculations (harmonized transfer value)?

- a) Informing your programming
- b) Informing donors
- c) Contributing to regional database
- d) Proposal development
- e) Do not know

B.8.5 How do you use the WFP monthly market commodity prices?

- a) Informing your programming
- b) Informing donors
- c) Contributing to regional database
- d) Proposal development
- e) Do not know

B.8.6 How do you use the study: "Drivers of currency volatility & impacts on humanitarian programming in Yemen" supported by ACAPS?

- a) Informing your programming
- b) Informing donors

- c) Contributing to regional database
- d) Proposal development
- e) Do not know

B.8.7 How do you use the Yemen Specific MPCA monitoring indicators?

- a) Informing your programming
- b) Informing donors
- c) Contributing to regional database
- d) Proposal development
- e) Do not know

B.9 If no, why do you not use these publicly available products?

- a) Text

B.10 How do you/would you utilize these products?

- a) Informing your programming
- b) Informing donors
- c) Contributing to regional database
- d) Proposal development
- e) Do not know

B.11 What cash and markets related datasets and analysis would be useful for the future programming?

- a) Text

Annex III: Works Cited

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Annex IV: Key Questions Matrix

A. Matrix of key questions proposed by global guidance manuals

Cash-Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Oxfam, 2006.	Guidelines for Cash Transfer Programming, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2007	Good Practice Review, Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Humanitarian Practice Network, 2011	Cash and Vouchers Manual, WFP, 2014	Cash Transfer Programming: Toolkit, Mercy Corps 2015	Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multi-Purpose Cash Grants, CaLP, 2015	Count of manuals that ask this question	Main Theme	Sub-theme	Key Question(s)	Level of evidence available
X	X	X	X	X	X	6	Financial Service Providers	Banking Systems	To what extent are banking systems or informal financial transfer mechanisms functioning?	Data Available
X	X	X				3	Financial Service Providers	Debt And Credit Markets	How do debt and credit markets function, and what is the likely effect of a cash injection?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X				3	Market Systems	Availability of essential items	What are the prices of essential food and non-food items, and what are their seasonal variations?	Data Available
X				X		2	Market Systems	Availability of essential items	What are the stocks of goods for wholesalers, intermediaries, traders, or vendors?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X	X	X	X	6	Market Systems	Availability of essential items	Can the market supply what people need (essential items) at prices they can afford?	Data Available
	X				X	2	Market Systems	Availability of essential items	Are traders able and willing to respond to possible increases in demand?	Limited Data Available
X						1	Market Systems	Availability of essential items	Will government policy or other factors affect food availability?	Data Unavailable
	X	X				2	Market Systems	Availability of essential items	Is food available nationally and locally in sufficient quantities and quality?	Limited Data Available
X		X				2	Market Systems	Exchange Rate	What is the exchange rate and how does it affect the local economy?	Data Available

Cash-Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Oxfam, 2006.	Guidelines for Cash Transfer Programming, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2007	Good Practice Review, Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Humanitarian Practice Network, 2011	Cash and Vouchers Manual, WFP, 2014	Cash Transfer Programming: Toolkit, Mercy Corps 2015	Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multi-Purpose Cash Grants, CaLP, 2015	Count of manuals that ask this question	Main Theme	Sub-theme	Key Question(s)	Level of evidence available
X		X				2	Market Systems	Market Functionality	Is there credit available for traders?	Limited Data Available
	X				X	2	Market Systems	Market Functionality	What are the risks that cash will cause inflation in prices of key products? What impact is a cash injection likely to have on the local economy?	Data Unavailable
X				X		2	Market Systems	Market Functionality	What are the costs to transfer goods to the market?	Data Available
X	X	X		X	X	5	Market Systems	Market Functionality	Are markets competitive and integrated (are market services functioning and enabling goods to move from areas of surplus to areas of deficit)?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X		X		4	Market Systems	Market Functionality	How have markets been affected by the shock/prevaling situation (disruption to transport routes, death of traders, loss of stocks, loss of produce)?	Data Available
X				X		2	Market Systems	Market Functionality	What is the supply chain for goods needed for food security? What actors are involved?	Limited Data Available
	X	X				2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	Were community representatives and key stakeholders involved in the needs analysis and design of the program?	Data Unavailable
X			X	X	X	4	Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	What were the needs of the population, and was a cash intervention the most appropriate means of meeting those needs?	Data Unavailable
	X			X	X	3	Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	Were community perceptions of cash programming, and past experience with cash programming, taken into account? Does the community think that cash was the best response?	Limited Data Available
	X		X		X	3	Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	How was the value of the cash grant determined? Did the process take account of people's existing income, coping strategies, and household debt?	Data Unavailable
X	X	X	X		X	5	Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	Were the criteria for targeting beneficiaries appropriate, and did they relate to the assessment findings and the objectives of providing cash grants?	Data Unavailable

Cash-Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Oxfam, 2006.	Guidelines for Cash Transfer Programming, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2007	Good Practice Review, Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Humanitarian Practice Network, 2011	Cash and Vouchers Manual, WFP, 2014	Cash Transfer Programming: Toolkit, Mercy Corps 2015	Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multi-Purpose Cash Grants, CaLP, 2015	Count of manuals that ask this question	Main Theme	Sub-theme	Key Question(s)	Level of evidence available
X			X			2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	Was a risk analysis carried out before starting the project? What measures were taken to minimize security risks?	Data Unavailable
X	X					2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	Did the project have an impact on security for the implementing agency or the beneficiaries?	Data Unavailable
X						1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Coordination	How were the cash interventions linked with other livelihood support interventions, including other short-term emergency responses and longer-term livelihood support?	Data Unavailable
X						1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Coordination	How did the response relate to government policies and strategies? Did the project take into account existing social safety net mechanisms?	Data Unavailable
X		X				2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Coordination	How were the cash interventions coordinated with the programs of other organizations or government agencies working on similar projects or in the same area?	Limited Data Available
X						1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Cost-Efficiency	Was there a difference between the planned costs provided for in the project budget (staff needs, materials, running costs) and the actual costs of implementing the program?	Data Unavailable
			X			1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Cost-Efficiency	What are the administration costs of the intervention compared to the proportion of funds that went directly to the beneficiary?	Limited Data Available
X	X		X	X	X	5	Monitoring And Evaluation	Cost-Efficiency	What are the likely costs of a cash or voucher program, and how do these compare to in-kind alternatives?	Limited Data Available
X						1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Coverage	What was the coverage of the cash intervention? Which groups were targeted and did these groups represent the groups most in need of support?	Limited Data Available
X						1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	Were beneficiaries able to access goods and services in the required quantity and of the required quality?	Data Unavailable
X						1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	Did any recipients find it difficult to reach markets? (distance and time)	Data Unavailable

Cash-Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Oxfam, 2006.	Guidelines for Cash Transfer Programming, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2007	Good Practice Review, Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Humanitarian Practice Network, 2011	Cash and Vouchers Manual, WFP, 2014	Cash Transfer Programming: Toolkit, Mercy Corps 2015	Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multi-Purpose Cash Grants, CaLP, 2015	Count of manuals that ask this question	Main Theme	Sub-theme	Key Question(s)	Level of evidence available
	X	X				2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	Did beneficiaries face any constraints in the way they used cash? How could these be minimized?	Data Unavailable
X		X				2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	How did beneficiaries use the additional cash income (what did they purchase)?	Limited Data Available
X						1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	Was the value of the cash transfer sufficient to meet the objectives of the program? Was the timing of the project appropriate for meeting the identified needs?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X			X	4	Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	Did cash meet specific objectives, such as shelter recovery, small business promotion or promoting savings?	Data Unavailable
X						1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	Have there been any changes in consumption or expenditure patterns?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X			X	4	Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	What was the impact of cash transfers (positive or negative) on the local economy? Have prices or availability changed? How has the cash project influenced local debt and credit markets?	Limited Data Available
	X	X				2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	Were there any problems or negative impacts associated with the program?	Data Unavailable
X		X		X		3	Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	How has the cash project affected traditional systems of community self-help?	Limited Data Available
X	X			X	X	4	Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	What were the changes in sources of food and income, and asset levels?	Limited Data Available
X	X			X	X	4	Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	What were the changes in debt levels and coping strategies? How has the cash project influenced local debt and credit markets?	Data Unavailable
X		X			X	3	Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	Was there an impact on employment, labor, production systems?	Data Unavailable

Cash-Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Oxfam, 2006.	Guidelines for Cash Transfer Programming, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2007	Good Practice Review, Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Humanitarian Practice Network, 2011	Cash and Vouchers Manual, WFP, 2014	Cash Transfer Programming: Toolkit, Mercy Corps 2015	Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multi-Purpose Cash Grants, CaLP, 2015	Count of manuals that ask this question	Main Theme	Sub-theme	Key Question(s)	Level of evidence available
X				X		2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Process	Were beneficiaries and other stakeholders satisfied with the coverage, process and methods of implementation?	Limited Data Available
X				X		2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Process	Did the beneficiaries / suppliers receive the correct sums of money?	Data Unavailable
X				X		2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Process	Were the payments made on time?	Data Unavailable
X				X		2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Process	Was cash delivered safely and spent safely? Were any security issues reported as a result of the distribution itself or increased cash on the market?	Data Unavailable
	X					1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Social and Gender Relations	What was the impact on gender relations in the household and the community?	Data Unavailable
X						1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Social and Gender Relations	Was there an impact on social relations between groups? Did any conflict arise between households/areas that were targeted and those that were not?	Limited Data Available
X		X		X		3	Monitoring And Evaluation	Social and Gender Relations	What was the impact on control of cash resources and expenditure within the household? Who controls the money?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X				3	Monitoring And Evaluation	Social and Gender Relations	Were those receiving/not receiving cash integrated/reintegrated/excluded from the community? What were the views of the nonrecipients?	Limited Data Available
X					X	2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Social and Gender Relations	Was the method chosen for the cash transfer the safest method? Were any recipients disadvantaged by the transfer system chosen?	Data Unavailable
X	X					2	Monitoring And Evaluation	Sustainability	Are the positive changes that have been achieved likely to be sustained?	Limited Data Available
X						1	Monitoring And Evaluation	Sustainability	How were local resources and capacities strengthened in order to respond more effectively in the future?	Data Unavailable

Cash-Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Oxfam, 2006.	Guidelines for Cash Transfer Programming, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2007	Good Practice Review, Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Humanitarian Practice Network, 2011	Cash and Vouchers Manual, WFP, 2014	Cash Transfer Programming: Toolkit, Mercy Corps 2015	Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multi-Purpose Cash Grants, CaLP, 2015	Count of manuals that ask this question	Main Theme	Sub-theme	Key Question(s)	Level of evidence available
	X		X			2	Needs and Risk Assessment	Context	Where are people food insecure? What is causing the insecurity?	Data Available
	X		X	X		3	Needs and Risk Assessment	Coping Strategies	What strategies are people using to cope with food insecurity or income insecurity? What impact do the strategies have on livelihoods and dignity?	Limited Data Available
X	X					2	Needs and Risk Assessment	Cost of living	What is the normal cost of living (to meet basic needs)?	Data Available
X						1	Needs and Risk Assessment	Cost of living	What is the level of household debt? What is people's usual access to credit and banks?	Limited Data Available
	X	X				2	Needs and Risk Assessment	Cost of living	What are people likely to spend cash on?	Limited Data Available
X						1	Needs and Risk Assessment	Cost of living	What are the average income and expenditure of different groups within the population?	Limited Data Available
X						1	Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	What are the key assets of the population?	Limited Data Available
	X					1	Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	What are people's sources of food and income?	Data Unavailable
X			X			2	Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	What do people commonly buy and sell?	Limited Data Available
X	X					2	Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	Are people able to meet their basic needs with the food and income available after the shock?	Data Available
X					X	2	Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	What was the impact of the shock on people's assets, in particular those essential to their livelihoods?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X			X	4	Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	How far are different groups of people able to meet their basic needs or recover their livelihoods using their own resources?	Limited Data Available

Cash-Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Oxfam, 2006.	Guidelines for Cash Transfer Programming, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2007	Good Practice Review, Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Humanitarian Practice Network, 2011	Cash and Vouchers Manual, WFP, 2014	Cash Transfer Programming: Toolkit, Mercy Corps 2015	Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multi-Purpose Cash Grants, CaLP, 2015	Count of manuals that ask this question	Main Theme	Sub-theme	Key Question(s)	Level of evidence available
X	X					2	Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	What are the priority needs and gaps for support?	Data Available
X						1	Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	How do remittances impact the community?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X				3	Needs and Risk Assessment	Market Access	Are there particular groups that need special consideration with regard to market access?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X	X	X		5	Needs and Risk Assessment	Modality	Do emergency affected populations have a preference for cash or in-kind approaches?	Limited Data Available
			X			1	Needs and Risk Assessment	Modality	What are the government and related bodies providing? How would cash transfers fit in with government policies and will it be possible to obtain permission to implement such projects?	Limited Data Available
X	X			X		3	Needs and Risk Assessment	Modality	How would a cash project complement other forms of assistance that are being provided or planned?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X		X	X	5	Needs and Risk Assessment	Modality	What are the likely costs of a cash or voucher program, and how do these compare to in-kind alternatives?	Limited Data Available
		X				1	Needs and Risk Assessment	Modality	What is the most appropriate option for delivering cash to people?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X	X	X	X	6	Needs and Risk Assessment	Risk	How near to the recipients are possible safe distribution sites and how many such sites are there?	Limited Data Available
			X			1	Needs and Risk Assessment	Risk	What are the risks of cash benefits being taxed or seized? What are the risks of cash being diverted by local elites or project staff?	Data Unavailable
X	X	X		X		4	Needs and Risk Assessment	Risk	What are the relative security risks of a cash transfer compared to in-kind distributions? Are there other modalities that are safer than others?	Limited Data Available

Cash-Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Oxfam, 2006.	Guidelines for Cash Transfer Programming, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, 2007	Good Practice Review, Cash Transfer Programming in Emergencies, Humanitarian Practice Network, 2011	Cash and Vouchers Manual, WFP, 2014	Cash Transfer Programming: Toolkit, Mercy Corps 2015	Operational Guidance and Toolkit for Multi-Purpose Cash Grants, CaLP, 2015	Count of manuals that ask this question	Main Theme	Sub-theme	Key Question(s)	Level of evidence available
X	X	X		X	X	5	Needs and Risk Assessment	Risk	What accountability safeguards are available to minimize these risks? Are there ways in which these risks could be minimized?	Data Unavailable
	X				X	2	Needs and Risk Assessment	Social and Gender Relations	Do men and women have different priorities? Do men and women currently earn and spend income? Should cash be distributed specifically to women or to men, or to both?	Limited Data Available
	X	X	X	X	X	5	Needs and Risk Assessment	Social and Gender Relations	How is control over resources managed within households? How will cash be used in the household?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X			X	4	Needs and Risk Assessment	Social and Gender Relations	Will cash distributions have any impact on existing social and political divisions within communities?	Data Unavailable
X	X	X	X			4	Needs and Risk Assessment	Social and Gender Relations	Are there risks of exclusion of a particular group?	Limited Data Available
X	X	X			X	4	Needs and Risk Assessment	Social and Gender Relations	What are the characteristics of gender and social/ethnic relations at household and community levels?	Data Unavailable

B. Matrix of data sources from Yemen informing each key question

Main Theme	Sub-theme	Key Question(s)	Level of evidence available	Count of resources that address this question	WFP 2010 Market Study	2016 WFP Situation Report	2017 Humanitarian Foresight Think Tank	Yemen Socio-Econ Update Changes monthly(monthly)	Observation of Economic Complexity Database for Yemen	World Bank	2017 SDR Cash Markets	2017 Market Functionality and Feasibility	2018 WFP Food Markets Time of Conflict/Cholera	2018 CaLP State of Cash	WFP Market Watch and VAM dataset (monthly)	WFP Emergency Dashboard	Yemen mVAM bulletin (monthly)	FEW NET Food Security (6 months)	CMWG JMM (monthly)	2018 REACH Financial Service Provider	MCLA	IPC	2015 Yemen SFD Journal article	2018 CaLP Review 2015-2018	2016 UNHCR PDM	2019 CARE/ Action Against Hunger PDM
Financial Service Providers	Banking Systems	To what extent are banking systems or informal financial transfer mechanisms functioning?	Data Available	4			X	X (changes monthly)						X						X						
Financial Service Providers	Debt And Credit Markets	How do debt and credit markets function, and what is the likely effect of a cash injection?	Limited Data Available	3				X (changes monthly)				X								X						
Market Systems	Availability of essential items	What are the prices of essential food and non-food items, and what are their seasonal variations?	Data Available	8	X (wheat)		X	X (changes monthly)	X (lagged)	X (lagged)			X		X				X							
Market Systems	Availability of essential items	What are the stocks of goods for wholesalers, intermediaries, traders, or vendors?	Limited Data Available	3								X	X		X											
Market Systems	Availability of essential items	Can the market supply what people need (essential items) at prices they can afford?	Data Available	7			X	X (changes monthly)	X (lagged)	X (lagged)			X		X				X							
Market Systems	Availability of essential items	Are traders able and willing to respond to possible increases in demand?	Limited Data Available	2	X														X							
Market Systems	Availability of essential items	Will government policy or other factors affect food availability?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Market Systems	Availability of essential items	Is food available nationally and locally in sufficient quantities and quality?	Limited Data Available	3	X (wheat)											X									X	
Market Systems	Exchange Rate	What is the exchange rate and how does it affect the local economy?	Data Available	6	X	X		X (changes monthly)					X		X				X							
Market Systems	Market Functionality	Is there credit available for traders?	Limited Data Available	3				X (changes monthly)										X		X						

Main Theme	Sub-theme	Key Question(s)	Level of evidence available	Count of resources that address this question	WFP 2010 Market Study	2016 WFP Situation Report	2017 Humanitarian Foresight Think Tank	Yemen Socio-Econ Update Changes monthly(monthly)	Observation of Economic Complexity Database for Yemen	World Bank	2017 SDR Cash Markets	2017 Market Functionality and Feasibility	2018 WFP Food Markets Time of Conflict/Cholera	2018 CaLP State of Cash	WFP Market Watch and VAM dataset (monthly)	WFP Emergency Dashboard	Yemen mVAM bulletin (monthly)	FEW NET Food Security (6 months)	CMWG JMMI (monthly)	2018 REACH Financial Service Provider	MCLA	IPC	2015 Yemen SFD Journal article	2018 CaLP Review 2015-2018	2016 UNHCR PDM	2019 CARE / Action Against Hunger PDM
Market Systems	Market Functionality	What are the risks that cash will cause inflation in prices of key products? What impact is a cash injection likely to have on the local economy?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Market Systems	Market Functionality	What are the costs to transfer goods to the market?	Data Available	4								X	X		X				X							
Market Systems	Market Functionality	Are markets competitive and integrated (are market services functioning and enabling goods to move from areas of surplus to areas of deficit)?	Limited Data Available	2				X (changes monthly)							X											
Market Systems	Market Functionality	How have markets been affected by the shock/prevaling situation (disruption to transport routes, death of traders, loss of stocks, loss of produce)?	Data Available	6				X (changes monthly)							X			X	X	X	X					
Market Systems	Market Functionality	What is the supply chain for goods needed for food security? What actors are involved?	Limited Data Available	3	X			X (changes monthly)					X													
Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	Were community representatives and key stakeholders involved in the needs analysis and design of the program?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	What were the needs of the population, and was a cash intervention the most appropriate means of meeting those needs?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	Were community perceptions of cash programming, and past experience with cash programming, taken into account? Does the community think that cash was the best response?	Limited Data Available	1								X														

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Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	How was the value of the cash grant determined? Did the process take account of people's existing income, coping strategies, and household debt?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	Were the criteria for targeting beneficiaries appropriate, and did they relate to the assessment findings and the objectives of providing cash grants?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	Was a risk analysis carried out before starting the project? What measures were taken to minimize security risks?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Appropriateness	Did the project have an impact on security for the implementing agency or the beneficiaries?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Coordination	How were the cash interventions linked with other livelihood support interventions, including other short-term emergency responses and longer term livelihood support?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Coordination	How did the response relate to government policies and strategies? Did the project take into account existing social safety net mechanisms?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Coordination	How were the cash interventions coordinated with the programs of other organizations or government agencies working on similar projects or in the same area?	Limited Data Available	3												X									X	

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Monitoring And Evaluation	Cost-Efficiency	Was there a difference between the planned costs provided for in the project budget (staff needs, materials, running costs) and the actual costs of implementing the program?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Cost-Efficiency	What are the administration costs of the intervention compared to the proportion of funds that went directly to the beneficiary?	Limited Data Available	2																			X			X
Monitoring And Evaluation	Cost-Efficiency	What are the likely costs of a cash or voucher program, and how do these compare to in-kind alternatives?	Limited Data Available	2																				X	X	
Monitoring And Evaluation	Coverage	What was the coverage of the cash intervention? Which groups were targeted and did these groups represent the groups most in need of support?	Limited Data Available	1												X										
Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	Were beneficiaries able to access goods and services in the required quantity and of the required quality?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	Did any recipients find it difficult to reach markets? (distance and time)	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	Did beneficiaries face any constraints in the way they used cash? How could these be minimized?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	How did beneficiaries use the additional cash income (what did they purchase)?	Limited Data Available	1																					X	
Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	Was the value of the cash transfer sufficient to meet the objectives of the program? Was the timing of the project	Limited Data Available	1																			X			

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		appropriate for meeting the identified needs?																								
Monitoring And Evaluation	Effectiveness	Did cash meet specific objectives, such as shelter recovery, small business promotion or promoting savings?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	Have there been any changes in consumption or expenditure patterns?	Limited Data Available	2	X																				X	
Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	What was the impact of cash transfers (positive or negative) on the local economy? Have prices or availability changed? How has the cash project influenced local debt and credit markets?	Limited Data Available	2																				X	X	
Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	Were there any problems or negative impacts associated with the program?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	How has the cash project affected traditional systems of community self-help?	Limited Data Available	1											X											
Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	What were the changes in sources of food and income, and asset levels?	Limited Data Available	3																		X	X	X		
Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	What were the changes in debt levels and coping strategies? How has the cash project influenced local debt and credit markets?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Impact	Was there an impact on employment, labor, production systems?	Data Unavailable	0																						

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Monitoring And Evaluation	Process	Were beneficiaries and other stakeholders satisfied with the coverage, process and methods of implementation?	Limited Data Available	1																						X
Monitoring And Evaluation	Process	Did the beneficiaries / suppliers receive the correct sums of money?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Process	Were the payments made on time?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Process	Was cash delivered safely and spent safely? Were any security issues reported as a result of the distribution itself or increased cash on the market?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Social and Gender Relations	What was the impact on gender relations in the household and the community?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Social and Gender Relations	Was there an impact on social relations between groups? Did any conflict arise between households/areas that were targeted and those that were not?	Limited Data Available	1																						X
Monitoring And Evaluation	Social and Gender Relations	What was the impact on control of cash resources and expenditure within the household? Who controls the money?	Limited Data Available	1																						X
Monitoring And Evaluation	Social and Gender Relations	Were those receiving/not receiving cash integrated/reintegrated/excluded from the community? What were the views of the non-recipients?	Limited Data Available	1																						X

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Monitoring And Evaluation	Social and Gender Relations	Was the method chosen for the cash transfer the safest method? Were any recipients disadvantaged by the transfer system chosen?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Monitoring And Evaluation	Sustainability	Are the positive changes that have been achieved likely to be sustained?	Limited Data Available	2												X										X
Monitoring And Evaluation	Sustainability	How were local resources and capacities strengthened in order to respond more effectively in the future?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Needs and Risk Assessment	Context	Where are people food insecure? What is causing the insecurity?	Data Available	5		X									X		X	X				X				
Needs and Risk Assessment	Coping Strategies	What strategies are people using to cope with food insecurity or income insecurity? What impact do the strategies have on livelihoods and dignity?	Limited Data Available	1													X									
Needs and Risk Assessment	Cost of living	What is the normal cost of living (to meet basic needs)?	Data Available	4											X		X		X		X					
Needs and Risk Assessment	Cost of living	What is the level of household debt? What is people's usual access to credit and banks?	Limited Data Available	2																	X				X	
Needs and Risk Assessment	Cost of living	What are people likely to spend cash on?	Limited Data Available	1																		X				
Needs and Risk Assessment	Cost of living	What are the average income and expenditure of different groups within the population?	Limited Data Available	1	X																					
Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	What are the key assets of the population?	Limited Data Available	1																		X				

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Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	What are people's sources of food and income?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	What do people commonly buy and sell?	Limited Data Available	1																	X					
Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	Are people able to meet their basic needs with the food and income available after the shock?	Data Available	4			X								X		X	X								
Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	What was the impact of the shock on people's assets, in particular those essential to their livelihoods?	Limited Data Available	1	X																					
Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	How far are different groups of people able to meet their basic needs or recover their livelihoods using their own resources?	Limited Data Available	1																	X					
Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	What are the priority needs and gaps for support?	Data Available	4													X			X	X				X	
Needs and Risk Assessment	Food And Livelihoods	How do remittances impact the community?	Limited Data Available	3									X	X						X						
Needs and Risk Assessment	Market Access	Are there particular groups that need special consideration with regard to market access?	Limited Data Available	3											X			X			X					
Needs and Risk Assessment	Modality	Do emergency affected populations have a preference for cash or in-kind approaches?	Limited Data Available	1																					X	
Needs and Risk Assessment	Modality	What are the government and related bodies providing? How would cash transfers fit in with government policies and will it be possible to obtain permission to implement such projects?	Limited Data Available	1								X														

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Needs and Risk Assessment	Modality	How would a cash project complement other forms of assistance that are being provided or planned?	Limited Data Available	2																				X	X	
Needs and Risk Assessment	Modality	What are the likely costs of a cash or voucher program, and how do these compare to in-kind alternatives?	Limited Data Available	1																			X			
Needs and Risk Assessment	Modality	What is the most appropriate option for delivering cash to people?	Limited Data Available	1																			X			
Needs and Risk Assessment	Risk	How near to the recipients are possible safe distribution sites and how many such sites are there?	Limited Data Available	2																				X	X	
Needs and Risk Assessment	Risk	What are the risks of cash benefits being taxed or seized? What are the risks of cash being diverted by local elites or project staff?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Needs and Risk Assessment	Risk	What are the relative security risks of a cash transfer compared to in-kind distributions? Are there other modalities that are safer than others?	Limited Data Available	2																				X	X	
Needs and Risk Assessment	Risk	What accountability safeguards are available to minimize these risks? Are there ways in which these risks could be minimized?	Data Unavailable	0																				X		

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Needs and Risk Assessment	Social and Gender Relations	Do men and women have different priorities? Do men and women currently earn and spend income? Should cash be distributed specifically to women or to men, or to both?	Limited Data Available	3								X									X					X
Needs and Risk Assessment	Social and Gender Relations	How is control over resources managed within households? How will cash be used in the household?	Limited Data Available	2																	X					X
Needs and Risk Assessment	Social and Gender Relations	Will cash distributions have any impact on existing social and political divisions within communities?	Data Unavailable	0																						
Needs and Risk Assessment	Social and Gender Relations	Are there risks of exclusion of a particular group?	Limited Data Available	2																	X					X
Needs and Risk Assessment	Social and Gender Relations	What are the characteristics of gender and social/ethnic relations at household and community levels?	Data Unavailable	0																						