## FSS WORKING GROUP Monthly Virtual MEETING
19 January 2021

**FSS COORDINATION TEAM:** Carla De Gregorio; Elie Choueiri, Amal Salibi, Hussein Nasrallah(MoA).


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<th>Agenda item</th>
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<td>WFP/VAM – Situation Analysis updates / Monitoring Results</td>
<td>Port of Beirut Good Movement from January 2019 till December 2020 (in mt)</td>
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|             | - A decrease of 17% in the unloaded imports weight of Food is registered when comparing Jan –Dec 2020 to the same period in 2019. 
- A decrease of 22% is noticed when comparing Dec 2020 figures against the same period in 2019. 
Between January 2020 and September 2020, and in comparison, to the same period in 2019: 
- Total imports decreased by 38 percent. 
- Food Imports (excluding cereals) decreased by 18 percent. 
- Food imports decreased by 7 percent. | At this moment it seems that there is no major impact of import prices on suppliers, due to changes due to COVID-19 measures. 
As of 1st of January 2021, WFP Lebanon will be monitoring and reporting on the “new” Food Basket, which stands at LBP 129,605 in December 2020. |
Cereal imports increased by 8 percent

Stock coverage evolution of WFP contracted shops (as of January 15th 2021)

-79% (72% on July 24th) of WFP-contracted shops reported to have more than 2 weeks of stocks
-81% of WFP contracted shops reported scarcity in certain products, such as oil & fats and sugar. 67% of shops reported scarcity in the subsidized products.

-43% of WFP-contracted shops reported suppliers not delivering the full ordered quantities.
36% reported that suppliers are accepting new orders for subsidized products.
-Only 1% of shops that received subsidized items reported receiving the full ordered quantities.

In the second week of January 2021, 100% of WFP-contracted shops were using an exchange rate between LBP 8,000–9,000

Daily (official and unofficial) exchange rate development between mid October 2019 and January 17 2021

Black market rate heavily affected by developments on the political scene (red line in the attached presentation). Rate has been witnessing increases lately.

Change of Monthly food SMEB price in LPB (national average)
Food SMEB recorded a slight increase in December 2020, at LBP 111,457.

The cost of the SMEB is higher than October 2019 levels by 189 percent.

A revised composition of the food and non-food items of the baskets to cover the actual consumption patterns of Syrian Refugees is recommended.

For details please consult the attached presentation

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<td><strong>1. AI sector and COVID 19 updates</strong></td>
<td><strong>2. Sector prioritization discussions</strong></td>
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| - For AI indicators update please refer to the presentation in attachment | 2021 LCRP Inter-Sector Planning Workshop on 4-5 February; Sector to submit outcomes from Sector prioritization discussions by 29 January:  
  *What interventions should be prioritized Q1? Q2?*  
  *What is the funding needed for those interventions?*  
  *Access to cash-based food assistance for the extremely vulnerable (meaningful transfer - incl. scale up NPTP)*  
  *Access to in-kind food (different modalities; emergency based: storms, COVID-19)*  
  *Access to inputs for farmers (to support 2021 cropping season)*  
  *Food availability (limited domestic food production-support to agriculture)* |
| - As a response to COVID-19 pandemic, in November-December 2020, 17 reporting partners distributed 3,505 food parcels to 75% Lebanese, 18% Syrians and 7% Palestinians beneficiaries;  
  - South – Sour and Saida - and Tripoli have higher concentration of assistance | Please remember to update regularly the service mapping on ActivityInfo |
• What discussions/support is required in your sector/across sectors to support the prioritization?

Discussion during the meeting raised the following:
- The prioritization exercise is also related to funding messages on key areas of prioritizations and to assess if an intersectoral approach is needed.
- A nutrition SMART survey could be considered under the last point “assess gaps...”
- Referral process for FSS
- What about access to finance?
- Include emergency assistance after removal/modification of subsidies

3. Lockdown exceptions OCHA update 18 January

- Granting of exceptions – only organizations working in health, food security and protection have been kept, with a handful of addition for critical WASH activities (NGO List).
- All other activities should be suspended until the end of the strict lockdown.
- Organisations who are included in the list will be able to apply for authorization through the Government online portal (www.covid pcm.gov.lb), choosing “other” and mentioning as a reason “urgent and critical humanitarian work.”
- A dedicated category will be available soon mentioning “life-saving activities.”
- The exception will be granted for the duration of the strict lockdown. Confirmation received electronically can be shown at checkpoints.
- We asked OCHA if SMS from agency to beneficiaries can allow them to redeem their entitlements and access

• Support to casual work in agriculture
• Support to local institutions (agri-related and SDCs)
• Monitor food security situation
• Assess gaps in understanding impact of crises on vulnerable households

The list above will be updated on the basis of inputs provided by partners during the meeting and re-circulated to the FSSWG ahead of the deadline of 29 January.

Lockdown:

Please remember that partners should raise any issues they face in terms of access or gaps in the response at the local level first, with the emergency focal points and/or sector coordinators, and ensure that Regional Inter-Sector Coordinators are looped in. This will help to facilitate follow up by the relevant inter-sector colleagues with the local authorities referencing the RC/HC agreement with the government and that the list of partners was shared with MOIM and LAF. Please send LCRP access issues that require support from the national level to Patric Jad Mansour patric.mansour@un.org, copying sparks@unhcr.org and americas@unhcr.org.
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<th>Inter-Agency Referral Analysis Q3</th>
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<td>Updates from partners on their interventions</td>
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**Inter-Agency Referral Analysis Q3**

- A huge increase in referrals to Food Security sector was observed in Q3 (48,728 referrals - 68% out of total referrals)
- Increase noticeable in Mount Lebanon (33% of referrals), North (27%), South (16%) and Bekaa (15%), given the increased needs resulting from the blast (Mount Lebanon) and the deteriorating socio-economic situation.
- 99% of the referrals were acknowledged.

For the agricultural livelihoods activities, a new project under BPRM funding will be implemented by CONCERN

Sector will inform the partners about the beneficiaries being allowed to get their assistance at distribution points.

Hours of operations will be normally daylight operations times

Partners requested to update the service mapping on AI if they can support with the referrals

Question for discussion: More Lebanese are being referred to Food Security sector: this trend shows higher needs amongst Lebanese, etc. What are the challenges to accessing required services? What does that mean for the current response? What changes are required? What further efforts are required to ensure people’s access to food related services?

The huge increase in referrals mirrors the deteriorating food security situation in the country and increasing food needs for Lebanese. While responses to referrals can help in the short term to address those needs, more longer-term responses should be envisioned as well as increasing the caseload of partners providing food assistance through regular programmes

Important to remember that for cash of work type of intervention the daily wage per
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<th>Presentation by CONCERN on the project on “Value chains for improved socioeconomic well-being of Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities – herbs and dairy”</th>
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starting 2021: “Value chains for improved socioeconomic well-being of Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities”. The Project Objective: Syrian refugees and vulnerable host communities have skills, capacities, and greater access to income generating activities in a protective environment that supports economic and psychosocial well-being. Key activities focus on Support of 2 value chains: Herbs and Dairy with Protection mainstreaming for all participants. Partners include LARI and ESNU (AUB) for a timeframe of 2 years in Akkar & Dannieh to reach 802 Refugees, 508 Lebanese.

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<th>WFP/AUB climate resilient study preliminary results: Livelihood Mapping and Resilience Analysis</th>
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AUB presented the premilitary results of the Livelihood Mapping and resilience analysis whose objective is to inform WFP’s upcoming strategy for Lebanon by:
- Identify vulnerable zones and areas of intervention
- Expanding activities that promote climate resilience

The aim of the study is to conduct climate analysis that would generate evidence on the impact of climate change and variability on food security and food systems. The study used ad adapted the WFP Consolidated Livelihood Exercise for Analyzing Resilience (CLEAR+) method to:
- Identify, design, and implement pilot interventions to test new approaches
- Generate lessons learned for future upscale for WFP’s agriculture and climate related activities

Please consult the presentation in attachment to check the maps and the climate resilience index results.

| person (6 hours daily work) has been set at LBP 50,000 for unskilled workers and LBP 75,000 for skilled workers (LH sector and MoSA).

Herbs value chain can be relevant for the low costs, the possibility to reclaim marginalised land and access to local markets (a market exploration will be conducted by a consultant).

| The study results can also be used by other partners and government working on climate adaptation.

The study is part of larger initiative to prepare for a WFP call for proposal for pilot interventions in the field of climate resilience, in the coming months. |
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| 7    | Update on advocacy note on removal of subsidies’ impact on FS prepared by the FSSWG | - Impact of Removal of Subsidies on Food Security and Most Vulnerable Populations: Annotated outline  
- Advocacy Note Audience: HC/RC; HCT-donors-INGO-LNGO; humanitarian community  
- Focus on mainly on the short-term impact of the removal on the most vulnerable populations, on food security and supply/demand, on the basis of analysis conducted in October 2020 and adding analysis based on new data  
- Recommendations on most urgent actions for the humanitarian community and longer-term programmatic changes  
- Timeline: present first draft to next FSSWG |
| 8    | AOB     | Upcoming trainings on FSS AI 2021 for old and new partners. IMO will send an invite to all partners  
As we are preparing the sector end of the year report, please let us know if you would like to contribute a case study to be included in the narrative. |

Once advocacy note is ready, the FSS will inform other sectors accordingly.