

**FSS WORKING GROUP Monthly Virtual MEETING
September 11, 2020**

FSS COORDINATION TEAM: Carla De Gregorio; Elie Choueiri.

PARTNERS ATTENDING: ACF, ACT, ACTED, AFDC, ANERA, Arc en ciel, AUB, AVSI, B&Z, CARE, CONCERN, ECHO, EU, Fair Trade Lebanon, FAO, French Embassy, Global communities, GVC, Interagency, Islamic Relief, LPC, Merath/LSESD, Michel Daher Social Foundation, MSF, NRC, PARCIC, PU-AMI, Save the Children International, ShareQ, Dorcas/Tabhita, Taawon, UNDP, UNHCR, URDA, WFP, WVI.

| | Agenda item | Main discussion points | Takeaways/action points |
|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | WFP VAM update on economic situation and FSS indicators: | <p><u>Multi-stakeholders Preliminary Analysis (MSNA):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data conducted until August 28th, 2020 • Sample size around 11,000 • The information provided by the assessment includes household characteristics, pregnant and lactating women, households health conditions, access to safe and clean water, shelter conditions, protection and gender-based violence, ongoing assistance and priority needs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top priorities identified by people affected by the explosion: shelter repairs, followed by food, cash and medication. • Food is the main priority need in Bourj Hammoud (together with cash) and Bachoura cadaster (together with shelter repairs). • Households located in Cadasters closer to the site of the explosion (i.e. Marfa' cadaster, Rmeil cadaster and Mdaouar cadaster) reported shelter repairs as main priority. |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| | | <p><u>Impact on the supply chain and WFP contracted shops:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 78 percent of WFP contracted shops have a stock for more than 2 weeks as of June 2020 (73 percent in July 2020) <p><i>Weekly shops assessment survey:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 percent of WFP contracted shops reported scarcity in certain products, such as flour, sugar, oil & fats 42 percent of WFP-contracted shops reported suppliers did not deliver the full ordered quantities 69 percent reported having subsidized items by the government at the rate of LBP 3,900 in their stocks. 43 percent reported that suppliers are accepting new orders for subsidized products. <p><u>Repercussions of explosion on weekly exchange rate based on contracted retailers' feedback (national level)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major changes in exchange rates applied by suppliers of contracted shops following the explosion. 80 percent of WFP-contracted shops reported restocking their supplies using an exchange rate between 8,000-9,000 LBP (as of 7th August 2020) before dropping to 5 percent on August 27th, and zero percent on September 3rd, following the drop in the black-market exchange rate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In areas with high prevalence of low-income households, a higher proportion of residents reported cash among the top priorities (Bourj Hammoud, Bachoura cadasters). Contracted shops are trying to absorb the fluctuations of the prices and act as a buffer and not to leave too much stocks |
|--|--|---|---|

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 percent of WFP-contracted shops were using an exchange rate between LBP 7,000 – 8,000. This increased to 97% as of September 3rd. <p><i>Daily exchange rate development between mid October 2019 and September 2020:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the drop in the black-market, the exchange rate has been trading mostly between LBP 7,000 and 8,000 from mid August and onward Rate for withdrawal from non-fresh money dollar account in LBP continues to be set at LBP 3,900 by the central bank currency exchange platform Official exchange houses rate as set by the central bank currency exchange platform (Sayrafa) continues to be set at between LBP 3,850 & LBP 3,900 <p><u>Lebanese Customs Imports Statistics Periods Comparison</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total imports decreased by 41 percent in comparison to the same period in 2019 (first half of 2020). Food imports decreased by 9.4 percent, in comparison to the same period in 2019 Cereal imports remained nearly unchanged in the first half of 2020, at an approximate total of 660 thousand tons, compared to nearly 641 thousand tons in the same period in 2019. <p><u>Demand: food & non-food price developments and exchange rate fluctuations</u></p> <p><i>The Cost of the Food SMEB:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The cost of the SMEB is higher than October levels by 168 percent | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Central Bank decided on August 6 to resume paying incoming money transfer in US dollar notes for non-financial institutes. Last recorded rate was LBP 3,800. |
|--|---|--|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At national level, the month on month variation of the food SMEB was minimal (up to 3 percent) At the governorate level, Beirut recorded the highest month on month increase (up 21.6 percent), followed by Mount Lebanon and Akkar (up 8.8 percent). <p><u>Non-Food Items (NFI) Monthly Price Development:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between October 2019 and August 2020, an increase of 170% was registered (65,244 LBP in October 2019 vs. 175,928 LBP in August 2020) for NFI The month on month NFI prices increased from +3.2 percent in November 2019 to +12.1 percent in August 2020. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food prices are still high but stabilized In parallel with the Food SMEB, exchange rate stabilized between July and August (at LBP/USD 7,420) An increase of 97 percent is registered between the week of March 16th, which marked the start of the General COVID-19 mobilization, and the week of August 31st 2020. WFP will be monitoring the impact on prices if subsidy will be lifted from food commodities according to the news reported in different media outlets |
| 2 | Food Assistance Response: updates and mapping | <p><u>Food Assistance (FA) under the regular programme</u></p> <p>Data extracted from Activity Info (August 2020) shows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total individuals receiving FA (cash, voucher or in-kind): 800,977 Total individuals receiving Cash-Based Transfer: 756,258 (excluding NPTP) Total individuals receiving in kind: 30,369 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFP and UNHCR received 49,516 calls in August 2020, and they are used to refer them to potential partners. in August 2020 non-beneficiaries calls represented 68 percent of total calls |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total USD transferred as cash for food: USD 13,756,086 <p>WFP beneficiaries' redemption rate for August 2020: 97 percent</p> <p><u>School feeding programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Rations distributed to the families of 170 children who attended schools during the previous academic year. <p><u>Food Assistance (FA) under COVID-19 pandemic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping shows response coverage by region on the basis of partners/NGOs inputs (tracking mainly at regional levels) • Gaps identified in parts of Mount Lebanon and North, and South and through referrals try to fill these gaps for partners willing to support <p>The Online response tracking tool of partners is on hold for the time being</p> <p><u>Agricultural activities under the LCRP regular programme</u></p> <p>Data extracted from Activity Info (August 2020) show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers signing contracts with retailer, and/or having access to market infrastructures: 156 (1 woman) • Farmers provided with agriculture inputs/trainings: 77 • Farmers trained on Pest Management and Good Agriculture Practices and Standards (i.e pesticide use): | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners are requested to update regularly the databases under the Activity Info (LCRP and COVID-19 databases) and avoid duplications in both databases • Partners are also requested to update regularly the Service Mapping in Activity Info |
|--|--|--|---|

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals providing temporary/casual agricultural labor: 2,773 <p><u>Partners updates on current interventions in Food Assistance:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Islamic Relief: Eleven thousand food parcels for winterization for the coming six months, will be distributed mostly in Bekaa. Currently a project in Bekaa is distributing 2,300 food parcels and 400 food parcels will be distributed to women-headed households (for 4 months). CARE: presented a project under the LHF with OCHA as a response to COVID-19 and with LRC to provide food parcels. They can cover need of referral requests. ShareQ: After the Beirut Port Blast 20,000 hot meals were distributed to people. Now, they are providing vacuumed meals to individuals and hospitals that can be refrigerated up to 5 days. WFP: In September, under the Beirut Blast response, there will be a shift from in-kind to Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC) for Food and Non-Food items using the exchange rate in the parallel market. <p>Discussions on harmonization of the Cash values are on-going with concerned agencies/partners under the CBT task force of the Beirut Blast response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basmeh & Zeitouna: will be receiving funds to support SMEs for the rehabilitation and businesses recovery programme | |
|--|--|--|--|

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 3 | <p>Update Beirut port explosion <u>response</u>: FSS structure</p> | <p><u>Sector Structure & meetings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSS sector coordination team: WFP, FAO, ACTED, Global Food Security Cluster (gFSC): meets on Monday, Wednesday, Friday • FSS sector working group: meets once a week (Monday), led by WFP, ACTED co-chair • The FSS includes two Task Forces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash-Based Transfers (CBT)/ chaired LOUISE platform Coordinator- Co-Chair: ACTED • Nutrition chaired by UNICEF and co-chaired by ACF • Emergency Operation Cell (EOC) : all sectors <p><u>Flash Appeal 2020 Strategic Objectives under the Beirut Port Explosion Response:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saving lives by providing essential health care, food, water, hygiene, shelter and protection to people affected for three months • Pave the way towards self-reliance by re-establishing the food supply chain and retail markets for basic food and other items, providing short-term income support, and restoring access to education <p><u>Food Security Sector Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance Food Security through immediate life-saving food and nutrition security assistance • Enhance Food Security through livelihoods assistance and support to light port infrastructure rehabilitation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash-Based Transfer TF meets on Tuesdays • Nutrition TF meets on Thursdays • EOC meetings on Thursdays: <p>Contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - carla.degregorio@wfp.org - joseph.nakhle@acted.org - Fsc_lebanon@wfp.org |
|---|---|--|---|

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | | <p>(i.e. assets and facilities port, quarantine facilities & quality laboratories, community kitchens; support to MSMEs; cash for work)</p> <p><u>Areas of work of the Response:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate delivery of hot meals and food rations • Expand cash base assistance • Cash for work for cleaning, and reparation of structures • Stabilize national grain supply • Provide infrastructure support at port - including bulk grain receiving facility, animal and plant quarantine facilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 partners participated to the flash appeal with 22 projects (international NGOs, local NGOs and UN Agencies) • Some partners are operating outside the Appeal as well • 21,200 households were provided with in-kind food parcels/vouchers in 11 priority areas • Since the beginning of the response, more than 74,600 ready to eat/hot meals have been distributed in 11 priority areas • 4,000 pregnant and lactating women reached with sessions and messaging on IYCF practices. 16 organizations were trained on processes for donations and distribution of Breast Milk Substitutes • 12,500 Mt of wheat flour have been delivered and discharged to Beirut port • 12 mobile storage units and other equipment (cargo flights) |
|--|--|--|---|

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| | | | as a temporary solution for the destroyed grain silos |
| 4 | Planning for LCRP extension: calendar and Inter-Sector feedback from regional workshops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The planning process for LCRP 2021 was presented with the different phases and the timeline until the official launching planned for January 2021 During the multi-stakeholders analysis workshops, discussions will be articulated around four topics: social stability, access to services, socio-economic vulnerabilities and protection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partners to join the multi-stakeholders analysis workshops on 16 and 17 September 2020 (results of ongoing assessments feed into the situation analysis) Partners will be invited to have bilateral discussions/consultations at regional levels on the Theory of Change Strengthen linkages between the Food Security Sector and the Livelihoods Sector (cooperatives, food consumption..) INGOs and NGOs to work on strengthening linkages between local producers and SMEs |
| 5 | Renewing membership of the INGO and LNGO representatives in the FSS WG and core group for 2020-2021 | <p><u>For the LCRP 2021 year:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expression of Interest to be submitted by interested INGOs and Local NGOs There will be a voting process INGO and the LNGO that will respectively get more votes will become members of the core group for a year and will alternate as co-lead of the WG for 6 months each | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of Expression of Interests as per ToRs Include background information of the Organization Include a brief description of the Organization's expertise to act as co-lead within the FSS Announcement of INGO and Local NGOs co-lead will be made on October 2nd, 2020 |

| | | | |
|---|-----|---|---|
| 6 | AOB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSS partners to regularly update data under AI for LCRP and COVID-19 databases • FSS mid-year dashboard will be shared with partners • Partners are requested to avoid duplication in both LCRP regular database and COVID-19 database • Partners to report under AI for the <u>exchange rate database</u> applied by each of them on <u>monthly basis</u> • Partners are requested to update regularly the Inter-Service Mapping for referrals on AI • For the Beirut Explosion Response: partners to update their activities for the 5 Ws on the provided link |
|---|-----|---|---|