Food Security Sector coordination meeting: Beirut Blast

Meeting minutes

31 August 2020

Location: Teams meeting

Chair: Food Security Sector

Co-chair: ACTED

Attendees: *WFP, FAO, ACTED, ACF, AFDC, Farah Social Foundation, UNOCHA, MERATH, Caritas, ESDU-AUB, Global Communities, FTL, Oxfam, CAMEALEON, UNICEF, Daher Foundation, WHH, LPC and NRC, PU-AMI, B&Z, Dorcas-Tabitha, CARE*

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Agenda:

- Introductions (include name, organization, email and phone in the chat box)
- Flash Appeal/Reporting/CM Coord cell- FSS Coordination
- Assessment Update- WFP VAM
- Field Coordination Update- Co Chair ACTED
- Sub-Sectors feedback
    - Cash-based transfers
    - Nutrition
- Presentation 5Ws template revisions- GFSC
- Partners Updates (highlights, 5 minutes maximum per partner, detail sitreps to be sent via email/update 5Ws on a weekly basis deadline 28/08/2020- mapping)
- AOB: Frequency of meeting

Assessment update – WFP-VAM

Check VAM presentation

Data is currently being collected by the VASyr and will be ready by the 18th of September

Flash Appeal/Reporting/CM Coord cell- FSS Coordination

- We will be sending communication and updates every Friday for partners
- There was a message related to the flash appeal and partners can start uploading information on the financial tracking system
- In case partners have questions, they could get back to the sector who will convey them to OCHA

- Reporting: a parallel meeting with OCHA information management officer; some sectors to define the parameters for the reporting so that the partners that appeal will report on Activity info indicators
- FSS selected the indicators and there are going to be discussions about partners' targeting strategy
- Emergency operation cell meeting; there was a point on civil military collaboration. OCHA is following up and can present to one of the FSS meeting
- Regarding the frequency of the meetings; HCT and EOC will meet once a week, and we will be discussing at the end of the meeting the frequency of FSS meetings

Field Coordination Update

- At the EOC level working on the field level coordination as well with the LHDF
- The help desk that we are trying to set in 7 locations. LHDF are currently trying to identify the focal points from NGOs that are operating in the field. So far 2 desks 1 in Geitawi and 1 in Mar Mikhael. Each desk will be run by an NGO as well as volunteers.
- It is mainly an information sharing point. As such, they are currently putting boundaries to understand the role and function of this help desk.
- More meetings will take place to further develop this concept
- Co-leads are doing more informal field visits, and attend coordination meetings in Qarantina
- Currently checking if there are similar structure in other area and could organize meetings to share info and make sure we agree on the zones and area division to ensure no duplication or overlap as many LCRP actors are on field
- Request to partners if someone could support in setting up meetings in Mar Mekhael, Gemayze, Achrafieh…
- Request to share assessments regarding FS and food distributions and plan

Sub-Sectors feedback

Cash-based transfers

- One of the things it was mainly discussed at the TF meetings is the transfer currency; whether to dispatch in USD or in LBP for the assistance
- There is a general understanding that USD is the best one for beneficiaries
- Recommendations yet to be validated: Try to move to discussion a bit away from the currency and focus a more on the value that we are intending to disburse
- Should be able on consistently adjust the value so that the needs will not be affected
- Moving the risks to the organizations that are responding which means that we are protecting the value of the money that is going to the people we are assisting.
- This also means that the costs are potentially going to increase for any organization that is responding using the LBP
- No consensus on using 1 currency primarily because some organizations have already agreed on what to use
- Trying to get guidance from each sector on the transfer value.
- One of the recommendations also is to ringfence the explosion response from other ongoing

WFP

- As WFP have been discussing extensively on this issue, so concluded that we would like to choose payment in USD although fully aware of the concerns of organizations who will not be able to do that because of their contracts with their service providers or conflict

sensitivity matter. Decision was made based on the need of the population, this is a short-term intervention, hope to make use of the fund as much as possible

- In terms of the value, the latest price info of July (in Beirut) and removed the portion of rent and income and that arrive at the moment to 37 $ for food and 180$ for non-food. Food is for beneficiaries and non-food is for HH as per usual practice
- Also reaching out to LRC who is providing similar assistance and from our understanding trying to reach 10,000 HH for the first month which includes the intervention on the shelter portion and the value of 500$ and for the 2nd month they will be reaching 5000HH with a 400$ which will include food and non-food items.
- Trying to do harmonization as much as possible
- Trying to offer service, unique identifier check lists for duplications…
- First distribution planned at the end of this week or next week
- Suggestion to prepare Q&A for the front liners

Save the children

- In short analysis conducted HH eco analysis
- Found out the new survival threshold for vulnerable Lebanese is above 1.6 Million LBP per month so not taking into consideration reduced income for that we are looking at is the need of 1.4 M LBP per month so aligns with what WFP is proposing in dollars
- Encourage to continue harmonizing in terms of what the families are receiving

CARE

- Have now a project in pipeline with MPCA system and now the amount is 800,000LL
- Still didn't decide if to pay in LBP or USD, will favour LBP for do no harm purpose

Nutrition

- The nutrition task force has been formalized
- 4 areas will be focusing on the next 2-3 weeks
- Looking at evidence-based info on nutrition needs
- Welcome any news on new assessment
- Already developed an advocacy brief
- Also will be looking at community engagement
- Also focusing on the cash transfer
- Looking at long-term planning beyond the 3 month Beirut explosion because all Lebanon might be affected by this

Presentation 5Ws template revisions- GFSC

As response to the meeting on Friday to track the planned response and not also to achieve, and internal discussion took place and the proposal are: 1) to add a column selecting whether the intervention is planned or achieved, and 2) to extract the projects that had been submitted to the HPC but this might be too heavy and not really reflect the reality as the project submission was done quickly and partners didn't have time to specify exact intervention locations. As such, the 1st option is recommended.

Another suggestion is regarding the geographical coverage, to report on zoning (part of the LRC zoning) which is one level lower from the Cadastral level. This option was also added.

Partners were requested to provide their feedback on their preference regarding both the planning and the zone level reporting.

Partners Updates

- Regarding Macron's visit, progress achieved by the sector will be shared with OCHA
- Tomorrow deadline to provide inputs in the Sitrep

AOB
Frequency of meetings: Weekly

Action point
Will reach out to the partners working on FSS and see if they would like to be part of the consensus regarding the assistance currency/value