URGENT FUNDING IS NEEDED

The projects of the Food Security Sector under the ERP are now finalized and can be found in the FTS System. Twenty-six partners are ready to provide emergency food and basic needs assistance to 400,000 vulnerable Lebanese nationals and 90,500 vulnerable migrants, provided funding is received against project costs.

Out of the USD 115.4 million requested for the Sector in the ERP launched on August 2021, only about USD 5.4 million have been allocated to projects through the LHF for Lebanese and migrants. Net funding requirements for the Sector, therefore, currently stands at USD 110.0 million (95 percent of needs).

**SECTORAL ANALYSIS:** The situation in Lebanon has changed dramatically in 2020 when rising prices and the economic crisis, compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, affected all population groups, with the most marginalized hit the hardest. Food access and availability continue to be significant issues, with food prices out of reach for most. The food component of the survival minimum expenditure basket (SMEB) recorded an 11 percent increase between July and August 2021 and 628 percent since October 2019. The devaluation of the Lebanese pound and the ongoing removal of subsidies for basic services will further challenge the purchasing power of the increasing number of vulnerable families in Lebanon.

**ONGOING OPERATIONAL COORDINATION:** Operational coordination is already ongoing with all 26 partners; the eleven partners funded under the LHF projects have already shared planning at district level. A deduplication exercise will be initiated with the facilitation of the FSS for those those partners working in the same areas to avoid duplications and ensure effective use of the resources.