



**FSS WORKING GROUP Monthly Virtual MEETING
11 May 2021**

FSS COORDINATION TEAM: Carla De Gregorio, Elie Choueiri, Kazem El Seblani, Amal Salibi, Hussein Nasrallah (MoA).

PARTNERS ATTENDING:

ACF, ADRA, Arcenciel, ARCS, Bassma, CACH, CAMEALEON, CARE, Caritas Lebanon, Dorcas, FAO, FCDO, French Embassy, ICU, Islamic Relief, Jafra Foundation, Lebanese Red Cross, LOST, MCC, MERATH/LSESD, Mercy-USA, Michel Daher Social Foundation, MoA, Nusaned, OCHA, Concern Worldwide, PARCIC, PUI Lebanon, Relief International, SCI, SHEILD, SIF, SPHERE Building Tomorrow, Syrian Center for Refugees Assistance, The Nawaya Network, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR/IA, URDA, Welfare Association, WFP, WHH, WW-GVC.

	Agenda item	Main discussion points/highlights from presentation. For the full presentation please refer to the links provided	Takeaways/action points
1	WFP/RAM situation analysis	<p>Port of Beirut Good Movement from January 2019 till April 2021 (in mt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A decrease of 19 % is noticed when comparing August 2020 April 2021 figures against the same period the previous year. ➤ A decrease of 17% is registered when comparing January to April 2021 figures to the same period in 2020. ➤ A decrease of 42% is registered when comparing Apr 2021 figures to Apr 2020 figures. <p>Subject to change for the April 2021 figures as more data is released!</p> <p>Wheat Imports Evolution (in mt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Between January and April 2021, 117,738 tons of wheat, 44% less than same period the previous year (209,288 tons). 	<p>Link to VAM reports and assessment: https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/reports_explorer# Please select Lebanon</p>

- In April 2021, 23,738 tons of wheat, 35 % less than the same month last year (38,445 tons).

WFP explained that the main reason of the decrease in wheat import is due to the delay in the approval of the application or delay in the payment process by the central bank.

Stock coverage evolution of WFP contracted shops

- Additional improvements in stock coverage following market disruption events mid-March 2021.
- Shops with more than 2 weeks of stock coverage now at 80 percent, however still not completely back to previous numbers (85 percent during week of March 8)

Exchange rate development

- Black market rate mostly trading between LBP 12,000 and 13,000 since beginning of April 2021
- Rate for withdrawal from non-fresh money dollar account in LBP currently set at LBP 3,900. Circular allowing such
- The Central Bank rolled out the new currency exchange platform “Sayrafa” in a training session on April 20.
- Exact launch date still pending.

Change of Monthly revised food SMEB price in LPB (national average)

- Revised Food SMEB recorded a 21% increase between March and April 2021, at LBP 213,777.
- The cost of the revised food SMEB in April 2021 is higher than August 2020, the date the basket was initially set, by 81%.
- The cost of the revised food SMEB in April 2021 is four times the cost of the basket back in October 2019 (302% increase).

Subsidies Removal Latest Updates (as of beginning of May)

- Ministerial consultations ongoing to draft both subsidies removal and financial support plans.

There is no clear idea when the full removal of the subsidy will take place. It could be by the end of May

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Latest media sources indicate that financial support card plan will cover 750,000 families. Initial media sources indicated amount between LBP 1 million ➤ Caretaker Prime Minister indicated that the government will be “obliged” to dip into the central bank’s mandatory foreign currency reserves to finance the proposed cash card, which he said would cost around \$1.2 billion. <p>Latest draft plan also indicates following modification to current mechanism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Decrease of combustible fuel subsidy to 15 percent (from 90 percent currently). This would lead to an increase of up to 378 percent in prices ➤ Food/agriculture/industrial basket subsidy (at the rate of LBP 3,900) to be completely removed. ➤ Wheat Subsidy to continue at a 100 percent rate ➤ Medicine subsidy to continue for chronic decrease and high cost medicine (decrease current bill by half from USD 1.29 billion) <p>Latest Combustible Fuel Price Inflation& News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fuel shortage could potentially lead to crisis. Petrol stations rationing remaining supplies. ➤ Shortage due to delays in approving payments by the Central Bank. Shipments already at sea awaiting approval to offload. ➤ Current consumption is 5.5 million litres for each of gasoline and diesel per day –expected to decrease if subsidies removed. ➤ Gasoline price has increased by 61 percent, diesel by 65 percent, and cooking gas by 32 percent, between beginning of December 2020 and beginning of May 2021. 	<p>if the government decides not to use the mandatory reserve.</p>
2	<p>FSS sector updates</p>	<p>AI Sector</p> <p>For AI indicators update please refer to the presentation in attachment and to the interactive dashboard. (click here to go to the dashboard)</p> <p>FSS assistance transfer value</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In-kind food parcel: on the basis of the FSS composition of the food parcel: value @USD 736,000 LBP/HH/m 	<p>Please remember to update regularly the service mapping on ActivityInfo</p> <p>Beirut Blast Emergency Response: for partners with ongoing interventions please update the dedicated AI database</p> <p>Partners are strongly encouraged to have their service information accurately entered and updated on the Inter-Sector Service Mapping tool (pls open hyperlink). This will ensure that all of services, contact information and</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cash-based food assistance (all modalities): budgeted for 2021 LBP 120,000 LBP/p/m; currently used LBP 100,000/p/m ➤ Cash for work: LBP 50,000/p/d unskilled workers ➤ FFA/FFT: monthly value aligned with WFP cash-based food assistance <p>Transfers currently in LBP</p> <p>AWP Q2 focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Guidelines for door-to-door distribution/home-based deliveries/proof of delivery ➤ Creation of a platform to link partners to local producers, easily accessible, comprehensive with updated contact info, able to be filtered by region and by item ➤ Deduplication platform ➤ Standard templates/core questions/indicators for outcome monitoring <p>Feedback USD disbursement of humanitarian cash assistance</p> <p>Current discussion on USD disbursement led by Resident Coordinator Office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ CTF-prepared “Red line paper” on programmes that cannot be dollarized ➤ No common UN or humanitarian community position ➤ Discussion between government, World Bank and HC/RC continue ➤ No final decision by the government on dollarization ➤ LOUISE UN agencies can use parallel market exchange rate with their FSP ➤ Discussion ongoing on whether it can also be applied to other humanitarian actors <p>Sector note on conflict sensitivity in kind distribution with social stability sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In kind distribution guidance and check list <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Communication ✓Logistics ✓Trainings ➤ General conflict sensitivity guidance and social tensions check list 	<p>information regarding complaints and feedback mechanisms (CFMs) (in particular hotline information, WhatsApp, etc.) are up to date</p> <p>Clarify with partners who can accept referrals, who can't and why not (update of service mapping) and make information available to other sectors to manage expectations.</p> <p>Link to AWP 2021: click here</p> <p>Criteria for the decision on modality of assistance (CBT and other modalities): On the basis of financial sector and market functionality, and the assessments done in terms of beneficiaries preferences, CBT modality indicated as the most effective and adapted to the conditions of Lebanon when the response plan was drafted. Depending on the changing context, responses might adapt and remain flexible</p> <p>The impact of the in kind food assistance on the market is not being assessed at this stage, since the bulk of the assistance remains CBT.</p> <p>The parallel market exchange rate set recently for UN LOUISE agencies for May is at 12,000 LBP. It will be assessed very 2 weeks</p> <p>Draft to be shared to the working group next week for feedback</p>
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3	Partners' updates, constraints, and gaps	<p>PUAMI launched two projects:</p> <p>Project #1: A three-months (April to June 2020) project in Akkar with a partnership with LARI to support the resilience of vulnerable agriculture producers and households. Project funded by the French embassy</p> <p>Project Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support to agricultural means of subsistence for 75 farmers and 100 workers ➤ Support to the installation of gardening activities for 110 vulnerable households <p>Project #2: A one-year project (March to Feb 2022) in Akkar and North. The project aims to strengthening the resilience of vulnerable households, through the provision of sustainable agricultural assets and livelihood opportunities and supporting the Public Health System through the delivery of medical equipment, Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and Medicines. Project funded by CDCS</p> <p>Project Results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Farmers and gardeners have increased access to agricultural means of subsistence ➤ Agricultural producers and food insecure communities benefit from increased productivity and incomes through the rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructures ➤ Social cohesion is improved in the targeted communities through the creation of temporary job opportunities ➤ Supported primary health care centers in Akkar and North Lebanon are more resilient and meet their needs of PPEs and medical equipment <p>FAO: FAO's context sensitive programming approach</p> <p>Context-sensitive programming requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Understanding the interaction between the local context and FAO projects 	<p>Questions by partners:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- What is your plan to leverage the material provided by PUI to standardized the training curriculum, so other actors can be benefited from it? 2- Are planning to help farmers find out new channels to access the market? 3- What did you do with the harvested crops? was it sold or given to families? 4- Did you rely on key lessons or guidance provided by the FSS? <p>Answers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- The curriculum is still under development, then to be shared with MoA to get their feedback. Afterward it would accessible for public 2- The workshop is being planned, the main idea is to link farmers with credit provider 3- It is used by the farmers for self-consumption 4- The guidelines have ben used, and they were very important and facilitate the work. <p>For further information please contact: Kacso, Zsuzsanna (FAOJO) <Zsuzsanna.Kacso@fao.org></p>

<p>4 FSS PSEA focal point introduction and action plan to mainstream PSEA in the sector</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Incorporating this understanding into the projects' life-cycle. ➤ Orienting activities towards the reduction of potentially negative impacts in the community, while accentuating the positive ones. <p>Context analysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Key disagreement areas ➤ Drivers of disagreement/ agreement ➤ Stakeholder dynamics analysis <p>Programme clinics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion of findings ➤ Project –context interaction ➤ Concrete recommendations <p>CONTEXT-SENSITIVE PROGRAMMING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shaping activities to maximize positive impact / minimize unintended negative impact ➤ Informing MEAL framework <p>Mainstreaming context-sensitive programming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Programme Clinic to develop context-sensitive programming recommendations to the identified issues ➤ Survey process to understand food security and agriculture sector related dynamics in project implementation areas ➤ Specific focus also on direct support project components (e.g. cash interventions, vouchers, agricultural inputs, etc.) <p>Suggested cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Extending the survey process to members of the Food Security and Agriculture Sector WG members <p>FSS PSEA The need for reinforced action to protect beneficiaries of humanitarian assistance from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) arose from reports confirming that humanitarian and development workers had been responsible for acts of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).</p> <p>IASC (2019) COUNTRY-LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION OF PSEA: 3 PRIORITY OUTCOMES</p>	<p>The Food Security Sector-PSEA FP: Georgette Al Karnawayta Care International in Lebanon, PSEA Specialist, georgette@careliban.org; +961 76 508991</p> <p>For Support, Information or clarifications, Please contact us by sending an email To: georgette@careliban.org</p>
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5	<p>LHF allocation for FSS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Outcome 1. Every child and adult in humanitarian situations has access to a safe and child-sensitive SEA reporting channel. ➤ Outcome 2. Every survivor of SEA receives quality, survivor-centered assistance. ➤ Outcome 3. Every child survivor of SEA has their case investigated in a prompt, safe and respectful way. <p>There are five priority areas for PSEA mainstreaming included in the LCRP Inter-Sector Joint Work Plan for 2021, which have been identified through consultation with key stakeholders in the LCRP Inter-Sector in February 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Implementation of PSEA Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) across sectors. ➤ Integration of PSEA-related messages into awareness-raising activities to foster SEA risk mitigation across all sector interventions, with a focus on interventions considered at higher risk. ➤ Capacity building of LCRP partners to mainstream PSEA across their programming through support from the PSEA Network, including providing partners with relevant guidance and support to implement appropriate mechanisms. ➤ Strengthening existing partner community complaints and feedback mechanisms to handle SEA complaints, ➤ Ensuring that Codes of Conduct include commitments on PSEA are signed by all partner staff, consultants, volunteers, and contractors. <p>LHF allocation for FSS Meeting unmet needs primarily among the Lebanese community and migrant workers</p> <p>The allocation to focus on two areas of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emergency in-kind food assistance ➤ In-kind food assistance for Covid-19 patients 	<p>CC: Carla DEGREGORIO: carla.degregorio@wfp.org; Elie.Choueiri: Elie.Choueiri@fao.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strategy paper to be shared ➤ Q&A session to take place by end of May
4	<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ WFP CFL SMEs: Q&A document shared. ➤ Food Security Emergency Response Plan: under preparation ➤ Contingency Planning: coordinated by OCHA 	

