FSS WORKING GROUP Monthly Virtual MEETING
July 13, 2021

Agenda

1. WFP VAM/RAM presentation food security analysis updates
2. Confidence and usage of ATMs: Experiences of Syrian refugees assisted by WFP’s multi-purpose cash programme in Lebanon by CAMEALEON
3. Providing high quality data services to organizations in Lebanon: presentation by B.O.T (Bridge. Outsource. Transform)
4. Sector updates for June 2021
5. Partners’ updates
6. AOB

PARTNERS ATTENDING: 36 participants from 26 agencies including the Sector Coordination team

1- WFP VAM/RAM presentation food security analysis updates
Contact: Abdalla Souhani - abdallah.souhani@wfp.org

- Decrease trend in food imports in MT continues in 2021 mainly for edible vegetables, sugar and confectionary, cereals and live animals
- Improvement in stock coverage, levels up to prior March disruption events
- General improvements in products availability and delivery - Subsidized products becoming non-existing
- Depreciation of the Lebanese Lira accelerates in June and breaches the LBP 19,000 mark in the second week of July
- Revised food SMEB cost in LPB (national average) further increases (14%), in parallel with the exchange rate depreciation – Since October 2019 (404%)
- Increase in nearly all commodities prices between May and June 2021 – Sunflower Oil (1,118%) registering the highest price increase since October 2019
- Depreciation in the exchange rate are directly reflected in the weekly revised food SMEB price increases, as traders revise their prices more frequently
- Fuel shortages continue across the country – lack of funds, smuggling, and hoarding among main reasons stated by the media

Action point: take forward the advocacy note previously prepared on the lift of subsidized products. It was decided that a smaller group of organization will meet to discuss the next steps. During the meeting, 5
organizations expressed interest: WVI, WHH, ACF, IOCC and ADRA. Any additional organization interested in taking part in the discussions, please reach out to the coordination team. An email will be sent for a meeting in the coming week.

2- Confidence and usage of ATMs: Experiences of Syrian refugees assisted by WFP’s multi-purpose cash programme in Lebanon by CAMEALEON

Contact: Chiara Genovese - chiara.genovese@nrc.no

- Introduction and methodology
- The study focused on three research questions below. For more information on the results, please refer to the presentation:
  ○ **Research question 1:** How confident do Syrian refugees feel in withdrawing MPC, assistance from ATMs?
    ▪ The vast majority (98%) of MPC recipients had not used an ATM before moving to Lebanon
    ▪ Confidence levels with ATM usage were found to be correlated with literacy levels and gender
  ○ **Research question 2:** what coping strategies do beneficiaries use to withdraw their assistance at the ATM and why?
    ▪ 45% of survey respondents sought the help of a third party to withdraw assistance (15% to travel to the ATM on their behalf and 30% sought help at the ATM).
    ▪ WFP MPC beneficiaries aim to withdraw the balance on the cards each month.
    ▪ Those that selected the fast-cash options reported making 2.9 transactions on average.
    ▪ Those that used the manual option reported making 1.1 transactions on average.
    ▪ The manual option offers the quickest route to withdrawing the full balance
  ○ **Research question 3:** what factors enable or hinder households with low ATM proficiency or confidence from successfully withdrawing assistance from ATMs?
    ▪ 97% of respondents said they received training on the use of the ATM
    ▪ There was strong reported retention of information about keeping cards and PINs safe.
    ▪ The research did not highlight much evidence that training increased confidence of recipients with the ATM, particularly of those with low literacy levels.
    ▪ Onsite BLF ATMs offer some advantages over offsite ATMs which could be promoted to recipients. For example, if the card is withheld, bank staff is available to retrieve the card, a procedure that can take two days

3- Providing high quality data services to organizations in Lebanon: presentation by B.O.T (Bridge. Outsourcing. Transform)

Contact: Charbel Karam: sales@letsbot.io

- Services provided: F2F surveys, remote surveys, Key Informants interviews and data analysis
- Additional services: transcription, data entry, data cleaning and data validation
- Tools used: KoBo, SurveyCTO, JotForm, SurveyMonkey, Typeform and any agency specific tools
- Support provided to date to 15 Organizations, 42 projects, with the support of 200+ data collectors
4- **June 2021 - Food Security Sector Partners’ Updates**  
**Contact:** Kazem El Seblani: kazem.elseblani@wfp.org

- In-kind food assistance:
  
  - Individuals receiving food parcels: 12,974
  
  - Individuals receiving ready-to-eat food and hot meals: 2,805

- # of individuals accessing cash-based food assistance: 952,979
  
  - Cash redeemed (in USD) = 8.33M

- # of individuals have access to cash-based food assistance though vouchers: 7,105
  
  - Cash redeemed (in USD) = 135,027

- Support to agriculture and agriculture livelihoods / Nutrition
  
  - Access to temporary/casual agricultural labour: 3,281
  
  - Individuals attending trainings on skills and competencies: 269
  
  - Farmers receiving technical training and inputs: 200
  
  - Caregivers of children under 2 received awareness on nutrition and IYCF: 344
  
  - # of MoA technical schoolteachers trained: 97

- COVID-19 support: 419 food parcels distributed by 3 partners

**Reminder:** Organizations need to review/validate their figures for Jan-June to allow the sector to prepare the mid-year narrative dashboard

5- **Round of updates**

**URDA:** update on Eid – fresh meet distribution of 2kg / household, planning to reach a total of 30,000. The distribution is done through the slaughterhouses on the day of the slaughtered monitored by URDA staff. This activity has been on-going for the past 7 years. Request to present the activity during the upcoming sector meeting.

**Contact:** Mona Tahera: mona.tahera@urda.org.lb

6- **AOB**

**Contact:** Pardie Karamanoukian: pardie.karamanoukian@wfp.org

1- **ERP:** presentation of the proposed Food Security and Basic needs response plan of the sector under the Emergency Response Plan for partners’ feedback. There were no concerns raised by the partners present at the meeting regarding the proposed plan and figures. This included information on the Strategic Objective, Activates, PiN, targets, budget and overall considerations and assumptions

2- **LHF – 1st standard allocation updates:** update on the status of submitted projects, the results from the Strategic Review Committee and the ongoing Technical Review Committee.

3- **Reminders:**

- Two surveys with deadline of Tuesday 13th COB – Gap and needs assessment in Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and FAO survey on understanding conflict dynamics related to direct assistance projects in the food security and agricultural sectors

- Upcoming sector meeting:
  
  - National Level: August 10 – 10 AM
  
  - Area level:
    
    1. North/Akkar: 27 July nancy.hassan@wfp.org
    
    2. Bekaa/Baalbeck-Hermel: 28 July nisrine.rizk@wfp.org
    
    3. Beirut/Mount Lebanon/South: 29 July sarah.eljeitani@wfp.org