FSS WORKING GROUP Monthly Virtual MEETING

December 14, 2021

Agenda

1. Sector’s updates
2. Agriculture Household Survey – Main Findings (Ministry of Agriculture)
3. WFP – RAM: presentation on analysis/updates on Food Security
4. Nutrition Sector (UNICEF/ACF) Highlights from the results of the SMART survey
5. Protection Sector (UNHCR/IRC) FSS trends from UNHCR protection monitoring & IRC protection monitoring
6. Partner Spotlight: Overview of ADRA’s 2021 food security and livelihood project and lessons learned
7. Partners’ Updates
8. AoB

PARTNERS ATTENDING: 65 participants from 37 agencies including the Sector Coordination team
ACF SPAIN, ADRA, ALMAJMOUA, AVSI, BASMEH-ZEITOONEH, CARELIBAN, CARITAS, CONCERN,
CORUS INTERNATIONAL, ECHOFIELD, FAKKIR BE GHAYRAK, FAO, ICRC, ISLAMIC RELIEF-LEB,
KSRELI FLEBANON, LEB RELIEF, LRI-LB, MCC, MERATHLEBANON, MISSION EAST, MOA, NRC, ONSUR, PARCIC,
PUAMI, RI, RMF, SHAREQ, USAID, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNICEF (NUTRITION SECTOR), WATADA ASSOCIATION,
WE WORLD, WFP, WVI.

1- Sector’s updates: LCRP 2022 Appeal – ERP Overview – Cash Taskforce

- LCRP 2022 Appeal:
  - Partners are kindly requested to submit their sectors’ appeal using ActivityInfo by latest 15 December COB.
  - All partners are required to set the sectors budget at sector output level and indicate the populations and governorates targeted
  - Only partners who pass the capacity assessment will be included in the list of LCRP 2022 appealing organizations.

- ERP Overview:
  - Total partners and total funding requirement: 26 for a total of $ 115,391,829
  - LHF partners with tot secured funding: 11 for a total of $ 5,402,814
  - Non LHF partners and tot current funding: 15 for a total of $ 1,776,068
  - Approved projects and funding status can be viewed on Financial Tracking Service (FTS)
  - Total funding secured to date: 6%

- Cash Taskforce:
  - Some partners are already fully dollarized or implementing hybrid approaches
  - Majority of cash disbursements for humanitarian and development purposes (80%) is through the LOUISE agencies (WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF) with a rate equivalent to the parallel market rate.
• November Activity Info Update:
  o Please refer to the slides or check the online dashboard.

2- WFP – RAM: presentation on analysis/updates on Food Security

• A Decreasing trend (13%) in food imports continue in 2021
• Traders continue to be able to restock despite challenges.
• Supply chain systems continue to operate efficiently despite challenges
• Informal market rate breached the USD/LBP 27,000 level for the first time ever.
• Revised Food SMEB recorded an 12% increase between October and November 2021, at LBP 490,339.
• Bread registered the highest price increase between October and November 2021 (25 percent), followed by potatoes (20 percent), and sunflower oil (17 percent)
• Central Bank requiring importers to cover 15 percent of needed USD from informal market, up from 10 percent at the beginning of November 2021. Expected to further increase in the coming weeks.

3- Agriculture Household Survey – Main Findings (FAO/MoA)

• Objectives of the Survey:
  o To monitor the risks from the impact of COVID that may affect Food Security
  o To provide timely early warning information to support evidence-based decision making processes
• Survey Methodology:
  o FAO Lebanon, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, conducted a HH Food Security and Livelihood Survey in August-September 2021.
  o A total of 150 households were targeted in each of the seven governorates of Lebanon (Beirut excluded because predominantly urban).
  o The sample is representative of the population of farmers in Lebanon
• Data Quality Control:
  o The survey data has undergone a standardized quality control check to assess quality based on several parameters
  o Any enumerators with consistent issues are flagged for follow up.
  o Overall the check showed the data was of acceptable quality, with no systematic enumerator errors and a small percentage of inconsistencies.
• Key Findings:
  o El Nabatieh and Baalbek El hermel reported the highest drop in main source of income because farmers in these areas are primarily dependent on agriculture as a main source for income with no complementary source of income.
  o Prices/access affected by exchange/currency. Fuel price increase and shortages widespread.
  o High cost of new animals for replenishing declining stock.
  o High proportion of spending savings, borrowing, and using credit reflect the economic situation, especially food price inflation.
  o Specific needs for agricultural livelihood groups were aligned with their most commonly stated production difficulties.
• Recommendations:
  o Support in crop input support (expanding existing WB project) Cash assistance/subsidy for purchase of agricultural inputs Technical assistance in organization of markets Technical assistance in crop aggregation and productive alliances
  o Support in livestock feed and vet support
  o Targeted food aid/cash assistance to the most vulnerable farmers
4- Nutrition Sector (UNICEF/ACF) Highlights from the results of the SMART survey

- Objective: To estimate the prevalence of all forms of malnutrition and their major drivers among children and women
- 10 partners worked together
- SMART survey in 8 governorates and 2 sub-samples in Palestinians and Syrian camp and ITS.
- 3558 children and 9214 WRA surveyed.
- Findings:
  - 5% of Mothers had MAM
  - 42% of WRA with Anemia
  - 1.8% GAM highest in Palestinian (4%)
  - 41.3% of children with Anemia
- Guiding Principles:
  - Prevention comes first, if prevention fails, treatment is a must
  - Life cycle approach and child centred (nurturing care framework)
  - Focused on improving diets, practices and services for children and women
  - Applying multi-system approach to address multiple-burden of malnutrition

5- Protection Sector (UNHCR/IRC) FSS trends from UNHCR protection monitoring & IRC protection monitoring

- Brief Context Update:
  - Lifting of subsidies on medications
  - Access to Education
  - Fuel Crisis
  - Visit of the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur
  - Irregular migration
  - Changes in Humanitarian Assistance
- Debt, Livelihoods, Food Coping Strategies and Child Labour:
  - **Levels of debt**: since the onset of the economic crisis, COVID-19 lockdowns and the resulting loss of livelihoods, Syrian refugees have taken on high levels of debt. The sustainability of this coping mechanism has been flagged as a key concern by protection actors. However, in October, the percentage of households who cited “borrowed money” as their main source of income decreased by 10 percentage points, representing the lowest rate since January 2021.
  - **Access to livelihoods**: In this period, a further factor which may have decreased reliance on borrowing is the intensification of the agricultural season, particularly in Baalbek-Hermel and North Lebanon. In North Lebanon, the olive harvest season has a clear and direct impact on access to livelihoods.
  - **Food coping strategies**: The IRC’s Protection Monitoring data in October also registered an improvement in the food security situation for Syrian refugees, and a worsening for Lebanese. Again, this correlates with the increased transfer value of the MPCA, which primarily reaches Syrians and was effective as of September.
  - **Child labour** – In September, the percentage of respondents who reported that children in the household were engaged in child labour reached its highest rate in 2021, at 13%. In October, the rate of child labour reported dipped slightly to 10%.

6- Partner Spotlight: Overview of ADRA’s 2021 food security and livelihood project and lessons learned
ADRA has been responding in Lebanon since 2014 providing emergency, humanitarian, and development assistance.

- **FSL-Food Assistance:**
  - Targeted Population 1063 HH, 3819 Individuals: LEB (87%), SYR(12%) and Migrants (1%)
  - Targeted Areas Three neighbourhoods, two in Beirut and one in Mount Lebanon

- **FSL-LIVELIHOOD:**
  - Targeted Population 32 Food related Small to medium Enterprises 583 Individuals: LEB (94%), SYR(3%) and Migrants (3%)
  - Targeted Areas Three neighbourhoods, two in Beirut and one in Mount Lebanon
  - Type of Businesses: Restaurants, Grocery shops, Bakeries, Snack Shops, Snack Shops, Catering, Butcheries, Coffeeshop and Snack, Pastries.

- **LESSONS LEARNED:**
  - Identification & Legalization
  - Localization
  - Communication
  - Automatic receipt system
  - Food categories

7- **Partners’ Updates**

- No updates were shared.

8- **AOB**

- Upcoming National meeting: January 11th at 11:00 – 13:00