



Food Security and Agriculture Sector National Working Group

Minutes of meeting 11 August 2020

Location: Teams meeting

Date: 11/08/2020

Chair: Elie Choueiri FSS-FAO, Brian Wei WFP

Co-chair:

Participants: WFP, FAO, CARE, LOST, MCC, B&Z, Farah Social Foundation, RETLiban - Bridging the Gaps in Lebanon, AFDC, AVSI, PU-AMI, ANERA, UNHCR, UNDP, PCPM, Safadi Foundation, URDA, SHEILD, CWW, SCI, Michel Daher Social Foundation, SAWA For Development & Aid, WV, Dorcas Tabitha, ACF, PARCIC, UNIFIL, Inter-agency, UNRWA, WHH, IR, Caritas

The National Food Security and Agriculture Sector Working Group held its monthly meeting on August 11 with the participation of the relevant and interested organizations and discussed the below points:

- 1. Opening and updates on the Food Security Sector:**
 - i. FSS Core group Meeting (Thursday, 6 August)
 - ii. FSS for Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South (10 August)
- 2. Beirut Port Explosion Emergency Coordination Structure and Linkage with LCRP Coordination (OCHA)**
- 3. Overall situation across sectors, specific to Beirut (Inter-Agency)**
- 4. Assessments specific to Beirut**
 - i. WFP
 - ii. Save the Children
- 5. Partners' updates**
 - i. interventions (ongoing, planned), including gaps, contingency, stocks, and other
- 6. Linkages with other Sectors**
- 7. AOB**

Opening and updates on the Food Security Sector

- Ad Hoc Core Group held on Thursday, 6 August in response to Beirut Explosion
- The three regions FSSWG are engaging with partners, both within LCRP and beyond LCRP, to update 1) Activity Info, specifically on activities and partners' capacity to make

- referrals, and Contingency Food Stocks, specifically on number of parcels for immediate distribution, and daily rate for hot meals in addition to the identification of gaps.
- Initial assessments by WFP logistics indicate that Beirut Port's Container Terminal is partially affected. Current outage is due to a technical issue, and there is cautious optimism that the terminal may be operational in 1-2 days (as of 6 August)
- The core group to consider expanding participation of the core group with other UN Agencies, Government, and wider members in the FSSWG.
- Next steps:
 - FSSWG Regional Coordinators to continue to engage with the partners to update the Activity Info (Inter Service Mapping) and the Contingency Food Stocks.
 - Engagement with OCHA to conduct an inter-sector situational analysis.
- OCHA-led assessment already took place and results are upcoming.
- A lot of partners in affected geographical areas: need for further coordination to ensure all areas are covered by one or more partners and to reduce overlapping.
- Discussions to avoid duplication, in the sense of delivering FPs to same household by several orgs.
- Organisations hosting beneficiary lists.
- Bilateral discussions with OCHA, UN agencies and NGOs discussing logistics and upcoming donations to the sector.
- FSS sub-cluster on Nutrition is being created / there was a meeting with nutrition specialists from UN organizations.
- Nutrition should be present in any food or LH assessment that's happening. Unicef, ACF, FAO, WFP and WHO/IOCC attended the meeting. There will be a regular meeting every Thursday.
- For Food parcels distribution, a reminder to the partners to abide by guidance made by AUB and WFP and issued by the FSS. Actors doing assessment need to actively reach out to pregnant and breast feeding women and children. But follow guidelines including for the provision of milk.
- Giant segment updated for COVID. WHO currently working on SOPs.
- Safadi foundation and partners in Beirut will launch hotline to assess affected SMEs including hub based businesses, minimarkets and restaurants.
- Briefing on the FSS response after the explosion and the regional WG that took place on Monday August 10
- Request to partners to fill the excel matrix that will be used to coordinate the response, and that there are no gap areas. The information will be used for the humanitarian flash appeal.

Beirut Port Explosion Emergency Coordination Structure and Linkage with LCRP Coordination

OCHA presented the newly established coordination structure and the linkage with LCRP coordination. Refer to the presentation in attachment

- This coordination structure is for short term (few months) and to be given priority for this emergency response.
- How are the two coordination structures going to coordinate among themselves? Also keeping in mind that we have regional coordinators already working on the response. It has been agreed that this issue will be discussed further during the Emergency Operation Cell meetings for better clarity.

- The 5 sectors are building on the existing structures, and the members of each sector will be similar.

Overall situation across sectors, specific to Beirut

The inter-agency team (IA) briefed on the overall situation across the different sectors, especially on the Beirut blast response.

The IA informed participants that the LCRP planning process for 2021 started with a series of workshops which will be held at regional levels. In addition, The IA is closely monitoring the impact of the blast on the LCRP business continuity plan.

WFP

There is a new logistics cluster following up on logistic matters mainly the capacity of the port of Tripoli which is still under construction, the new coordinator is visiting today or tomorrow Tripoli port to assess the situation, so all questions can be addressed to that cluster. In addition, WFP will follow-up on that duplication of affected households' lists should be avoided for those receiving cash as well.

SCI

In the week prior to explosion, SCI released a report regarding the economic situation in Beirut. The report contains a scenario analysis for the months of July and August based on data available on the economic situation. Although the situation has changed since the Port blast, the analysis gives a strong data driven contextual understanding of the circumstances under which the explosion happened. SCI will provide a more comprehensive presentation of the study's methodology and approach in the next National FSS WG meeting. All wealth groups in the areas of Beirut studied turned out to be very poor, poor and middle income. Lebanese households are facing survival deficit ranging from 100,000 to 1 million LBP. If this continues over the long term, it will potentially have adverse nutritional impact, including increased malnutrition and is expected to lead to a rise in negative coping mechanisms. SCI will release the full methodology this week.

Assessments specific to Beirut

- WFP VAM & M&E situation update: Update on the FSS indicators-market functionality and price developments (See attachment)
- Save the Children (see attachment)

Updates from partners

WFP

There are teams arriving on the VAM team, WFP will start its own assessment looking at food security and livelihood aspects, and will share the findings with the group

In terms of response, 3 pillars are established: 1. Try to address food insecurity of affected pop. But also, in terms of businesses affecting people outside area 2. Replenishment of the national wheat supply 3. Augmentation of port capacity. Planning underway, some contributions started coming in. Quickly established quotas in terms of hot meal provisions as immediate response.

Regarding question if WFP will handle the cash assistance, WFP will be happy to do it but the basic assistance working group cycle also discussing what should be handed out to affected populations:

recommendation 400,000 LBP for multipurpose cash, they also mention the need to give USD, since money transfer agencies are allowing USD. WFP doesn't want to duplicate existing structures
Rapid needs assessment, these values should come from that **Michel Daher Social Foundation** started from first day as direct response, by sending around 60 volunteers to clean and took 2 trucks of water and 250 food boxes and many other supplies, that were distributed for affected people in the area. Later, ACF started organizing themselves better, everyday volunteers on the ground are helping in cleaning, and a hotline was set up, people were calling asking for shelter and houses. In addition, 1,000 boxes of powdered milk (French made) for infants and diapers were distributed.

ACF

Shelter assessment in Beirut, geographical area where each partner is present.

xx and Geitawi area covered by ACF for Multi-purpose Cash. More coordination is needed to avoid overlapping.

B&Z

Support included distribution of Water and sanitation kits, hot meals, food parcels according to WFP and AUB standards, also shelter items, beds, covers, nylon material to cover doors and windows and volunteers cleaning on the ground.

Dorcas

Currently getting ready to distribute 1 200 FPs, with daughters of charity and MSD located in Sassine preparing 500 hot meals every day for 2 months.

Save the Children

Planning to distribute hot meals but still coordinating with our national partners and possibly FPs, what is the expectation in terms of length of time that hot meals will be required, around what time will partners decide to move to FPs or cash, rapid assessment are being conducted and will shared soon

PCPM

Not providing now any food activities, however taking part in response since the second day, started installation of ceiling items: plastic sheets and temp doors. Planning to provide emergency cash assistance and cash for rent for Borj Hammoud and Karantina areas. This will be done in close coordination with the basic assistance sector.

CARE

Supporting national partners active on the ground, currently with 4 partners to implement mobile kitchens 3,000 hot meals per day. Delivering 650 FPs to population in affected areas.

PLAN International

Food distribution starting on 12 August 2020 with local partners. Discussions on hot meals or food kits in specific areas. As for food kits still discussing what to include different from 1 household to another.

MCC

1,000 hot meals being distributed every day in Nabaa, Bourj hammoud, Gemmayzeh, Mar Mikhael, in addition to 250 food parcels.

FAO

FAO also working on gathering information and monitoring the wheat stocks in the country to maintain Food Security as the destruction of the port Affected feed stocks as well.

Addition support included EOC that has been engaged with port facility in terms of customs clearance, health food and shelter will have priority in customs clearance. Also, additional funding from OCHA's LHF, raising resources for immediate response. In recent discussions, OCHA aim to try to top up existing partners, with a USD 1 million.

Upcoming meetings and working groups at regional and national level to discuss food security needs. Regional level coordination at Beirut level led by the regional food security coordinators. The FSS Coordination team will share with partners the mapping of activities and locations so everyone has a full overview of where partners are working. During the coming days we will be continuing efforts to set up processes to avoid duplication.

FSS Coordination team is encouraging partners to update activity info and contingency stocks information.

FSS Coordination team had discussions with the shelter coordinator, who indicated that shelter is doing a number of assessments throughout the blast affected area. FSS Coordination and WFP is looking into how Shelter and Food Security assessment may be merged.

Upcoming FSS related meeting:

- Core group meeting: Friday August 14
- BML & South WG: Monday August 17
- National WG: Thursday August 20