Food Security Sector – Beirut Blast

Minutes of meeting
24 August 2020

Location: Teams meeting
Date: 24/08/2020
Chair: Brian Wei WFP, Joseph ACTED
Participants: AFDC, ACF, FSS, OCHA, Global Communities, Dorcas, WHH, SCI, PARCIC, AVSI, WFP, Fair Trade, Amel Association, AVSI, NRC, WVI, gFSC

Agenda
- Introduction
- Updates:
  - Flash appeal
  - Assessment
  - Field Coordination
- Sub-sector
  - Cash-based transfers
  - Nutrition
- Partners Updates
  - Operation response
  - Needs
  - Challenges
- AOB

Updates:

Flash Appeal:
- Currently being revised by the FSS core coordination: WFP, FAO, ACTED and gFSC.
- Timeline: By COB 25 August proposals are to be submitted to OCHA review and pass upwards to the HCT and HC for final approval. After which, the projects will go live and be publicly available.
Assessments: Simon – WFP/VAM
- WFP VAM has started a mobile survey
- Secondary data review ongoing
- Next Thursday presentation from RBC on economic impact on unemployment

Field coordination: Joseph - ACTED
- The EOC convened a meeting on Saturday with all sector co-leads and OCHA to develop solutions regarding coordination challenges. Suggestions were discussed and will be shared in the upcoming meeting.
- Partners are encouraged to contact Joseph, ACTED, on field coordination e.g. whatsapp) and to update the 5W matrix and share with local partners. Joseph Nakhle, ACTED: joseph.nakhle@acted.org 79/300847

Sub-sectors:

Cash based transfers: WFP
- Meeting Tuesday at 15:00 for Cash-Based Transfer Taskforce meeting
- Co-lead from NGO suggested
- Ongoing discussion as to the exchange rate, transfer value and currency (e.g. USD (maximize transfer value for beneficiaries) vs LBP (potential for friction between due to current transfer for vulnerable Lebanese in the Beirut Port Explosion and for refugee response within the LCRP)
- Coordination with other sectors to harmonize value and coverage. Charles from WFP to coordinate the process
- Mapping of cash assistance is ongoing
- Food Security and Basic Assistance Sectors: suggestions for Multipurpose Cash (under Basic Assistance): 400,000 LBP and Food Assistance: 70,000 LBP
- ICRC/LRC: proposed to provide assistance in USD to avoid further inflation

Nutrition: ACF
- SOP on IYCF ongoing on donations of artificial milk/breast milk substitutes
- IOCC taking lead on trainings on proper pathways for donating breast milk substitutes (infant formula, follow-up milk, etc) starting tomorrow 25 August 2020 from 11 to 1. Reach out to Joyce Hayek jhayek@iocc.org.
- To all partners who are planning to do distribution, to contact IOCC to attend the training
- Partners are encouraged to share with the WG whether they have received any donations
- Treatment of malnutrition (plumpynut/plumpsub) donations should follow specific guidance for distribution as these are used for treatment; not regular food parcels. Partners are encouraged on sharing with the nutrition working group whether they have received any donations, and these should be used in primary health centres under the MoPH for the treatment of malnutrition.
- Advocacy on breast milk substitutes and therapeutic food

Partners’ updates:
• ACF: challenge on values and currency. Current proposal is in line with WFP, though USD is a preferred currency. Further discussion is required the soonest by the sectors and partners to be finalized. FSS: in line with the sectors advise on moving away from in-kind/hot meals towards cash interventions
• WFP: further discussion is planned on this topic. There were strong arguments on using LBP and to harmonize with other assistance. Explanation could also be used for USD use specially as this is a special case and short-term humanitarian response, as well as the justification provided by ICRC/LRC will be considered. It is the decision of partners of the sector and this could be pushed back to the CWG.
• SCI: why only USD for those impacted by the explosion. If USD will be used, then the same approach should be used for other response impacted by the economic crisis. Also, to note capacity of partners to provide assistance in USD, especially for national organizations.

**Upcoming Meetings**
• Food Security Sector Coordination meeting for the Beirut Port Explosion: Monday and Thursday at 15:30 (reoccurring weekly)
• Nutrition Working Group within Food Security Sector: Thursday at 9:15 (reoccurring weekly)
• Cash Working Group within Food Security Sector: Tuesday 3 PM