Food Security Sector coordination meeting: Beirut Blast

Meeting minutes

9 November 2020

Location: Teams meeting

Chair: WFP

Co-Chair: ACTED

Attendees: WFP, FAO, MCC, LRC, Dorcas, CAMEALEON/Oxfam, ADRA, Merath, Preemptive love coalition, B&Z, ACF, Michel Daher Social Foundation, ACTED, Proabled, OCHA, UNWOMEN, PARCIC

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Agenda:

1. WFP/VAM updates

2. FSS coordination:
   i. FTS: Q&A with OCHA
   ii. COVID-19 lockdown: impact on service delivery to affected populations
   iii. Presentation UNWOMEN on Rapid Gender Assessment
   iv. Referrals: update of service mapping;

3. Partners Updates:
   i. Any food security assessment in Karantina?
   ii. Preemptive Love project on with hot meals and community kitchen under the Beirut blast

4. Response monitoring updates- IM:
   i. AI reporting
   ii. Partners’ plans on 5 Ws

5. Task-forces feedback:
   i. Nutrition task force
   ii. Cash based task force

6. AOB

1. WFP/VAM updates

Please check the attached presentation. Main highlights:
Analysis MSNA data: Cash and food remain among top priorities of affected populations.

Only 5% of WFP contracted stores reported receiving the full ordered quantities of subsidised food items.

10% of WFP contracted stores reported scarcity of certain products

Since mid-July SMEB prices plateaued, alignment with the 100,000 increase in transfer value.

2. FSS Coordination

Update from OCHA on FTS. Would like to discuss Financial tracking service (FTS) and challenges partners might have faced to report the financial contributions received to implemented activities against flash appeal

A guideline on reporting had been released and it is pretty easy to use. In case of issues please not to hesitate to get in touch with Craig (Craig Anderson anderson17@un.org) or the FTS team (fts<fts@un.org>)

The point to report under the FTS is to understand the level of contributions against the flash appeal and understand the gaps under the appeal

Lost of work had been done by the FSS to provide assistance for affected people under the crisis and is important to encourage partners outside flash appeal to report their contributions also under the FTS. That can be done through the excel sheet or directly online or by email

Primary aim is to understand the bigger picture

It is very easy to correct mistakes under the system. Contact OCHA for information

FSS:

An email was sent to partners to report activities under FTS

If any partners had the opportunity to upload activities or faced issues please let OCHA and the FSS coordination team know

UN Women presentation: Rapid gender analysis conducted in August after the Beirut blast. Please refer to the presentation in attachment. Main highlights related to: Loss of material and financial resources has exacerbated existing food insecurity. The potential gendered impact of this requires monitoring and targeted analysis; Food insecurity appears to be particularly impacting migrant workers (a vast majority of whom are women); Several respondents - particularly youth and refugees interviewed - reported that they are coping with the current situation by preparing to leave Lebanon

Cash for work partners under flash appeal very low funded

COVID 19 lockdown

Discussion regarding the foreseen impact on service delivery

Discussion needed between partners planned mitigation measures if any

Inputs from partners below:

Dorcas: No programme regarding the lockdown until now and don’t know if any programme will take place. Proceeding with hot meals and will be conducting distribution of food parcels unless there are restrictions implemented by the authorities because of the lockdown

MCC: Solution to conduct door to door distribution in case no ability to access
• **WFP**: WFP is already implementing an in kind as economic and COVID-19 response. Important to understand to which extent can continue the operation. Very critical now and very important to discuss what steps we need to take regarding the programme criticality. Additional requirement for the in-kind activities, getting approval by the authorities needed a few days ahead. Plans in case of lockdown depends on the decision of MoIM, however usually food shops are not closed and people need money to buy food. Hoping not having restrictions in place of redemption. Will not stop cash disbursement for multipurpose cash distribution.

**Partners updates**

**WFP**

- Multipurpose cash assistance includes the food portion for the month of October
- We have reached 11,285 HH that leads to 52,120 beneficiaries through this cash transfer
- Majority have received transfer through Western Union. The remaining through the WFP e-cards from WFP contracted shops due to some donors’ restriction
- For November we are finalizing the lists and hoping to increase the assistance and will be the end of scale up. The increase to 15,000 HH will happening end of November
- The transfer fees remain the same and might be change because of the banking sector issue
- Arrangement Louise platform is still on going
- Baseline data collection for the PDM has been finalized. Will make data arrangement depending on the process monitoring
- The beneficiaries have the right to redeem money in dollars: SMS modified

**ADRA**

- Targeting 3 main zones: Borj Hamoud Mr Mikhael and Karantina
- Currently project consists of supporting 1000 HH with food e-cards
- Past week selection of the 3 zones including Karantina
- 391 HH eligible and selected 309 HH and will receiving distribution this week
- Also doing assessment and not only distribution have the baseline and endline
- 28 SMES will be selected and will be providing them cash assistance for repairs (for SMES mainly working in the food sector). A lot of SMES are in Mar Mikhael

**UN women**

- KAFA implementing partner for a new multi-purpose case assistance project
- Will provide info on the progress as soon as they receive it from them

**Merath**

- Collecting information for the de duplication
- Distribution on-going until March in response to the Blast

**B&Z**

- Started assessment support for SMEs affected by Beirut blast
- Will be selecting 35 SMEs to support them in rehabilitation cash and digital marketing
• Borj hammoud and Mdawar areas are targeted

Preventive love project presentation
Check the attached presentation

Nutrition task force
• LCRP 2021 FSS narrative and logframe will be soon shared
• Key community messages based on the Advocacy brief that was circulated could be used by partners

FSS
• Today deadline the submit the expression for interest under the outputs of each sector
• OCHA is not locking the database anymore. If want to catch up on updating Activity Info it is still possible
• 5W will be circulated for partners wanting to input planned activities

Next meeting on 24 November