



Food Security Sector coordination meeting: Beirut Blast

Meeting minutes

7 December 2020

Location: Teams meeting

Chair: WFP

Co-Chair: ACTED

Attendees: WFP, FAO, MCC, LRC, Dorcas, FSF, ADRA, Merath, B&Z, ACF, Michel Daher Social Foundation, AMEL, MERATH WVI, SCI, FTL, OCHA, WHH, LRC-IFRC, AMEL, ACTED, CARE

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Agenda:

1. WFP/VAM updates and targeting approach for vulnerable Lebanese
2. FSS coordination:
 - i. Revised FA figures and targets
 - ii. 3RF Launch on 4th December
 - iii. Taking stock of ActivityInfo response
 - iv. Dashboard achievements month of October
3. Partners Updates and plans past December 2021
4. Referral pathways: update on organizations accepting referrals and referral channels
5. Task-forces feedback:
 - i. Nutrition task force
 - ii. Cash based task force
 - iii. Support to SMEs group
6. AOB

Next meeting: 21 December, 2020

1. **WFP/VAM updates and targeting approach for vulnerable Lebanese**

- i) WFP Lebanon explained the methodology and implementation of the **targeting approach adopted for the Beirut Blast response**. Overall objective was to develop targeting (eligibility) criteria for programmes mitigating primary effects by protecting high-risks groups. COVID 19/Economic crisis put emphasis on single-headed households, elderly and households with people with disability, and high dependency rates or loss of job/businesses. For Beirut Blast affected two additional criteria on destruction level of housing and loss of job/income were added. For more details please check attached presentation. WFP/VAM will assess possibility to have some comparison on FSC post and past Blast once Mvam and websurvey results will be available in December. A lesson learned from this targeting exercise is to reach out to local actors, already working on the ground and to sure that the right people are included and outreach comprehensive.

ii) Updates on FSS indicators and situation analysis

A decrease of 18% in the unloaded imports weight of Food is registered when comparing Jan –Nov 2020 to the same period in 2019. 84% of WFP contracted shops (as of December 4) reported that suppliers are accepting new orders for subsidized products. Only 2% of shops that received subsidized items reported receiving the full ordered quantities. Based on preliminary data from WFP contracted shops, Beirut food SMEB reached LBP 129,599 in November 2020. This is an increase of 222% compared to October 2019 cost.

Between October 2019 and October 2020, an annual increase of 405% was registered in the Food Price Index (FPI) for Beirut, according to the Central Administration for Statistics (CAS) released data.

Removal of completed subsidies is not expected, but rather a modification of included elements. Minister of Economy & Trade set the price of packet of bread at LBP 2,000 for 900 grams, and LBP 1,250 for 400 grams. Decision to run till January 5, 2021. For more details please check attached presentation.

2. FSS coordination:

- a. Revised FA figures and targets
 - b. 3RF Launch on 4th December
 - c. Taking stock of ActivityInfo response
 - d. Dashboard achievements month of October
- a. Flash appeal extension until 31 December 2020. Revisions on project proposal budgets and targets made in HPC. Revised Flash appeal overall budget and targets: 18 project proposals - 17 partners. For FSS overall reduction: budget USD 52,561,854 and 97,540 beneficiaries as targets
- b. Launch of 3RF (Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework): Response to the port explosion with a period of 18 months. People centered recovery track (track 1) to address urgent needs of most vulnerable populations and small businesses affected by the explosion (international grant financing + immediate policy action). Reform and reconstruction track (track 2) to focus on critical reforms and reconstruction of critical assets, services and infrastructure.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/12/04/eu-un-and-wbg-launch-an-18-month-reform-recovery-and-reconstruction-framework-in-response-to-beirut-port-explosion>

- c. Coordination mainstreaming of existing coordination mechanisms (Beirut blast, COVID, LCRP). Common EOC will be merged together. Discussions on sectors to be merged continues and we are waiting for follow up on the coordination structure at the EOC.

3. Partners' updates

WFP: MPCA expanded to 15,973 households registered by WFP, cooperating partners and self-registration website. 7,975 households received the food portion of the transfer value in the form of vouchers in contracted stores. Non-food portion continues to be withdrawn through Western Union. Assistance will continue until March 2021 for the same households. Data sharing agreement with HCR signed related to beneficiaries that received shelter support and eligible for MPCA assistance. Also, WFP signed a service agreement with ADRA to use the WU platform.

CARE: ready to receive referrals for support to SMEs in Bour Hammoud, possibility to run a joint assessment.

Regarding food assistance, under the LHF standard allocation CARE can receive referrals related to COVID-19 in Bekaa, Balbeek and MTL. For Beirut together with ANERA, CARE can continue to receive referrals for food parcels under the Beirut blast response.

ACF: Nutrition TF is now a sector and will cover nutrition related activities under COVID and Beirut blast. Under preparation a concept note to conduct an assessment on nutrition and malnutrition status in Lebanon. Work on breast milk substitute donations continue to advocate and sensitise donors and NGOs on the right way to use them, on language and storing conditions.

CBT Task force:

- Cash intervention mapping document completed and will be circulated this week.
- Dedicated training on the de duplication systems for each category of assistance took place. All actors encouraged to submit their user access forms to take part in the system

SMES task force

- Next meeting 26 November
- Coordinating new focal points in non-assessed areas and ongoing assessments
- De-duplication: de-duplication CBT; MSMEs databased; focal points in assessed areas
- PDM: some core questions to propose as standards to partners