



Food Security Sector joint Beirut blast coordination meeting + Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Working Group Minutes of meeting

Chair: WFP

Date and Time: May 27, 2021; 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

Participants: WFP, FAO, MERATH-LSESD, Oxfam, BeBeirut, MCC, UNIFIL, Sheild, URDA, DCA, Borderless NGO, Al Majmouaa, ACTED, ADRA, Nusaned

Agenda:

1. WFP/RAM food security analysis
2. AI updates (BB + LCRP +COVID) and partners presence map for BB
3. Partners' updates, gaps and challenges (BB, LCRP, COVID 19)
4. Beirut port explosion response: presentation by FSS partners on their intervention under the response
5. Presentation from WFP and Al Majmoua on the Grant Facility project
6. AOB

1. WFP/RAM food security analysis and shop closure

Please check attached presentation

WFP:

Items that are still subsidized:

- The combustible fuel and wheat are still subsidized
- Around 80 to 90 items out the 300 items that are included in the food basket and agricultural and industrial items at 3900 lbp/\$ rate are still subsidized
- Medications are still subsidized but many are unavailable as infant milk
- Poultry: no longer subsidized an announcement was already made by the MoA; farmers used to benefit from the subsidization of fodder and medicine
- Meat: no specific announcement but the central bank didn't improve new application for fresh meat import

ADRA

- There is a contradiction in the matter of subsidized meat and poultry: it was reported but some supermarket owners that there is scarcity because the suppliers are not getting the money from the government and this is why they are not delivered the requested amount. Now we can see that the demand is on-going ad amount of meat and poultry is back to the market, so they are getting the items but not subsidized.

2. Beirut port explosion AI updates and partners presence map for BB (BB + LCRP +COVID)

Please check the attached presentation

12 partners are still implementing food-security response activities in Beirut during April 2021, operating and reporting their achievements in Activity Info in April, from 29 in December 2020. Overall, the scope and width of the response has been declining since late 2020 as a number of partners ended their interventions in March 2021. Sector partners' presence maps can be found at the following links:

HR Webpage: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/lebanon/infographic/beirut-explosion-response-dashboard-march-2021-en>

GFSC Webpage: <https://fscluster.org/lebanon/document/beirut-explosion-response-dashboard-3>

Across all modalities the great majority of beneficiaries remain Lebanese nationals, with more women consistently targeted as recipients of assistance. In April food assistance through in kind modalities (full/partial food parcels and hot meals) radically dropped when compared with previous months: hot meals, went from 23,117 individuals in December to approximately 4,864, and food parcels from 13,851 to 1,054 individuals. Regarding food vouchers, 4,500 individuals, of which 60% non-Lebanese, received this form of assistance. Unrestricted multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) reached 3,677 of the most vulnerable people affected by the Beirut explosion, catering for households most urgent basic needs, a radical drop since March as WFP has concluded its interventions under this response framework.

During the reporting period, 85 SMEs were reported as receiving direct cash support and financial assistance and other type of support, ranging from physical repairs to in-kind and trainings. While a number of partners will stop supporting SMEs in December, others are planning to continue or start the support in 2021. The partners' group working on supporting SMEs is now coordinated under the Livelihoods sector working group for Beirut and Mount Lebanon. The number of Individuals supported with Cash For Work amounted to 202 with 41,800,000 LBP disbursed.

3. Partners' updates, gaps and challenges (BB, LCRP, COVID 19)

Oxfam

- TCA programme:
- Provide Cash assistance for 4 months through their partners B&Z
- Target 500 HH reached in May
- Support different nationality
- Working on Another TCA opportunity: the objective is to support HH (business owners and employees) affected by the BB

MCC

- Together with their partner Relief and development had been distributing food vouchers in Medawar and Burj Hammoud including Nabaa
- Started last October with in-kind food assistance and then switched to food vouchers in January to 4500 individuals
- In May increased the target by 1000 so currently distributing 5500 until the end of December
- Targeting all nationalities: 40% Lebanese and 60% Syrians and other nationalities

ADRA

- Started the assistance during last December targeting 1000 beneficiaries
- Working in Quarantina, Burj Hammoud and Mar Mikhael.
- Increased the assistance to 1063 beneficiaries
- Amount 150,000LBP per member until August 31st
- All nationalities are covered
- Beneficiaries are concerned by the price increase especially for the meat, poultry, oil and milk. The assistance is not enough anymore to cover the nutrition needs

MERATH

- Missed the reporting for April
- Distributed more than 1000 food vouchers through 17 local partners
- Funding is guaranteed to the end of next month
- Hoping to continue the programme in July until August next year
- Issues: Inability to increase the value of the assistance
- Working with WFP on the deduplication exercise

WFP

- WFP and UNHCR with other main agencies continuing the advocacy with top level of the government to try to unblock the new path of the transfer value as it is the same as the last November (around 1500LBP/\$)
- We don't have any update that we can share at the moment but when we do will share it through our email

Caritas:

- Around the end of April, under one of the project funded by the Belgium government, we started providing hot meals to the isolation centers in BML
- Caritas distributed 3000 hot meals per week

WVI

- WV distributed 4301 food parcels so far
- Last month WV supported 30 SMES with cash assistance averaging with 3000\$
- Issue: 20% out of the 30 SMEs are not spending the money on the rehabilitation of the needs... WV is monitoring the situation
- Currently targeting additional 100 SMEs with 1000 \$ each; the target might increase as the organization is supporting micro-businesses with much less needed assistance

WFP

- Redemption for the month of April: 98% redemption rate
- Uploaded was conducted on 4 days
- As of May 2020 we applied a new rate provided by the contractor close to the market which is 12,000 LBP; it will be revised for Louise agencies to make the necessary needed adjustment

- WFP maintained the same transfer value of 100,000LBP for food cash assistance
- In May maintaining conducting 4 uploads, the main upload has been postponed to the 10th instead of the 1st waiting for the new FX

Al Majmouaa

- Under WFP project, we selected 222 SMES affected by the blast that will be receiving a grant for up to 5000\$

FSS

It is important to report the intervention on Activity info as the map is only showing 3 partners that are supporting SMEs

4. Presentation from WFP and Al Majmoua on the Grant Facility project

Kindy check the attached presentation

5. AOB

Emergency response plan:

- The humanitarian coordinator asked all sectors to develop an emergency response plan:
- WFP and the sector are putting together a response plan; that we why we requested inputs from the partners and we are calculating the gaps according to the partners response
- Focusing on: emergency and migrant workers and needs not covered by other partners

Contingency plan exercise:

- Humanitarian coordination also asked all sectors to join to the contingency plan exercise (plan, target, funding...). It is not clear if there will be a workshop to validate the inputs of the partners
- The sector is working on the following relief risks: Economic collapse, inter and intra community tensions and influx of new refugees

Next working group will take place on June 24 at 11:00 AM