

MINUTES OF MEETING

Title of meeting	Cash Transfer Working Group
Date	23 Jan 2014
Location	UNHCR – Beirut
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support CTP in the response to the Syrian refugee crises in Lebanon
Facilitator(s)/Chair(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riikka Mikkola (UNHCR)
Minutes taker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ola Kobeissi (UNHCR)
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List included at the end of the minutes
Main points/questions raised	<p>The cash working group meeting focused on continuing the discussion [from the last meeting] about the road map/action plan components, namely, targeting and assistance package. This is in an effort to reach a consensus and achieve a common vision among all stakeholders involved for an effective implementation of the cross sectoral cash grant system in April 2014.</p> <p>Targeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR explained that if at interagency level an agreement was reached on targeting by April 2014, UNHCR will adopt it. Otherwise, UNHCR will determine what VaSYR or UNHCR perceived vulnerability criteria can contribute to targeting its inter-sectoral cash assistance. However, once a targeting decision is agreed to, at interagency level, UNHCR will align with it. • It was noted that the perceived vulnerability criteria or the burden score both highlight as the most vulnerable those who are likely to benefit least from the ATM mechanism – elderly, disabled etc. – due to a variety of reasons. • Targeting focal point at UNHCR briefed on the registration verification exercise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Caseload: those who appealed and those living above 500 m. ○ Of the 30,000 HH that appealed, 90 % HH verification has been completed to date. ○ Overall rate of re-inclusion is 23%. ○ Those scoring over 21 are being re-included ○ Those excluded will be informed by the Multi-Functional teams ○ Lessons learned report will be drafted on the verification exercise in hope to make strong

recommendations for programme set up in the future.

- Beneficiaries scoring below 21 [i.e. remain excluded] were informed so last week. Those who were re-included are contacted by relevant IPs.
- Questions were raised regarding the possible level of inclusion errors, given the high percentage of exclusion errors identified (23% re-included). This information will only be available once a verification of the included population has been completed.
- WFP clarified that the verification questionnaire includes questions relating to the 15 most sensitive indicators across sectors, and as discussed with the sectoral working groups. It can also be used to analyse sector-specific vulnerabilities (i.e. who is most vulnerable in terms of shelter)
- Much of the inaccuracies that occurred in the initial targeting process are the result limited information available on each HH as well as some inaccuracies in the Progress data.
- Save added that if the verification questions [that help determine vulnerability] can be asked in the registration (and re-registration) interview, this will improve the speed and efficiency of targeting. This was corroborated by DRC. Charlie Higgins (on behalf of UNHCR) replied that the processes are likely to remain separate. However there were discussions about the potential for a separate desk to be established at reg. point.
- ECHO said that should the VASyR be used for targeting, it will be less error prone than the HH composition (burden score) as it is based on a multi-sector vulnerability score leading to 4 different tiers of vulnerability. For this to be implemented detailed information, in line with the verification exercise, will be required of each HH.
- IRC gave a presentation on their vulnerability index currently being developed for targeting of unconditional cash assistance, and for orienting certain households towards other forms of assistance (CFW or vocational training).
- The group raised the need to evaluate how quickly households will need to be 're-assessed' for inclusion/exclusion. This requires an understanding of how rapidly households can

'relapse' into their previous or new negative coping strategies.

- The discussion concluded that at present there are very limited alternatives to a VASyR-based targeting. The following steps were therefore agreed.
 - IRC will compare the findings of its vulnerability index with the VASyR burden score, on a sample of registered refugees. This will allow a comparison of the methodologies
 - WFP will run an information session on VASyR, addressing also the burden score, and the development of the verification questionnaire. This will be held at UNHCR at 14.30 on Thursday 30th January.

Assistance Package

- Members of CWG agreed on the need to revise the cost of the MEB based on available updated data collected by different organizations. For example, WFP are collecting significant information on food prices. IRC also expressed willingness to share raw data on expenditures, income and debt of 450 HH. Information can also be gathered from the baseline survey and PDM results. Similarly, looking at the latest inflation data [collected from the Consultation and Research institute (CRI)] could be useful. The CWG chairs are looking for volunteers to conduct this market analysis.
- Analysis already exists of the capacity of each of the 4 different VASyR vulnerability groups to meet the Minimum Expenditure Basket. This identified income gap for each group could form the basis for the calculation of a tiered packaged of assistance.
- Discussions are ongoing within the shelter sector to include shelter in the multi sectoral cash approach. A technical committee within the Shelter WG, comprised of relevant shelter stakeholders, has been established by coordination for this purpose and is holding regular meetings on Thursdays. The cash expert from UNHCR in addition to others from the CWG will be attending those meetings.

RAIS:

- The set up for uploading card and cash transfer information into RAIS in bulk is now available. Detailed guidelines on how the

system works will be shared together with the meeting minutes. UNHCR will process the upload as soon as the information has been received from the various actors (IPs/Ops).

- Additional components for RAIS are in the process of being developed to support the requirements of the response in Lebanon. A presentation of the tool/database will take place on Friday 24th at the cross-sectoral meeting. Additional presentations can be arranged if deemed necessary.
- In addition to the targeting status, DRC proposed that the burden score for each household be indicated on RAIS.

Follow-up action	Who	By when
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share with CWG the detailed guidelines on the use of RAIS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR 	

Key contacts

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