

## Minutes of the National Basic Assistance Meeting

<b>Meeting Location</b>	UNHCR, Leah building first floor	<b>Meeting Date</b>	17 June, 2016
<b>Chair persons</b>	Khalil Dagher (UNHCR) ,Hadi Haddad (MOSA), Gilbert El Khoury ( SCI)	<b>Meeting Time</b>	11:00 A.M
<b>Minutes by</b>	Malak Rahal	<b>Meeting Duration</b>	1.30 Hrs.
<b>List of agencies in attendance</b>	MOSA, UNHCR, SCI, ACF, Caritas, UNICEF, LCC, CARE,WVI, IRC, MF, ACTED, CLMC, SIF, OXFAM, LHIF, SB, IS, NPTP/MOSA, RI, Besme, UN-OCHA.		

### Agenda:

1. Sector Updates
  - I. Households Visits / Targeting Exercise
  - II. Operational Update / NPTP
  - III. Multi-purpose cash PDM results: UNHCR caseload
2. Contingency and Preparedness Database on Activity Info
3. Targeting: Cash assistance desk formula, simulations, caseloads, and way forward
4. AOB

### **Discussion points**

#### **1. Sector's update**

##### **I. Households Visits Exercise**

- So far, 142,002 HHs were profiled out of which :
  - ✓ 33,935 HHs-24 % are Severely Vulnerable (SV)
  - ✓ 41,105 HHs- 29% are Highly Vulnerable (HV)
  - ✓ 38,796 HHs- 27% are Mildly Vulnerable (MV)
  - ✓ 28,166 HHs- 20% are Least Vulnerable (LV)
- Out of the 43,000 HHs assisted with Multi-purpose CASH program ( MCAP)
  - ✓ 33,566 HHs – 99% are SV
  - ✓ 6,583 HHs – 16% are HV
  - ✓ 2,030 HHs – 5% are MV
  - ✓ 665 HHs – 2% are LV
- An increase is expected in the cases assisted as of next month due to the start of the OCHA funded projects
- In total 53,740 extremely poor households are receiving MPC as of May 2016 ( Data from A.I & RAIS) out of which
  - ✓ 80.01% are Syrian HHs
  - ✓ 19.5% are PRS HHs
  - ✓ 0.48% are Lebanese HHs

##### **II. Operational Update from NPTP**

- The test phase of the new questionnaire started at the beginning of June. 1000 questionnaires are ongoing: 2 sample groups are being surveyed (NPTP and non NPTP beneficiaries) to see if the latter are going to be included with the new assessment.
- The cut-off score is updated based on the new poverty line which is 4.8\$ /capita/day (based on the last WB/CAS study).
- The new questionnaire focuses on the vocational support of the household members to build on the available capacities, vocations, handcraft or any other kind of jobs.
- The future of NPTP is to build capacities and financially support the targeted population to improve their business and/or investment to become financially independent.
- The new questionnaire highly emphasizes on the labor conditions of the individuals, in addition to the assets in possession.

- The services are still the same with the aim to increase the number of beneficiaries and mainly the food E-card programme.
- Future goals include incorporating cash-based programs; MCAP projects are already being implemented through NGOs under LCRP.
- The registration of the NPTP will resume back in August 2016.
- All NPTP cardholders will reapply following a campaign that will be launched in August 2016. Meanwhile the beneficiaries will receive the same services until the new results are out.

### III. Multi-purpose cash PDM results: UNHCR caseload (Q1 2016)

- The no show rate for card distribution increased significantly in the reporting period, reaching 28%, compared to 10% in the previous quarter.
- Refugees reported facing few challenges in getting the cash through ATMs.
- Cash assistance predominantly goes to pay for food and rent.
- Cash assistance is not sufficient to meet all needs. Fifty-nine percent of cash recipients have to take on additional debt in order to cope, and 20% reduce the amount of food consumed. However, a majority of respondents report that cash assistance helps them a great deal to meet their basic needs.
- Complaint and response mechanisms have not captured significant protection concerns related to the delivery of cash, although there are isolated cases of fraud and exploitation.
- PDM of the multi-purpose cash will be done on a quarterly-basis.
- A significant inclusion of new beneficiaries was noticed in March 2016.
- The number of HHs receiving CASH assistance from all cohorts was in (a) Jan. was 20,606, (b) Feb. 20,070 and (c) Mar.20,321 (note: UNHCR caseload)
- Withdrawal transactions and feedback continues to show that cash recipients withdraw their allowance soon after the transfer is completed.
- Coping mechanisms: 59% of beneficiaries have increased debt while 20% are eating less
  - Next step: undergo HHs visits for PDM instead of phone surveys.

### 2. Contingency and Preparedness Database on Activity Info

- Information Management (IM) created a new database called Activity Info- Contingency and Preparedness.
- All information related to rapid needs assessment and contingency preparedness will be gathered there.
- It combines the Contingency Stocks Activity Info database and the RNA Google documents previously circulated.
- The database is divided into two sections: 1) Staffing & Resources: (a) to report governorate-level information about the organization (b) to incorporate all the information related to Rapid Needs Assessment and contingency 2) Warehouses: (a) to track the exact location of the warehouses (b) to create a single form to record both the rolling/total and the contingency stock, at specific warehouses, using two indicators.
- Organizations will report:
  - Total stock at warehouse
  - Stock that would likely be available in a contingency scenario
- Partners are requested to update the contingency stock in the mentioned ActivityInfo database.
- If users do not see the database in ActivityInfo, contact Malak Rahal at [rahal@unhcr.org](mailto:rahal@unhcr.org) to request access.
- The Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) trainings are conducted at the field level. Interested agencies to participate in the training contact Malak Rahal at [rahal@unhcr.org](mailto:rahal@unhcr.org).

### 3. Targeting: Cash assistance desk formula, simulations, caseloads, and way forward

*The below represents the third round of consultation with BA partners on the desk formula. The first happened in the Core Group, second in the Targeting Sub Working (TSWG), and the third during this meeting. Another consultation is planned in the TSWG once ProGres+ results are out.*

- ProGres+ coefficients were provided by AUB. The IM will be working on the simulation of this model. Results are expected by the end of next week.

#### ProGress model simulations:

- The proposed new desk formula ranks the overall refugee population from the most to the least vulnerable.
- The previous formulas only allowed ranking of those households visited and were based on a combination of biographic information and socio-economic indicators.
- The new formula allows for a quicker identification of poor families as well as enhanced programmatic convergence between targeting for basic assistance and food.
- Implications of the B.A targeting desk formula :
  - ✓ Additional 42,000 families are eligible for basic assistance
  - ✓ Currently 43,000 HHs receive basic assistance yet the sector can reach 55,000 HHs in a short period of time with the resources in hand.
  - ✓ Review of households visits approach and look into a broader referral mechanism.
  - ✓ Prioritization mechanism for basic assistance

#### 3 options for operationalization of the ProGres Model (presentation attached)

Option 1: Household visits supersedes desk formula

Option 2: Desk formula supersedes household visits

Option 3: Current MPC beneficiaries supersede both formulas

**While the above were presented in the last Targeting SW, new options will be advanced for discussions based on the results of the simulations of ProGres+**

#### Revised 3 options (ProGres+ Model):

Option 1: PMT supersedes the desk formula; results of the households visits prevails

Option 2: ProGres+ applied to visited and desk formula to non-visited

Option 3: Do not exclude any beneficiary of the MPC. Use the desk formula for the non-visited

#### **Way forward:**

- HHs visits will not be used for targeting anymore; the desk formula will serve this purpose.
  - The HHs visits will be maintained for profiling and referrals.
  - The Lebanese CASH Consortium (LCC) has a qualitative inclusion in assistance protocol. Agencies who identify HHs that have been excluded or suspect they are vulnerable can still refer them. Qualitative evaluation of the cases will be conducted to determine their eligibility.
  - Convergence with food assistance:
    - Targeting for cash and food is based on the same ranking of vulnerabilities.
    - Under ProGress model, 61% of the cases are eligible for food and 68% for cash.
    - There is a very high correlation between poverty and food insecurity; however not all poor HHs are food eligible; to be further explained in a separate communications including further information on the cut-off scores of the five categories for targeting for food.
- Highlight and compare the BA and food eligibility results and present to the WG.

#### **4. AOB**

- VASYR updates: Data collection is completed – data cleaning in process.
- A big thank you for Thomas White , the chief party of the CASH consortium who will be leaving Lebanon soon.
- The
- UNHCR Bekaa team, WVI, INTERSOS & IRC are working on a function on RAIS that allows different cases to be shared with specific users. Partners can comment on the referred cases with set of actions, which will be visible to all users – could serve as a basis for further enhancement of the referral system.