



## Minutes of the National Basic Assistance WG Meeting

<b>Meeting Location</b>	UNHCR, Leah Building 1 <sup>st</sup> floor	<b>Meeting Date</b>	28 August , 2015
<b>Chair persons</b>	Khalil Dagher (UNHCR) , Hadi Haddad (MoSA)	<b>Meeting Time</b>	13:00 – 15:00 Hrs.
<b>Minutes by</b>	Malak Rahal	<b>Meeting Duration</b>	2.00 Hrs.
<b>List of agencies in attendance</b>	PU-AMI, ACTED, ACF, SIF, RI, SCI, Solidar Suisse, ICRC, DRC, WVI, ECHO, UNHCR, AVSI ,IOM, DORCAS, MSD, UNICEF, MOSA, HI, LCC, UNOPS, Islamic Relief, UNRWA.		

- Presentation/Discussion
- Action Point

### **Agenda**

1. Updates from the Sector
  - a. Winter response ( 2015-2016)
  - b. H.H visits / targeting exercise
  - c. Co-Chair & Core Group
2. Presentation of DG ECHO Multi-purpose Cash Concept
3. Lebanon Inter-Agency Multi-purpose Cash Grants SOP updates
4. AOB
  - a. ERC grant
  - b. CASH trainings

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### **1. Updates from the Sector:**

#### **a. Winter response (2015-2016) Mid-Year Review**

- The Core group met and discussed the winter packages:
  - CASH + basic CRIs
  - Targeting criteria to be defined further
  - Two cash amounts will be introduced: \$175 and \$100 – eligibility: economic vulnerability and exposure to cold
  - Planning will be needs based not resource driven
- A technical note on NFIs providing guidelines and recommendations for In-kind donations to agencies was introduced.
  - Prioritize areas with hard access; prevent duplication in distribution, define the types of items, number of item per family, fuel vouchers in areas hard to access
- Activation of the winterization sub-working group will take place next month
- Lessons learned from the winterization workshop are finalized
- It is highly recommend that implementing agencies during winter use RAIS to report assistance at HH level (micro level) and activity info to report bulk assistance activities (macro-level)

#### **b. H.H visits / targeting exercise**

- Raffi Kouzoudjian ( UNHCR/ IM) presented the latest HHs visits and targeting exercise updates
- on average around 8,000 cases are being visited per month, in total 83,927 Cases visited (~30% of the total population)
- People identified as eligible for cash assistance around 30,557 families of which 17,750 assisted
- 86 % of the severely vulnerable and 41 % of the highly vulnerable cases are receiving assistance
- 56% of the expenditure of the severely vulnerable groups are spent on food while 25% of the least vulnerable groups' expenditure are spent on rent

- UNHCR old case load: starting October, the cash assistance will be cut for the least and mildly vulnerable households targeted via bio-index, allowing for 1 month notice
- The shelter colleagues expressed further interest in an efficient referral mechanism based on targeting data collected on RAIS
- Partners to suggest specific functions to be applied on RAIS (WASH, Shelter)
  - Get in touch with BA and IM focal points
- 14% of the severely vulnerable HHs are not yet assisted; the referral mechanism, with coordination support, should be strengthened to cover urgent needs – an ad-hoc system matching eligible HHs not assisted to agencies with financial capacity able to assist was suggested

### c. Co-Chair & Core Group

- ACTED (Karim Traboulsi) was nominated as the new BA sector Co-chair replacing CARE (Dalia Sbeih)
- ACTED represented INGOs in the BA sector core-group, with their new role, the INGO seat will be vacant in the core group; interested agencies to get in touch with the co-chairs.

## 2. Presentation of DG ECHO Multi-purpose Cash Concept

- Maureen PHILIPPON presented the ECHO multi-purpose CASH concept
- ECHO 2009 CASH voucher guidelines revised
- In March 2015, ECHO published guidelines on multi-purpose cash grants entitled *10 Common Principles for Multi-purpose Cash-based Assistance to Respond to Humanitarian Needs*
- This document is an added value to all partners, there's always a reluctance in CASH however it is being used on a bigger scale
- Donors are more comfortable using CASH assistance rather than in-kind (why not CASH? is an increasingly asked question)
- At the current state multi-purpose cash could run in complementarity with other sectors
- Innovative approaches to meeting needs should be fostered
- A combination of transfer modalities and delivery mechanisms may be required depending on the nature and context of the crisis and used at various stages of the crisis – an optimum response may require them to be used in combination
- Multi-purpose CASH, as a modality should ensure a complementarity of assistance being provided by sectors as well, as an example: CASH-for-Shelter. In other terms, duplication of assistance to beneficiaries should be avoided. Note: A HH getting free of charge accommodation can be considered a duplicate with a 90\$ included in the MEB as cash for shelter; free of charge accommodation can be due to cash for rent, rehab-for-rent-free, etc.

## 3. Lebanon Inter-Agency Multi-purpose Cash Grants SOP updates

- The SOP focuses on the implementation of the Multi-purpose CASH programs
- Every agency does things differently, this SOP harmonizes the procedures to multi-purpose CASH – input from different agencies
- Includes case-studies from Ukraine and Nepal were used and reference of ECHO multi-purpose CASH SOP
- Draft 4 will be circulated to all the B.A sector WG members, feedback is encouraged to Carla by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of September
- Endorsement from the senior management will be done after the finalization of the SOP
- It is important that the SOP reflects inclusiveness
- Being a flexible and living document, it is recommended that a body, possibly the core group, periodically updates the document
- Vulnerability scoring of the VASyR 2015 sample was requested

- Concern is raised from ECHO regarding the 10,000 highly vulnerable Households that aren't assisted
- GAP analysis is being done per sector; agencies are requested to provide their secured funds and plans until the end of the year in order to track the gap and coordinate an effective assistance mechanism

#### 4. AOB

##### a. ERC grant

- ECHO grant for UNHCR is on a global level while for the multi-purpose CASH it is on an Interagency level
- The CASH coordination review report is being finalized, it documented the transition from the CASH WG last year to the B.A WG under the LCRP
- LCC has received the ERC grant from save the children UK to undergo a study that looks at the impact of CASH on children (access to education, health, food and child protection). TOR is being finalized.
- Guidance for the multi-purpose cash grants will be out end of the year

##### b. CASH trainings

- Six CTP trainings will be conducted on the following agreed locations and dates:
  1. Wednesday, 02 September – Beirut – Protection staff
  2. Thursday, 03 September – Beirut – Sector Working Group/ Coordination staff
  3. Friday, 04 September – Zahle – Field CTP implementing staff (*Protection mainstreamed*)
  4. Monday, 07 September – Qobayyat – Field CTP Implementing staff (*Protection mainstreamed*)
  5. Tuesday, 08 September – Tripoli – Field Implementing staff (*Protection mainstreamed*)
  6. Thursday, 10 September – Beirut – Senior management
- Each trainings is 1-full working day only from 09 am to 5pm
- An email will be sent on Monday 31 August to the confirmed attendees regarding the venue and agenda
- 20 agencies have raised interest in the training

The training will increase awareness and provide recommendations and suggestions on not just multi-purpose cash programming but also on using CASH as a modality in other sectors

**Attendance sheet**  
**National Basic Assistance WG Meeting**  
**Friday 28/08/2015**  
**UNHCR Office Beirut ,Leah Building first Floor**

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