

Minutes of the National Basic Assistance WG Meeting

Meeting Location	UNHCR, Leah Building 1 st floor	Meeting Date	28 August , 2015
Chair persons	Khalil Dagher (UNHCR) , Hadi Haddad (MoSA)	Meeting Time	13:00 – 15:00 Hrs.
Minutes by	Malak Rahal	Meeting Duration	2.00 Hrs.
List of agencies in attendance	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

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
- Suggestion: Maintain the modality of cash, and complement the multi-purpose CASH component with other types of assistance ex: CASH for rent for the most vulnerable households, other types of conditional cash

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 4th 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

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