

Minutes of the Basic Assistance Meeting- Targeting way forward

Meeting Location	UNHCR, Leah first floor	Meeting Date	4 August, 2016
Chair persons	Khalil Dagher (UNHCR)	Meeting Time	2:00 p.m.
Minutes by	Malak Rahal	Meeting Duration	2 Hrs.
List of agencies in attendance	LHIF, UNICEF, CARE, SOLIDARITES, ECHO, WFP, PU-AMI, UNHCR, SB Overseas, UNRWA, NRC, OXFAM, CHF, LCC, RI, Solidar Suisse		

Agenda

- Way forward to the:

- ✓ Targeting approach- Desk Formula
- ✓ Communication with beneficiaries

- AOB

Decisions taken during the WG were preceded with technical discussions, consultations, and feedback from partners and AUB – the party who developed the Model.

After months of lengthy discussions, simulations, and presentations on the targeting approach, the desk formula was endorsed as a way forward for cash targeting under the Basic Assistance Sector.

The next 6 months are going to be a roll out phase where follow up steps need to happen: mainly when it comes to establishing a referral and appeal mechanisms, defining qualitative inclusion methods, including and excluding cases, defining a future role for the households visits / profiling exercise, in addition to monitoring of vulnerabilities and impact of assistance.

In the meantime, a communication strategy will couple the steps of the roll out phase. The draft material was developed by the Basic Assistance core group agencies with support and input from Protection agencies, NGO coordinators, and Mass communications specialists. The BA and Protection core groups will convene to discuss the draft and present it to the working group for feedback and endorsement.

Discussion points

1. Way forward to the targeting approach

- Applying the desk formula to the 254,182 registered households (HHs) showed the below
 - ✓ 125,829 HHs - 50% are severely vulnerable (SV)
 - ✓ 52,857 HHs - 21% are highly vulnerable (HV)
 - ✓ 28,574 HHs - 11% are mildly vulnerable (MV)
 - ✓ 46,922 HHs - 18% are least vulnerable (LV)
- 43,000 HHs are receiving cash assistance as of July 2016 (*note: more than 3,000 cases have not be scored yet*)
- For consistency and efficiency purposes one formula will be used - Desk Formula:
 - ✓ Desk Formula and PMT are very similar in term of accuracy
 - ✓ Desk Formula is less costly and allows to rank & score the whole population at once
 - ✓ Desk Formula ensures clarity and consistency of the system for all stakeholders: implementing partners, donors, and refugees
- Thus, the Desk formula will be used for future inclusion; for exclusions, a phased approach will be adopted – for cases migrating from a vulnerability threshold to another and receiving assistance based on the PMT
- The current caseload receiving cash assistance is divided into 4 groups depending on their NEW vulnerability group: Green, Yellow, Orange and Red

- ✓ Green: HHs that scored severely vulnerable using the DESK formula; they will continue receiving assistance
- ✓ Yellow: HHs that scored severely vulnerable under PMT but NOT under Desk formula; they will continue to receive assistance until the next formula update
- ✓ Orange color: HHs that ranked highly vulnerable under both PMT & DESK formula, constitutes around 2,000 HHs, will be revisited – based on the outcome of the visit, a decision of inclusion / exclusions will be taken
- ✓ Red color: the HHs that ranked mild and least vulnerable in both DESK formula and PMT , they will be discontinued from assistance – after receiving two months’ notice
- The BA sector will look with partners on how to mitigate the impact on beneficiaries
- Suggestion: consider the application of the new S/MEB model as a following step in the revision of the targeting approach – options on the operationalization to be looked at in the WG
- For sustainable funding mechanisms, a simple targeting approach should be adopted

Operationalization

- All inclusions will be based on the desk formula; immediate effect: inclusion of additional 10,000 severely vulnerable HHs
- Maintaining the “green” group – all severely vulnerable HHs under Desk Formula should continue to receive assistance
- Discontinuation for the other categories will happen in phased approach:
- The roll out phase will take place over 6 months. The first group that will be excluded from assistance is the HHs of the red color group – the least vulnerable, then the orange group – to be referred for revisits, and finally the yellow color group – when the next update of the formula takes place
 - ✓ First phase – The red group will be given a 2 months’ notice from Sept/Oct., discontinuation of assistance will take place starting November
 - ✓ Second phase – The orange group will be revisited during Aug. and Sep. while giving those to be excluded 2 months’ notice from Sept. to Oct.
 - ✓ Third phase – The yellow group will continue to receive assistance until the next update of the formula; 2 months’ notice from Dec.2016 to Jan. 2017 will be given
- An appeal mechanism is needed to find the HHs that live under 87\$ per person per month and failed to be captured by the DESK formula
- Families excluded can also appeal the decision
- A clear appeal mechanism to be sketched by the working group
- Way forward :
 - ✓ Endorsement using PROGRESS as a model for targeting
 - ✓ Work on the qualitative inclusion criteria and how to re-assess the orange group
 - ✓ Work on the referrals and appeals mechanisms
 - ✓ A communication strategy for each step, defining the content of the messages and the tools/channels to be used

2. Communications with beneficiaries

- Robust and clear messages should be developed for HHs that will be excluded from assistance
- The first phase of exclusion will happen in November. The messages for the excluded HHs will be sent beginning of September to give them 2 months’ notice
- The Protection and the BA core groups will revise and clear the draft documents prepared by the ad-hoc communications group

- The document will be presented in the next national BA WG that will take place on the 19th of August

AOB

- The next HCT meeting will take place on the 15th of August, an agenda point is the way forward of the targeting assistance
- The appeal system should focus on some of the aspects that the DESK formula didn't cover
 - Find a way to score the recorded, unregistered and HHs with incomplete data for the desk formula
 - Present information on convergence between cash and food after the operationalization of the desk formula