



Minutes of the National Basic Assistance Working Group Meeting

Meeting Location	UNHCR S&K 9 th floor	Meeting Date	24 November 2017
Chair persons	Hadi Haddad (MOSA) Khalil Dagher (UNHCR) Mirdza Abele (WVI)	Meeting Time	14:00
Minutes by	Malak Rahal	Meeting Duration	1.30 Hrs.
Represented Agencies	MOSA, UNICEF, SIF, UNHCR, Relief International, Caritas, Caritas Germany , Solidar Suisse, DAF, ACTED, NRC, UNRWA, ACF, MOSA/NPTP		

Agenda

1. Sector Updates:
 - a. Targeting Assistance
 - b. 2017/2018 Winter Assistance
 - c. LCRP 2018
 - d. Review Mechanism (Appeals)
2. Presentation by UNICEF: Cash Assistance Programmes for 2017/2018
3. Presentation by UNHCR: MCAP Outcome Monitoring
4. AOB

1. Sector updates:

a. Targeting assistance

Reported activities in October 2017 from Activity Info and RAIS show that:

- 51,704 vulnerable households received multi-purpose cash out of which :
 - 41,568 SYR HHs (7 partners: DRC, ICRC, LRC, RI, Solidar Suisse, UNHCR, WFP)
 - 9,671 PRS HHs (UNRWA)
 - 465 Leb HHs (LRC)
 - Total value of assistance provided: USD 8,322,875 injected in the local economy in forms of multi-purpose cash assistance
- A new RAIS feature / dashboard functionality has been developed. Users with access to the Basic Assistance reporting database can visualise different types of aggregated assistance provided by cash actors' agencies at different levels.
- This dashboard will be the live / dynamic 3Ws matrix for CBIs under the Basic Assistance sector. The dashboard reads information from the reporting database and therefore it is essential that partners report achievements on time.
- Agencies are kindly requested to provide feedback on this function by checking if their reported cases are correctly captured. Feedback can be always be sent to Khalil Dagher on dagherk@unhcr.org and Raffi Kouzoudjian on kouzoudj@unhcr.org.
- Agencies are kindly requested to report on their duration/cycle of assistance in order to track and families that might be dropped form assistance in a timely fashion, and therefore ensure proper referrals and mitigation mechanisms.

b. 2017/18 winter support

- Winter support planning is needs based. Cash based interventions are the preferred modalities for assistance under the Basic Assistance sector.
- Cash for winter is meant to reach all poor. Based on available information across different population cohorts, 238,434 HHs are identified to be poor and therefore eligible for this assistance:
 - 193,000 Syrian Refugee HHs.
 - 35,000 HHs Vulnerable Lebanese from NPTP/Lebanese Returnees
 - 10,434 HHs Palestine Refugees

- The overall approximate cost to reach all of these households is USD 150 M for a duration of 5 months (full assistance package of \$147 for households not receiving regular assistance and \$75 for households enrolled in regular MPC programmes – assuming a baseline of 50,000 HHS).
- The 2017/2018 winter support plan is aiming at reaching the maximum number of poor households in assistance, yet, and due to funding limitations, households are going to be targeted with a reduced package of \$75 for 3 months (uploaded in lump sum) for Syrian refugees and for 1 to 3 months for Palestine refugees.
- A gap in covering vulnerable Lebanese households has been identified.
- Partners with confirmed winter funding for cash: UNHCR, UNRWA, PCPM, CLMC, ICRC and LRC.
- To date (Nov 2017), nearly 145,000 Syrian Refugee HHs have received winter assistance.
- Other partners are distributing winter kits in lieu of cash (Unicef).
- Households in Aarsal are being supported by UNHCR through the PoS modality installed at Medco Stations.

c. 2018 LCRP planning

- The Basic Assistance sector documents were approved by the LCRP Steering Committee (Attached).
- One slight revision of the logframe was undertaken: the UNICEF cash assistance programme (min IIa) has been split into two interventions.
- Partner's appeals: Step 1 & 2 finalized → 40 partners expressed interest to implement activities all over Lebanon – no foreseen coverage gaps.

d. Appeals/ correction/ review mechanism

- In the last ad hoc appeals meeting that took place in November, it was decided to have a review process not an appeal process.
- In addition to that, it was recommended to define the eligible target group as the discontinued HHs (smaller group).
- The tool that will be used is the desk formula+ developed by AUB.
- After the last meeting, the options has been narrowed down to 2 options. Further refinements are taking place.
- Next steps: one final session to be held to reach a final agreement on the tool in hand and agree on an operationalization plan.

2- UNICEF cash programs for children enrolled in 2nd shift schools

- Last year (2016/17) the No Lost Generation/Min ILA Program was provided to all children enrolled in 2nd shift schools in Akkar and Mount Lebanon.
- This year, two different programs will be offered this year instead of only the Min IIa Program.
- Both programs are only for children who are enrolled in 2nd shift schools in Akkar, Mount Lebanon and T5.
- Two programs (50% of the children benefit for transportation “reaching schools” and 50% benefit from min ILA program).
- Majority are Syrian children since they are mainly in the 2nd shift schools. Using RACE data for children in 2nd shift schools.
- Transfer is on the 22nd of every month. Notification is done through sms.
- Hotline 24/7 in case of any question regarding the 2 programs.

3. Presentation by UNHCR: MCAP outcome monitoring

- Most household rely on humanitarian assistance as a main source of income.
- Cash assistance seems to alleviate household's reliance on debt and credit.

- Less average debt
- Less households borrowing money
- Discontinuation of assistance may push families further in to debt.
- Despite the provision of cash assistance, an increase in some coping strategies was still noticed.
- Food consumption score remained stable.
- Food, health and rent are the top priorities for spending.
- Increases in health expenditure since receiving cash assistance.
- The final report will be published soon.

AOB

- The next working group will have a different setting: thematic group discussions in preparations for 2018.
- UNHCR proposal to the group: look at the MPC assistance package throughout 2018, as part of the revision of the business model of the Basic Assistance sector. The proposal entails checking the feasibility of a reduced package to increase the coverage of poor households.