

Minutes of Ad-Hoc Basic Assistance Working Group Meeting Beirut, 8 October 2018

Meeting Location	UNHCR, S&K building, 9 th floor Conference Room	Meeting Time	14:00
Chair persons	Khalil Dagher (UNHCR) Hadi Haddad (MoSA) María Pía Ferrari (ACF)	Meeting Duration	2h00m
Minutes by	Maria Pia Ferrari		
Agenda	2019 LCRP updates Update on communications with communities in light of the recent changes in the targeting eligibility lists		

The purpose of this BAWG meeting was to discuss the Basic Assistance Sector strategy for next year in light of the 2019 LCRP update, as well as to provide an update on communications with communities in light of the recent changes in the targeting eligibility lists.

Below are the **main discussion points**:

- LCRP planning: the current sector strategy is based on a four-year framework (2017-2020), meaning that no major changes are foreseen. The main updates will be in the situation analysis (VASYR data, updates on PRS/PRL and NPTP). Some components to be added (protection and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming).
- Three main areas of interventions maintained:
 - 1) REGULAR ASSISTANCE - Targeting of economic vulnerable HHs (profiling, MPC, M&E) - Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian (figures being updated);
 - 2) SEASONAL ASSISTANCE – modality for assistance: cash, in kind and vouchers – seasonal winter assistance and contingency planning;
 - 3) SUPPORT TO NPTP – Technical support; assistance linked to safety nets (upgrade of whole system, training for NPTP staff, etc).
- Areas to be further strengthened: protection and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming. Specific sections and commitments to be included in the sector strategy.
- Basic Assistance Sector Strategy towards 2019 – based on feedback from partners, the protection mainstreaming and accountability framework needs additional attention (protection principles mainstreaming – Safety and dignity and avoid causing harm; meaningful access; accountability; participation and empowerment; protection risks analysis to be conducted – what have we achieved so far?), as well as conflict sensitivity (distribution of assistance, etc.)
- Recommendations of the inter-sector to all sectors: referencing social protection elements; addressing SGBV and protection (protection outcomes of cash?); accountability and protection mainstreaming.
- Specific interventions: invest in profiling (complementarity with food assistance – linkages with FS sector and LH sector); evaluations; linkages (definition and understanding of vulnerability to targeting and way forward).

Q&A on the points mentioned above

- What figures on the population will be used? 1,500,000 Syrian refugees as per the GoL estimations. Figures on PRS/PRL and NPTP beneficiaries currently being updated.
- Risk factor: voluntary return. Will this be tackled by the sector? Strategic part – reference to the returns in the LCRP chapeau, although in the BA sector strategy will not be mentioned. Later in the year, operational part: the sector will issue a guidance for agencies implementing cash assistance on how proceed operationally with households departing or experiencing splits in their families while receiving assistance.
- In terms of coverage, the sector will continue with business as usual depending on funding. Seasonal assistance: blanket coverage of the poor (needs-based packages).
- At the level of WG, the sector will provide conceptualization of evaluation of all type of assistance. In terms of operationalization, each agency will take responsibility. The sector to share guidelines on evaluation.
- Will SMEB be updated? Used for targeting and for establishing assistance packages: an area to be further discussed.

Planning figures LCRP 2019:

Syrian refugees: 1,500,000 individuals taken as base for the calculation of the population in need (below MEB = 68%) and population targeted (below SMEB = 51%)

Vulnerable Lebanese: +40,000 Leb (according to updated lists of NPTP)

Palestine refugees from Syria: approx. 29,000 HHs – blanket approach

Questions for further reflection in the upcoming period:

Did the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon actually improve in 2018? Did needs change?

What are the coping mechanisms/capacities and intentions of people in need?

What is the national capacity to respond?

What is the international response capacity?

Where do we see opportunities for more sustainable impact?

Updates on discontinuations and communication with communities in light of the recent changes in targeting (WFP and UNHCR presentation)

- Changes took place based on lessons learnt from previous years: the feedback of refugees was taken into consideration (UNHCR and WFP carried out FGD with newly established refugee advisory groups to understand preferences in terms of timing, content of SMS etc) – discontinuation messages being sent one day and inclusion message after one week. Messages available on refugee websites and WhatsApp groups as well.
- GRM in place (UNHCR), although at a very small scale (approx. 1500 spots): discontinued refugees can lodge a complaint that will be evaluated. A specific meeting on GRM will be organized, complemented by discussions on referral.
- Discontinuation figures for UNHCR and WFP were presented (see presentations attached).
- WFP to share the terminology: cash for food – ATM, POS contracted shops; food e-card: used only in contracted shops; MPC – MPC + food aid (all in cash).
- Validation exercise (UNHCR): 2 validation exercises carried out in 2018 for the DF (5% no shows) and one just started for the validation of the newly identified beneficiaries for MPCA. Validation is a core accountability process in order to understand whether the right person holds the card.

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- UNICEF discontinuation – cash for education programmes targeting all students in second shifts now stopped because of lack of funds. 13,000 HHs have been discontinued and the other were included in the nationwide Reaching school programme (that is now covering around 80,000 HHs providing 20\$ for each child – capped at 5).
- CAMALEON: sent out survey to cash actors to get feed-backs on the perception of refugees towards discontinuation. Analysis to be done. To be shared in November 2018.