



Minutes of Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting- 11 August- 2017

Meeting Location	MoSA's office - 7 th floor	Meeting Time	10:00 a.m.
Chair person	Mario abu Zeid – MOSA	Meeting Duration	2 hrs.
Minutes Prepared by	Oula Ibrahim – Senior Coordination Assistant		
Agenda of the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VaSyR preliminary results • Update on operationalization of the desk formula • Update on Aarsal • IM- assessment registry • AOB – HCT Contingency Planning 		
Participating Organizations	WCH, MoSA, RI, UNHCR, WHO, University of Balamand, ECHO, TDH IT, UNDP, OCHA, IRD, WFP, CISP, DRC, IRD		

Link to the presentations : <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=14166>

1.	VaSyR preliminary results
	<p>1.1- Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The VaSyR 2017 surveyed a representative sample of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon to identify changes in trends in their situation, it also continues to provide valuable insight into refugees' living conditions, their economic vulnerability and food insecurity. • The questionnaire was very similar to the one of 2016 to ensure comparability. • Between 9 to 24 May, 2017, the survey team visited 4966 Syrian refugee households randomly selected from 28 districts across the country (2 districts for Akkar and Beirut were added for this year). • The population was stratified by districts to allow district and governorate level analysis • The only challenge was approaching Ramadan, the surveyors had to work intensively in order to collect all data required before the start of the holy month. • Steps forward: more comprehensive core in depth analysis- graphic design- reporting- publishing and editing <p>1.2- Key findings</p> <p>A- UNHCR (demographics, shelter, health, assistance)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A slight increase in the gender ration at 1.6 • A slight decrease over the years in average HH size coming down this year to 4.9 (was 5.1 in 2016) • The average number of children being under the age of 18 per household is also slightly decreasing this year • For the age breakdown of population by age and gender, half of the male's population falls in the ages of 18-59, with a higher number for females being in the same age category. On the other hand around 20% of the population are females between the ages of 5 to 15, and the least amount of population being above the age of 60 years old. • In terms of specific needs, 78% of HHs reported having at least 1 member with a specific need, out of whom, 46% reported having chronic illness. • On the shelter part, the largest bulk of population are living in residential buildings with only 17% living in informal settlements • In Beirut, Mount Lebanon, south and T5, the majority of HHs are living in residential buildings (shared/non shared), while Akkar and Beqaa has the highest proportion of population living in informal settlements.

- For **health**, about 46% of HH had at least one member who needed PHC in the last 6 months, most of whom, 89% were able to access PHC services compared to last year's figures with less people not able to access those services for this year.
- In terms of **assistance**, the percentage of HHs who reported to have received assistance in the last 3 months preceding the assessment was 2.5% higher than the previous year, with increase in number of HHs receiving multi-purpose cash assistance.
- On the event to returning to Syria, similar to 2016's results, safety and security in Syria and the cost of living in Lebanon are the most common factors that HHs would consider to return to Syria.

B- WFP findings (food security)

- As per 2017 results, food security remains relatively stable, but still a concern with the slight increase in the worse categories from 35 to 38%. Marginally food insecure HHs are moving into food insecurity due to protracted economic vulnerability constraints since they have more debts, and less income opportunities.
- The distribution of the most food insecure HHs (moderate and severe) changed in the past year, and the districts with higher food insecurity are increasing in ML, North and El Hermel
- HHs are adopting more irreversible coping strategies
- Increase in the percentage of HHs with lower dietary diversity and unacceptable food consumption

Next steps:

Further analysis to identify who are the food insecure, causes of food insecurity

C- UNICEF preliminary results (Education, Wash)

- Considerable increase in the number of children enrolled in schools between the ages of 6 and 14, this increase is most likely linked to the impact of the "national back to school campaign" and "Min Ila" campaign that helped a lot of children across Lebanon to overcome certain challenges and access schools.
- A huge drop in percentage of exclusive breastfeeding under 6 months, that came down from 58 to 30%. The result was compared to "baseline survey" conducted by UNICEF in 2015 in coordination with MoSA where the result was 34%. The reason behind the drop is that the question of 2016 and 2017 are not comparable, as the one of 2016 was broader including other kind of food consumption.
- For immunization, UNICEF will adopt the results of EPI cluster survey commissioned by WHO and MoPH, and will use its results only.
- Anthropometric measurements was dropped for this year
- Wash: percentage of level of access to safe drinking water has improved compared to 2016
- Disability: in total, 3.5% of number of HH with disability. The result will be used as a base for the upcoming "disability Survey" that UNICEF is intending to do in collaboration with MoSA for 2017/2018 covering Syrians, Palestinians, and Lebanese across Lebanon.

Next steps:

Findings still need validation by Sectors and dissemination needed to the field

2. Updates on operationalization of the desk formula

- The Desk formula is a full fledge statistical model, known as the desk formula or ProGres model (mainly taking predictors of vulnerability/welfare from UNHCR registration database-ProGres)
- Inputs are demographical variables taken from the registration database correlated with expenditures derived from VaSyR
- The overall function is about predicting expenditures per HH per Capita based on various variables. When applied to the population, the formula scores and ranks HHs based on predicted cut-offs.
- All HHs falling below the MEB are considered poor or highly vulnerable, all those falling below the SMEB are considered severely vulnerable or extremely poor.



- This tool is programmatically adapted for cash and food assistance targeting only. Other sectors such as shelter, health were using it just as a primary filter.
- It was introduced in 2016, to replace the old HH visits model. The desk Formula 2017, is the same as in 2016, yet was calibrated based on the analysis of expenditure part from VaSyR 2016 as well as the demographic variables from UNHCR global registration database- ProGres.
- The comparative advantage of 2017 model compared to the previous one of 2016, is that it is able to identify not only the poor HHs but also the more poor.
- The model has the same technical accuracy compared to 2016, yet some technical improvements have been done, summarized by the inclusion of new variables translated into a decrease in its exclusion error from 13% in 2016 to 7% in 2017.
- Compared to the last year, all HHs captured in the registration database were scored
- Current results observed gave been checked and validated, and therefore the model can be operationalized on the caseload to target vulnerable HHs with cash and food.
- Full convergence in terms of eligibility and coverage in assistance should be observed
- Population captured in the June 2017 registration data set has been taken as a cut-off point.
- More than 15 protection related indicators have been added for this year (elderly, chronic illness...)
- AUB has proposed an appeals/ referrals mechanism that is based on the same proxies in addition to other collected, that are related to the living conditions of households

Options for operationalization: Multi-purpose cash assistance

1- Bottom up approach/ regional quotas:

- Discontinue non eligible HHs (highly, mildly, least), around 70% of the interagency reach
- Reset/ redistribute the assisted caseload based on the score and rank per area, include cases based on available resources by starting with those at the bottom of the severely vulnerable population rank
- Exception/challenge: the considered geographical allocation/ quota disrupts the bottom up approach (at the national level) yet provides programmatic balance/ coverage across regions
- This approach imposes a large scale discontinuation yet it opens the chance to severely vulnerable HHs who have never received assistance to get into the programme
- It is worth noting that 2,700 (out of +14,000) previously receiving assistance from LCC will be included by UNHCR if this option is adopted, yet there will be an observed 3 months gap in assistance due to programmatic saturation

2- Filling in the blank approach

- Discontinue non eligible HHs (highly, mildly, least), migrating from severely vulnerable to other categories, around 70% of the interagency reach
- The current cash caseload (severely vulnerable) regardless of the rank will keep receiving assistance
- Inclusion into the programme is still based on ranking, yet depends on available space per area/ programme
- None of the previous LCC beneficiaries will be included under this approach
- This approach was considered last year as a transition solution when the desk formula was introduced following the PMT/ HH visits model (where most of the data collected was still considered valid-up to date)

3- Operational considerations:

- Regardless of the option, discontinuation notification should be sent to beneficiaries by the 1st week of September, granting 2 months' notice, new cases can only be included as of November 2017, once programmatic space is secured
- Resources available for multi-purpose cash assistance are decreasing and more actors are closing down programmes, funding pipelines are not clear for most of the actors
- The sector expects a considerable drop in assistance compared to last year, coupled with major turn-over in

	<p>caseloads that has to be treated with caution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear/ strong communication guidelines have to be put in place, especially in case of the operationalization of option 1 • Risk mitigation measures , analysis of implications, and measures have to be taken by partners • Yet, all severely vulnerable cases will be receiving food assistance, this is foreseen as a good measure to mitigate negative outcomes <p>4- Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions of participants were mainly related to the whole process after identification of population targeted for cash and food assistance, rationale behind notice period, as well as the comparability of this year's model to the one of 2016. • Consistency and accuracy of 2017 model was due to operational experience rather than the addition of new parameters • For better targeting new protection indicators have been added • Appeals and referral mechanism will look into families falling into the cracks • AUB research team is still working on the appeal process. <p>5- Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bottom up approach was considered by the core group as the most logical from a technical/ programmatic perspective. The next discussion will take place at the BAWG. Strong messaging and communication will need to accompany any approach taken.
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3.	Updates on Aarsal
	<p>1- <u>Inter-Agency updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR was not involved in the return process that took place on the 2nd of August • Unconfirmed reports on the number of individuals who have joined the movement to Idlib • UNHCR was not on the ground during the movement • Reports drafted were based on figures and inputs collected by partners in Aarsal • UNHCR has circulated some information prior to the movement explaining the position of UNHCR towards return to Syria and more specifically to Idlib • UNHCR field office has been involved in the coordination response during the crises • 415 individuals have come from the outskirts of Aarsal town and have receive support from protection partners in Aarsal • Preservation of non-refoulement principle is still paramount • On 3rd of August, UNHCR was granted access to Aarsal, therefore, UNHCR team has conducted interviews with relevant stakeholders, ROVs, Refugees, deputy mayor <p>2- <u>MoSA updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6955 individuals have registered their names 3 days ahead the movement, and were supposed to join the movement to Idlib, some of whom have changed their minds at the very last moment. • 5085 individuals have left to Idlib using 143 buses with the capacity of 45 passengers each • The high majority of families who have returned to Idlib are originally from Al Qusair. • LAF have raised some security related concerns as the number of fighters/individuals allegedly affiliated in armed clashes have reached 123 persons. • MoSA was monitoring the situation throughout their SD center in Aarsal • A movement of return is supposed to take place tomorrow (August 12) to west Qalamoun, mainly to Flita and Aasal El Ward. Individuals and families joining this movement originate from Qusair. Conflicting reports

	<p>on number of individuals returning. As per MoSA's focal point, only 240 persons are intending to leave tomorrow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No negotiation between the Lebanese and the Syrian governments. • Aarsal outskirts are considered to be a military area. People having lands/ businesses in the area have no access to their lands. Access is promised within the few upcoming days (confirmed by LAF, and municipality) • MoSA is working to ensure a full coordination with Aarsal's municipality
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4.	IM- Assessment Registry
	<p>The Inter-Agency IMU presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment registry, an online repository of assessments, and demonstrated how to add an assessment • Factbook and searchable database of finding from assessments • Inter-Agency contact list – at the bottom of the page • Map Hub – the place to find maps such as, the map of informal settlements.

5.	AOB
	<p>1- LCRP workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Series of workshops on inter-sectorial, and ministerial levels will start as of September 2017 to evaluate the LCRP process to look at opportunities available for response improvement • Reporting process needs improvement. A meeting will follow to discuss further the implementation of the new information management system led by MoSA. <p>2- HCT-Contingency Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All comments were received, and validation will start as of next week • Next steps will be shared with all actors • The final draft will be shared once validated by the HCT <p>MoSA: contingency plans developed by actors, to be shared by MoSA</p>