



## Minutes of the National Basic Assistance Working Group Meeting

<b>Meeting Location</b>	UMHCR, Leah first floor	<b>Meeting Date</b>	18 Oct., 2017
<b>Chair persons</b>	Hadi Haddad (MOSA) Khalil Dagher (UNHCR) Mirdza Abele ( WVI)	<b>Meeting Time</b>	11:00
<b>Minutes by</b>	Malak Rahal	<b>Meeting Duration</b>	2.30 Hrs.
<b>List of agencies in attendance</b>	MOSA, UNHCR, WVI, Solidar Suisse, RI, HEKS, DAF, WFP, IOM, ICRC, British Red Cross, LRC, SI, Dorcas, IRL, PU-AMI, Welfare association, Embassy of Switzerland, ACTED, PCPM, ANERA, HAD, SB overseas, ACF, SCI, SIF, AUB & Oxfam.		

### Agenda:

- 1) Block I:
  - a) Sector Updates
    - i) Regular – Targeting Assistance
    - ii) 2017 /2018 Winter Support Plan
- 2) Block II:
  - a) Presentation from the Livelihoods Sector
  - b) Oxfam Presentation on Temporary Cash Assistance
- 3) Block III:
  - a) 2018 LCRP Planning: BA Sector Strategy

### 1.a) Sector Updates

#### **1.a.i) Regular – Targeting Assistance**

- Information generated from activity info and RAIS in September 2017 shows that 42,444 vulnerable households received multi-purpose cash out of which :
  - b) 32,400 Syrian HHs (6 partners reported : UNHCR, LRC, OXFAM, RI, Solidar Suisse, ICRC)
  - c) 9,672 PRS HHs (UNRWA)
  - d) 372 Leb HHs (LRC, OXFAM)
- A total of USD 6,639,300 was injected in the local economy.
- The projected MCAP caseload till Jan 2018 is 49,525 (Q4 partners & projected caseloads: UNHCR, WFP, ICRC, CLMC, ACTED, ACF, Solidar Suisse, RI).
  - Booking the cases on RAIS is very important; agencies with confirmed funding and who did not identify their caseload yet are invited to do so as soon as possible.

#### **1.a.ii) 2017 /2018 Winter Support Plan**

The preliminary figures of the population in need based on economic vulnerability for winter support 2017/2018 show that:

- 193,000 Syrian refugee households are eligible for assistance (65% Severely Vulnerable & 35% Highly Vulnerable) out of which a) 11% are in South, b) 25% North, c) 20% ML, d) 1% Beirut and e) 42% Bekaa.
- 35,000 vulnerable Lebanese households are eligible for assistance.
- 10,434 Palestine refugee households (including 720 PRL) are eligible for assistance.
- The primary intervention is cash complemented with core relief items where needed.
- Partners with confirmed winter funding (cash based interventions) are: PCPM, LRC, CLMC, UNHCR.
- Detailed mapping of interventions is ongoing: due to funding shortages, partners had to compromise between the assistance package (planned at \$147), the duration (planned for 5 months), and the reach (all poor households are eligible for assistance).

- So far, and based on feedback received, the packages to be distributed in winter are the following: \$147, \$100, and \$75. To note, UNHCR will be targeting more than 142,000 HHs with \$75 for three months uploaded once between November and December.
- Households receiving MCAP are not prioritized for winter assistance.
- Follow up points:
  - Geographical mapping of the caseloads identified – ongoing.
  - In-kind donations to be coordinated and targeted to areas where cash based interventions are minimal with high concentration of needs – gap filling role.

## **2.a) Presentation from the Livelihoods Sector: (presentation attached)**

### 2017 Interventions:

- Overall, 32 active partners have been implementing LH activities since early 2017
  - ✓ Outputs 1.1 “Job creation is fostered through labour-intensive investments”/1.2 “Job creation is fostered through labour-intensive investments” (Lower concentration of interventions in Baalbek and Mount Lebanon).
  - ✓ Output 1.3 Job creation is fostered through labor-intensive investments. (Significant gap recorded across the country, especially in ML, North, and South/Nabatiyeh).
  - ✓ Output 1.4 (highest concentration of partners active under this output).

### Under-funded but vibrant sector:

- 42m USD as of Q3 (end September) versus 33m USD received in 2016.
- Geographical gaps: Baalbek (Hermel), ML (Jbeil / Aley), South (Jezzine) and Nabatiyeh (Bint Jbeil/Hasbaya)
- High concentration of partners is perceived in in Akkar, Baalbek & Central Bekaa

### Progress to date:

- There is a significant progress recorded interventions related to long-term job creation, MSME support, and workforce employability.
- There is a persistent gap in public work / short-term employment support.

### Discussion:

- The livelihood sector will incorporate elements of the graduation out of poverty approach to transition some of the most vulnerable households living in extreme-poverty towards self-reliance.
- The approach, which combines support both in terms of livelihoods and consumption, training, coaching and savings encouragement as well as other social services, has already developed a track record of significant impact in a variety of contexts. It will have to be discussed further in the context of Lebanon.
- To note, the National Poverty Targeting Programme with support from the World Bank is working on a graduation pilot of 600 Lebanese families.
- The basic assistance sector will work closely with the livelihood sector on the graduation component and exit strategy.
- The BA sector should work closely with the livelihood sector on profiling and assessing the beneficiaries that are currently receiving assistance.

## **2.b) Oxfam Presentation on Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA) (presentation attached)**

- Project’s objective: Vulnerable households are better able to meet their basic needs while coping with socio-economic shock or stresses.
- 452 HHs have received temporary TCA to date.

- TCA and outreach volunteer's referrals are provided to Lebanese HHs as part of an improved social protection package.
- Vulnerable Syrian refugees have timely access to TCA and support services when coping with shocks and stresses.
- Preliminary Results of the External Evaluation showed that:
  - HHs are more able to meet rent and health expenses;
  - HHs engaging less in negative coping mechanisms;
  - OXFAM should conduct a mapping of available services in the wider Tripoli region to improve referrals for Lebanese;
  - Maintain strategic partnership with MOSA and NPTP by scaling up through SDCs and making use available social workers at the SDCs, as well as investing in capacity building;
  - TCA be integrated into a graduation program, by providing temporary financial support for families enrolled in the graduation program and have undergone a shock;
  - TCA be integrated into NPTP programme, by ensuring that the majority (around 75%) of Lebanese beneficiaries are NPTP beneficiaries;
  - Referrals to available social services within SDCs and the community;
  - Referrals to livelihood projects that can provide support for home based businesses;

#### Main recommendations:

- Refine targeting criteria specifically those pertaining to Syrian beneficiaries, by providing clear definitions and cut-offs for every criterion;
- Additional training to focal points on project objectives, outcomes and targeting criteria in order to further improve targeting among Syrian refugees;
- As part of the accountability mechanism, conduct a phone survey to follow on all referred beneficiaries in order to verify whether their case has been received, processed and closed.

### **3.a) 2018 LCRP Planning: BA Sector Strategy**

#### Planning figures

- 1,500,000 Syrian refugees out of which 76 % are in need (< MEB) and 58% are targeted (< SMEB).
- 409,923 vulnerable Lebanese, all are in need but 98,110 will be targeted.
- 34,000 Palestine refugees, all are in need and will be targeted.

#### Main interventions

- Provision of regular assistance by targeting economic vulnerability through: profiling, MPC and M&E for Syrian refugees, Palestine refugees and poor Lebanese.
- Provision of seasonal assistance through cash, in kind and vouchers for Syrian refugees, Palestine refugees and poor Lebanese.
- Technical support to NPTP.

#### Discussion

- Minor changes are expected to be made to the Basic Assistance sector chapter of the 2018 LCRP.
- The four years framework for the LCRP is still valid and the same planning assumptions for Basic Assistance still hold.
- Information on poor Lebanese has always been considered as gap.