



## Minutes of Health & Nutrition Working Group Meeting/ South

Date: 04/02/2021

### List of participants

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**Summary of discussions and action points**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Issue</b>
1.	<p><b><u>LCRP Health Sector Updates</u></b></p> <p>Figures provided for the 2021 Health Sector Strategy on the national level. The data will be segregated on South Governorate later on. Presentation document shared with attendees via email as well. Main figures are below outlined:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comparison for the <b>number of beneficiaries reaching for basic services</b> through MOPH PHCs between Jan-Nov 2019 &amp; Jan-Nov 2020: 12% decrease: Lock down period affected the services provision in 2020 especially from march till May 2020.</li> <li>• Comparison for the <b>Number of Subsidized PHC Consultation</b> for the same period above: 20% decrease from 2019 till 2020, however the Number of Lebanese beneficiaries out of total have doubled compared to 2019 while for the Non Lebanese and refugees beneficiaries decreased for the same period. These figures reflect the increasing number of the vulnerable Lebanese &amp; their need for the subsidized services affected by the economic crisis. This crisis also affected the refugee population who cannot even pay for the subsidized fees (Poor people became even poorer).</li> <li>• <b>Number of Consultations at MMUs</b> have increased by 17% triggered by hindered geographical access due the COVID-19 lockdown, Beirut explosion and the protests across the country. MMUs however remain not very advisable by the health sector and MOPH knowing their cost ineffectiveness &amp; difficulty to monitor their quality of care however were needed during these conditions.</li> <li>• <b>Number of Mental Health consultations increased</b> by 66% between Jan &amp; Dec 2020: Need increased but it is a good sign of beneficiaries requesting and being able to access this service. Triggers were the tough conditions affecting Lebanon in 2020 from Beirut blast to the COVID and economic crisis.</li> <li>• <b>Number of Children &lt;5 y.o receiving vaccination</b> increased by 27% between Oct to Nov 2020 due to the Measles campaign however overall, the number decreased in 2020 compared to the previous year due to all the reasons above mentioned.</li> <li>• <b>Main Recommendations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep investing in Health system strengthening.</li> <li>• Extend mental health and Nutrition support.</li> <li>• Emphasis on access to immunization</li> <li>• Consider dialysis &amp; blood disease support to the refugee population.</li> <li>• Mainstream COVID-19 preventive measures for healthcare workers and targeted population.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.	<p><b><u>COVID-19 updates &amp; Vaccination program (MOPH)</u></b></p> <p><b>Epidemiological Update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Figures As of 02 to 03 Feb 2021: 35842 cumulative cases, 2750 cases &amp; 81 new deaths.</li> <li>• In the past 3 weeks after the peak of weekly basis, there was a drop in registered cases &amp; 37% drop in testing. Positivity rate has plateaued around d 21% which remains high in the country.</li> <li>• Total of infections among healthcare worker is 2413 cases.</li> <li>• Crude fatality rate: 1.07%; Death among cases 451 Total deaths</li> </ul> <p>Number of COVID-19 Beds: 1944 regular beds designated for COVID-19, 80.5 % occupancy</p>



	<p>Rate. 1084 ICU beds, 90% occupancy rate.</p> <p><b>Vaccination:</b> MOPH presented the National Vaccine Framework: Key points: Prioritization scheme according to occupation &amp; demographics (Age, co-morbidities): Plan is over 2 years, target: vaccinate 70% of the population to achieve herd immunity. Stages 1 &amp; 2, 3&amp; 4 will cover each 35% of the population (All living on the territory, citizens, and Non-Citizens. First stages will target Healthcare workers &amp; people &gt;75 yo. Clarity about types of available vaccines Pfizer, Covax with need to register on the Impact platform to receive the vaccine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Covax</u>: 2.73 Million doses for 1.46 Million individuals (20% of population residing) as a 2 doses regimen.</li> <li>• <u>Pfizer</u>: 1.5 Million doses for 750 thousand individuals as a 2 doses regimen in addition to 600 000 doses donated by Pfizer for the vulnerable population.</li> <li>• Negotiations ongoing to cover the remaining population as well as for fundraising to cover refugees and migrant.</li> <li>• Vaccination sites: coverage will be ensured at the level of all governorates.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b><u>Uptake on Children Immunization- Measles campaign final figures (UNICEF)</u></b> <b>Measles campaign:</b> concluded on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. No decision to resume the campaign after the lockdown is lifted. UNICEF Consultant are meeting with the Field staff all over Lebanon to finalize the Report on results, challenges, success stories &amp; lesson learnt. Pending to be published to reveal the target reached per district.</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Lockdown and Continuation of Activities</u></b> PHCs and organizations working in health, food security and protection continue to work for life-saving activities, all other activities are suspended until the end of the strict lockdown. Partners are requested to strongly comply with the lockdown measures and to follow the guidance shared with them via emails.</p>
4.	<p><b><u>Referral of Dialysis cases for South refugees &amp; Call for funding:</u></b> <b>URDA:</b> Dialysis fund ended, currently looking to acquire another fund to resume dialysis sessions for patients. 2 Patients passed away (1 in south) as they were not capable to cover the sessions fees. URDA is however in the interim are supporting patients with 2 sessions/week until April 2021 under NORWAC. Total South patients supported in Lebanese-Italian Hospital: 9</p>
5.	<p><b><u>Field updates:</u></b> <b>UNHCR:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRT activities to support COVI-19 cases ongoing with Partner AMEL and co-partners. UNHCR</li> <li>• is securing proper case referral for RRT support from the different sources of reporting.</li> <li>• Challenges to secure food parcels, support requested from WFP &amp; other partners. Mercy Corps are no longer operating in South for WASH interventions in their assigned clusters replaced by DPNA and also negotiating to find another partner to support DPNA.</li> <li>• Saida govern hosp is the sole contracted facility for PCR testing, and also for COVID-19 case admission along with Lebanese Italian and Rahi hospitals</li> <li>• COVID-19 of Positive and suspected cases are increasing in the South among the refugee population. Cumulative cases for 300 (11% of the total refugee population) , all cases are residing in urban settings, 1 POC passed away.</li> </ul> <p><b>AMEL:</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consultation numbers in the 3 supported PHCs decreased due to lockdown measures for all types except GP, pediatrics &amp; GYN. RRT interventions are still ongoing to support the increasing number of COVID-19 cases.</li><li>• Proceeding with 3 OVs and 6 CHVs (dedicated for RRT-COVID-19 project) &amp; Follow up with patients working with the referred cases. 4 CHVs are pending to be recruited, call for any candidates made out to the NGOs attending.</li></ul> <p><b>IMO:</b> Work with TB and HIV patients , and currently focusing on TB patients impacted by the COVID-9 to provide food baskets and PPE Kits. Pending to find a partner to support with PPE supply.</p>
6.	<u>AOB:</u> None

Next meeting is scheduled on the **4th of March 2021**. Date and time will be confirmed one week ahead of time.