



## Minutes of the National Basic Assistance Working Group Meeting

Meeting Location	MoSA Building, 7 <sup>th</sup> floor	Meeting Date	21 April 2017
Chair persons	Hadi Haddad (MoSA) Khalil Dagher (UNHCR) Mirdza Abele (WVI)	Meeting Time	2:00 PM
Minutes by	Oula Ibrahim	Meeting Duration	2 Hours
Represented Agencies	MoSA, RAM, Caritas, OXFAM, UNICEF, ACF, DAF, SCJ, LCC, NRC, RI, SIF, MAKHZOUMI foundation, WVI, BRC, LRC, IRL, ANERA, LHIF, UNHCR		

### **Agenda:**

1. Sector Updates:
  - a) Targeting Assistance
  - b) Winter Support: Summary
  - c) 2017 Q1 achievements
  - d) New IM tool: Interactive Summary Dashboard
2. UNHCR Winter Post Distribution Monitoring Results
3. Aرسال Cash Assistance Pilot: Presentation by ACF
4. AOB

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### **1. Sector Updates**

#### **A. Targeting assistance**

- Information generated from Activity info and RAIS during the current reporting cycle show that 59,521 HHs received MPCA in March out of whom, 49,196 are Syrian refugees.
- Ongoing advocacy with agencies and donors to increase the inclusion of Lebanese households in regular assistance as the low inclusion has been always a funding related gap.
- 20,645 Syrian HHs are receiving unconditional assistance/ education specific from UNICEF, 60% of those families are also receiving MPCA.
- The total amount spent in forms of cash assistance for the 59,521 HHs supported during March amounts to for these assistances is equivalent to 10,464,790 USD\$.

#### **B. Summary of the winter support**

- As of March 31, all winter distributions have been concluded country wide.
- A detailed winter dashboard is being prepared and will shared with partners detailing the final results of the 2016 – 2017 winter campaign.
- 90% of population in need identified have been reached.
- 22% have received Core Relief Items to meet additional winter needs or have been distributed in areas where cash operations were not implemented, and 78% were targeted by Winter Cash assistance (4 months/ 5 months assistance depending on the fund received by each partner) as of the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2017; 95% of the funding needed has been secured.
- Achievements presented capture distributions between November 2016 and March 2017.
- The USD 40 cash assistance to up for Lebanese has be postponed and will be redesigned and implemented throughout the year in coordination with NPTP / MoSA.
- The total USD injected in forms of winter cash assistance between Nov 2016 and March 2017 has reached USD 115.000.000.



### C. **2017 Q1 achievement**

- Monthly dashboard indicators reflects that the overlap in assistance was based on needs; contribution of different cash assistance streams to the same expenditure basket.
- 22 USD million were reported to be received by 10 partners on FTS; it does not include the carry-over from 2016 which is almost 9 million. Compared to what has been spent in forms of cash assistance, this figure is considered low. Yet, this discrepancy is explained by the way through which partners spend from non-restricted and flexible funding sources to implement activities. In addition, winter funding has been reported as received in the last quarter of 2016.
- Nevertheless, partners are requested to report systematically on FTS for funds received under the LCRP.
- In terms of reporting of achievements, some differences were captured between Activity info RAIS platforms. The only difference should be between the number of beneficiaries receiving cash reported higher on activity info since it accounts for non-registered refugee households – RAIS can only take registered households.
- While compiling the data, it was noticeable that numbers reported on RAIS are actually higher than those reported on AI. This means that some partners are under-reporting on AI.
- For the 2017 LCRP, different baselines for the target were used; the vulnerability cut offs, the minimum expenditure basket and the survival minimum expenditure basket were applied to the total estimated Syrians in Lebanon (1.5 million), and not the total registered population as it was the case in 2016. This note is important to keep in mind whenever checking the trends and figures. The targets for 2017 are higher, yet implementation / funding are still at the same level which may cause achievements to look less in terms of percentages.

### D. **New IM tool: Interactive Summary Dashboard**

IM new tool: it consists of interactive summary dashboard, an open source that doesn't require a log-in procedure. It can be accessed through the link:

<https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiYzA4YWY5YWQtYTIkZi00OWE2LTlmZGltZTdhY2NiYzZmZjgxlwiidCI6IjhhMDYzYWM1LTc4YjgtNGY2NS1hZjgyLWl0ZDU2ZTMzYjU0MCIslmMiOjI9>

- It takes live data from the reporting database (mainly RAIS for the time being), tracking cash assistance streams being implemented / distributed under the Basic Assistance sector.
- Partners using this tool will be able to overlap different assistance programmes and calculate the number of unique households benefiting from assistance.
- This tool can be customized, the way partners want to see it or to be more informative and user friendly.
- At the moment it is still a working draft, there is a lot to be improved and enhanced – to be updated based on feedback received and launched by the next working group.
- High level of accuracy in reporting on RAIS and Activity info is required for the tool to be able to reflect actual achievements.

### 2. **UNHCR Winter Post Distribution Monitoring Results 2016/2017- presentation**

- This survey's objective was to look into the short term impact of cash assistance, beneficiary satisfaction for the 2016-2017 cycle, and how beneficiaries perceive the selection process, eligibility, access to ATM for money withdrawal, internal decision making process within the same family and of course money spending.
- The study was done only for Syrian caseload and only those receiving winter cash assistance, excluding those who receive regular cash assistance along the year.
- The sample is representative of national caseload not per region, except in Beqaa who had the capacity to conduct more household visits, (Beqaa sample is almost half the sample studied).
- Knowing that the 1<sup>st</sup> transfer of money was in November, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> transfer was in December for 4 months ahead, 92.3% reported that receiving cash as a lump sum did not cause them any issues. All the remaining 7% reported that it was hard for them to plan on how to spend it over the course of 4 months, so they ended up spending it in a short timeframe. Still, most of them reported that they still prefer to receive it on a



monthly basis.

- Families were asked on how they spent the money based on 3 top priorities, in all the regions as a 1<sup>st</sup> priority, the most common responses were fuel for heating, food and rent.
- Detailed results are in the attached presentation.

### **3. Arsal Cash Assistance Pilot: Presentation by ACF**

- ACF implemented a cash assistance programme pilot in Arsal funded by OCHA with an overall aim to improve the access of vulnerable households to essential goods and services using the Red Rose transfer technology.
- The project started in July and will end in May; findings presented are considered preliminary, and the final results will be shared with all the partners soon upon the completion of data collection and analysis.
- The main activity of the project was to distribute multipurpose cash with provision of USD 175 monthly and USD 75 for winterization.
- 653 HHs benefited from the project (20% are Lebanese/NPTP beneficiaries). Syrian beneficiaries were referred by UNHCR and partner agencies – severely vulnerable households as per the sector standards.
- The project was implemented through vendors: 90 vendors have been assessed, and only 10 vendors have been selected for this project. Selection of vendors was based on accessibility of the shop and availability of essential goods.
- For the methodology: beneficiary receives “KACHE” card while vendors have a hand-held terminal and a printer with the vendor’s card and a list of different items already included in the program application.
- The money is redeemed to the beneficiary’s card, and the vendor has access to a printer to print the receipts of items and values sold. Information is directly connected to a platform, where no internet connection is needed.
- End-line planned for the end of April/ May 2017
- Almost half of the Syrian beneficiaries targeted in this program expressed their general satisfaction with this assistance and appreciated its contribution to meeting their needs.
- ACF is looking to include services other than food, clothing and fuel, a possibility for money withdrawal through the vendor is being considered for the future.
- Further details in the attached presentation.

### **4. Updates from MoSA: Evictions**

- The Advisor to the minister, Mario Abou Zeid, drew the attention of Basic Assistance actors on the position of MoSA regarding the ongoing eviction in Bekaa. While, monitoring the developments some trends were noticed, mainly related to municipalities’ reactions towards the relocation of households.
- Coordination between counterparts across the sectors is much required in order to have a plan ready to support those beneficiaries while assessing the impact of relocation on access to services and assistance
- MoSA is working to reach out to municipalities through various political channels, tackle the issue at policy level to mitigate negative consequences on refugees and host communities.

### **5. AOB:**

- The American University of Beirut is currently working on update of coefficient of the Desk Formula, at the same time they are running several parallel analysis on exclusion/ exclusion errors.
- Field offices and partners have flagged cases that could be falling in the cracks and not being identified as vulnerable by the formula for further analysis.
- Based on the results, the profile of those HHs will be identified and information gathered out of the analysis will be used for appeals and referrals mechanism.