



Minutes of the National Basic Assistance Working Group Meeting

Meeting Location	UNHCR S&K 9 th floor	Meeting Date	19 January 2018
Chair persons	Hadi Haddad (MOSA) Khalil Dagher (UNHCR) Mirdza Abele (WVI)	Meeting Time	11:00
Minutes by	Mirdza Abele	Meeting Duration	2 hours
22 Represented Agencies	ACF, ACTED, CAMELEON, CCP Japan, CLMC, DFID, LHIF, MoSA/NPTP, NPTP, OXFAM, PARIC, PUAMI, Relief International, SCI, SIF, Solidar Suisse, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, WVI.		

Agenda

1. Sector Updates:
 - a. 2017 Achievements
 - b. Targeting Assistance
 - c. 2017 – 2018 Winter Support
 - d. Appeals / Review Mechanism: Operational Update
2. Technical Review of the Econometric Model for Targeting (Presentation by UNHCR)
3. CAMELEON: Presentation of Third Party Monitoring
4. AOB:
 - a. Intersector Priorities for 2018
 - b. Basic Assistance Reporting Trainings (RAIS & AI)

1. Sector updates:

a. 2017 Achievements

88,503 Vulnerable Households reached with regular cash assistance / 37% of the target:

- 56,820 Syr HHS with \$175 MPC / 29%
- 9,672 PRS HHS with \$100 – MPC / 107%
- 1,269 Leb HHS with \$175 – MPC / 4%
- 21,617 Syr HHS with Education specific cash grants

183,265 vulnerable households reached with seasonal cash (vouchers) assistance / 61% of the target:

- 176,000 Syr HHS / 70%
- 9,618 PRS HHS / 98%
- 3,088 Leb HHS / 8%

\$232,397,607 Total amounts injected into economy in forms of cash assistance (seasonal + regular);

b. Targeting Assistance:

67,062 vulnerable households received multi-purpose cash. Reported activities in Dec 2017 (AI,RAIS):

- 56,820 SYR HHs (8 partners: ACF, DRC, ICRC, LRC, RI, Solidar Suisse, UNHCR, WFP);
- 9,618 PRS HHs (UNRWA);
- 624 Leb HHs (ACF, LRC);
- 21,441 SYR HHs (education specific cash grant – UNICEF);

\$11,658,670 injected in the local economy

c. 2017 – 2018 Winter Support:

174,385 HHs reached to date as reported on AI/RAIS:

- 157,767 SYR HHs (\$75/month for 3 months);
- 9,618 PRS HHs (\$75/month for 1-3 months);
- 649 Leb HHs (\$147/month for 3 months);

167,385 HHs reached with CBIs by end of Dec; \$48.3M injected in the local economy

7,000 HHs reached with CRIs

- Some households are yet to receive winter assistance. These households had not yet received their cards for various reasons (UNHCR);

d. Appeals / Review Mechanism: Operational Update

Suggested label to the process: Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

Developments since last update:

- Feedback from AUB: proGres + not validated was not as the sample of discontinued households is too small;
- New suggested direction: (1) address discontinuation from MCAP; (2) duty of care as discontinuation can be shock to the HH (few or no other coping strategies during time of assistance); (3) limited and manageable target group;
- Tool: update proGres data for discontinued HH and rerun DF for new score. Use as basis for inclusion of 1,500 HH;
- Advantage: Capitalize on existing channels, tools and capacity; Enhanced transparency; less costly; more timely;
- Proposed way forward: Profiling and pre-tests underway; Timeline to operationalize – preferably in Feb, for 7 months of assistance;
- Operational decisions to discuss: scored separately or part of overall caseload? Regional filters? Process to collect data and for who?

WFP:

- Reviewing the model proposed by UNHCR to see how to integrate and have a common approach;
- WFP will present their appeals approach at sector level once it is ready;

Follow up:

- An ad-hoc BAWG session will be held to finalize the tool to be used and discuss operationalization.

2. Technical Review of the Econometric Model for Targeting (presentation attached)

The technical review been made by an independent consultant with an aim to validate the technical robustness the econometric model used for targeting for cash. The consultant was recruited by UNHCR and the below are key highlights / findings:

- Targeting model is based on poverty models (World Bank – Grosh+Baker 1995);
- Econometric model estimates the weights to use in calculating poverty score;
- Data variables in traditional models have common sense links to expenditure;
- Model is not untested – weaknesses are documented and discussed (Kidd+Wylde 2011)
- Further: The poverty model in displacement settings – *unprecedented*
- proGres limits the number of variables used to predict vulnerability;
- Fuller context information would be beneficial in complimenting the model and understanding of short-comings;
- It is important to improve availability of data within VASyR (assets, shelter etc); Recommendations will be made;
- Further robustness check required in future analysis.

3. CAMELEON: Presentation of Third Party Monitoring (presentation attached)

- Cash Monitoring Evaluation Accountability and Learning (Oxfam, SI, NRC);
- M&E for multi-sector outcomes of unrestricted cash (e.g. wellbeing)
- Adaptation towards a social safety net;
- Achieving greater transparency;
- IPs: CaLP, ODI, AUB

- Steering committee – WFP + Donors (23,000 HHs specifically funded by the donors);
- Results Framework and M&E plan: looking at cash programme outcomes in order to inform strategic decision making;
- Baseline, Midline, End-line: multi sectoral cash impact over time, including intra-HH dynamics;
- Value for money analysis to inform transition towards a social safety net approach;
- Generate evidence based learning through research implemented by the IPs;
- CAMELEON will be looking to determine how the activities under their initiative will feed into the wider sector monitoring activities and objectives (e.g. the CASH Task Force, LCRP M&E framework) in order to maximise on the complementarity of the sector approach. However currently the focus predominantly is on the objectives outlines and feeding into WFP's multi-purpose cash programming;

4. AOB:

a. Intersector Priorities for 2018:

- Early Response Mechanism and Contingency Planning
- Inter-agency/sector referral system
- Joint Fundraising and Advocacy
- Area-based Planning and Coordination (training for partners)
- Recommendations to include: Accountability towards beneficiaries and strengthening the system;

b. Basic Assistance Reporting Trainings (RAIS & AI):

RAIS and AI:

2 Sessions:

- Session 1: Wednesday the 31st of Jan [13:00 – 16:30] – capacity: 30 participants
- Session 2: Thursday the 1st of Feb [9:30 – 13:00] – capacity: 30 participants

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DnC8Ohvif_rRlaXWFzcZw6_1mmJijhwX_RVYlvpYA-I/edit#gid=0

Deadline for registration: Monday 22 January 2018.