

## 16 Sept 2020 Cash Hub Webinar Summary Points

Topic: Lebanon: Beirut Port Explosion Update & Myanmar: Integrated CVA Response in Rakhine

Speaker	Summary Takeaways
<p><b>Maysa Ibrahim</b> – Basic Assistance Programme Manager, Lebanese Red Cross</p> <p><b>Bilal Shah</b> – Cash Coordinator, IFRC</p>	<p><b>Overview:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beirut Port Explosion, happened on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020. As a consequence of this explosion 190 people lost their lives, 6,500 were injured, 7 people are still missing, and approximately 300,000 people have lost their homes.</li> <li>- In response to this disaster the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) and IFRC launched a DREF, with a value of 750,000 CHF. LRC also launched an emergency appeal which currently stands at 108 million USD out of which 80 million USD is planned for cash interventions.</li> <li>- The total caseload for the LRC emergency appeal is 30,000 households' which included cash for basic needs, livelihoods and shelter.</li> <li>- The IFRC appeal is 20 million CHF currently and approximately a third of this is planned for cash interventions – basic needs, livelihoods and shelter interventions.</li> <li>- So the case loads for LRC which will be supported with CVA will be 10,000 for basic needs, 5,000 for shelter, 1000 for livelihoods. IFRC and ICRC is also supporting.</li> <li>- In relation to RCRC Movement coordination 21 partner NS were already in Beirut at the start of the disaster, many of which have already begun to support the LRC. This is in addition to the technical support provided by the IFRC and ICRC.</li> <li>- In relation to external coordination there are around 41 organisations (including UN, INGOs and NGOs) engaged in cash programming. There is a Cash Taskforce in place and this group is currently focusing on the mapping and streamlining of transfer values, discussing targeting criteria and avoiding duplications of efforts.</li> </ul> <p><b>LRC Cash Programme:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The LRC has decided to conduct a household level assessment, the Emergency Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA). This collects data on the at the current status of household basic needs, shelter damage and basic population demographics.</li> <li>- In addition, the LRC has initiated coordination work with the Assessment and Analysis Cell of OCHA. LRC has developed a data sharing agreement so all the collective assessments completed (by LRC and other agencies) are fed into the LRC's database with LRC as custodians of this data. They are using JIS as their data platform.</li> <li>- From the assessment data the LRC will be targeting 10,000 socially and economically vulnerable households who were within a 3km radius of the blast. These families will be receiving an initial emergency cash distribution of \$300, a value which is based on the calculated minimum expenditure basket.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distributions began on 12.09.2020 using a door to door approach, with the aim to reach a caseload of 300 households a day. Door to door chosen to avoid crowding at distribution sites to avoid COVID-19 risks. Hoping to finalise this distribution in 1.5 months.</li> <li>- The Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) for this response includes: the use of social media on the LRC official Facebook page, the creation of information flyers on the programme (which included Q&amp;A, separate hotline numbers and distribution information), and a 24 hour hotline call centre created for the cash programme with 10 operators. 24/7 this hotline is open.</li> <li>- We have monitoring activities ongoing which will look at both impact and process monitoring.</li> <li>- We also have a planned external evaluation for the whole response, including the emergency cash component, is planned.</li> <li>- Within special measures related to COVID-19 we have included within the multi-sector needs assessment questions related to access to health services which then allow us to refer households to other parts of LRC such as the emergency medical services of LRC and also externally to medical organisations responding to COVID-19.</li> <li>- In terms of other COVID-19 risk reduction we are undertaking door-to-door assessment and distribution with risk reduction measures being followed by staff and volunteers, and we are batching cash transfer to limit overcrowding at ATMs and the withdrawal points.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Aye Aye Nyein</b> - Director of Rakhine Operation Management Unit, Myanmar Red Cross</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Aye Aye Nyein spoke on the integration of cash transfers in the COVID19 response in Rakhine State, Myanmar.</li> <li>- The Rakhine State is home to 3,188,807 people and is one of the poorest states in Myanmar with a poverty rate of 78%, which is twice the national average.</li> <li>- There has been a protracted crisis in the Rakhine State since 2012 with current ongoing active conflict between the Myanmar Military and Arakan Army/ ARSA. As a result of the violence in 2017 over 720,000 people fled to Bangladesh.</li> <li>- The Rakhine State is also vulnerable to natural disasters, including annual cyclones and floods.</li> </ul> <p><b>COVID19 Situation in the Rakhine State:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As of 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020, there has been a total number of 3195 positive cases of COVID19 in Myanmar, 740 of these are from the Rakhine State. There has been 1 death as a result of COVID19 in the Rakhine State but all 17 townships have had positive cases.</li> <li>- In response to COVID19 the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has engaged in risk communications and community engagement, fever screening and support to quarantine facilities, health services through mobile clinics, and cash transfers through the existing community resilience programme in Rakhine State.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Community Resilience Programme in Central Rakhine:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This programme has two phases, the first began in 2017 and will run to mid-2020 and the second will run from mid-2020 to 2022.</li> <li>- The programme covers two townships (Sittwe and Minbya). The first phase covers 30 villages (with 6,334 households) and the second phase covers 40 villages (with 8,386 households).</li> <li>- This programme targets Muslim, Rakhine and Chin ethnic villages and aims to integrate COVID19 response into livelihoods, DRR, WASH, health and branch development activities.</li> <li>- The multi-sectoral and multi-year programme approach aims to balance humanitarian and development interventions, transitioning from relief, recovery to resilience building.</li> <li>- The programme will use seven types of cash intervention, including: cash for work for basic needs and community assets; village funds for disaster preparedness; community cash grants for multi-sectoral micro projects; group revolving funds for access to credit; unconditional cash grants for basic needs; conditional cash grants for livelihoods; and conditional cash grants for household latrines.</li> <li>- New DRR COVID19 cash activities within this programme include: COVID19 response funds to village committees; village emergency funds for resilience building activities; village volunteer group funds for resilience building activities; cash for cloth mask making; and DRR mitigation projects for strengthening community infrastructure.</li> <li>- New WASH COVID19 cash activities within this programme include: cash for hand washing facilities in schools; cash for latrine constructions for households; cash for hand soap making; cash for latrine construction at IDP sites; cash for water tank installation at IDP sites; school latrine building and hygiene promotion; and water point rehabilitation.</li> <li>- New livelihoods and basic needs COVID19 activities within this programme include: livelihoods cash grants as part of resilience building actions, and women's group revolving funds which provide women with micro-loans at a minimal rate of interest in order to support women with their livelihood and basic needs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The next steps of this programme in response to the COVID19 crisis include: the scale up use of cash transfers to address the multi-sectoral COVID19 needs of the affected population; strengthening engagement across the Red Cross Branches; and integrating COVID19 response into the longer-term resilience programming.</li> <li>- This programme will continue to target conflict affected communities, aiming to balance support between Muslim, Rakhine and Chin ethnic communities. Disaster prone communities and those with unmet health and economic needs will also be prioritised.</li> <li>- In order to identify needs and priorities a Community Action Plan is in place, which provides resilience communities ownership of</li> </ul>
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	<p>the programme and enables participatory targeting of the most vulnerable households in communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The programme uses a range of grant mechanisms, including community cash grants, group grants to women's groups and volunteer groups, and cash in envelopes to household.</li><li>- This programme has several accountability mechanisms in place, these include: instalment systems through which programme staff can monitor the utilization of the cash; technical support from MRCS to communities; post distribution monitoring; community-based feedback and grievance mechanism; hotline and suggestion boxes for complaints and feedback; and a participatory review in place.</li><li>- 7 pillars of programme sustainability have been introduced to this programme, these support the capacity building of the community institutions and enable the sustained engagement of MRCS branches with communities.</li><li>- Considerations for programming in a protracted crisis have been taken into account, these range from ensuring a flexible programme design which will accommodate situational changes, to taking a multi-year programming approach, ensuring flexible donor conditions, to integrating a robust risk management strategy into the programme, and aiming to balance humanitarian and development interventions within the programme.</li></ul>
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Prepared by Cara Wilson based on what was said in the Webinar and the takeaways may not reflect the top takeaways of the speaker as they see them.