**Terms of Reference**

**Task Force on Emergency Cash Assistance for Beirut Blast Response**

**August 2020**

**Background and Rationale:**

The explosions at the Port of Beirut on 4 August 2020 caused widespread damage across the capital, with initial reports of more than 170 people killed, 6,000 people injured, and more than 150 people missing. Early estimates are that the explosions left more than 300,000 people with severely damaged homes in the Greater Beirut area.

Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has established a coordination structure for the humanitarian response to this explosion. This included the establishment of an Emergency Operations Cell (EoC) which reports to HCT, and 6 sectors reporting in turn to the EoC , namely: Wash, Food Security, Protection, Health, Shelter, and Logistics.

As many actors especially in the Shelter, Food Security, and Protection sectors are planning to implement cash transfer programmes for the blast response, the need for a cash coordination was voiced at the HCT in mid-August. This Cash Task Force aims to respond to this need.

**Purpose:** The Task Force on Emergency Cash Assistance for the Beirut Blast Response is a temporary thematic and cross-sectoral discussion to support sectors in their coordination of the cash transfers responses to targeted populations affected by the Beirut Explosion of 4th August 2020.

The Task Force is linked to the newly established emergency response coordination structure, to respond to the Beirut Blast. To ensure that coordination remains as focused and lean as possible, the Task Force will remain time limited and will not substitute to the substantive programmatic discussions taking place in each sector for which cash is used as a modality. In addition, this taskforce will not replace ongoing discussions on cash which take place in the context of the LCRP and other fora such as the Social Safety Net Forum.

The **Overall Objective** of the task force is to look at complementarity and ensure coherence of cash transfers that aim to meet the diverse needs of the population affected by the Beirut Blast. This task force will focus on cash transfer modalities to support Sectors in delivering cash transfers using a do no harm and conflict sensitive approach.

The **Scope of work** is as follows:

1. Ensure equitable access to cash assistance for all beneficiaries while using do no harm principles and conflict sensitive approaches;
2. Provide a space to collectively examine and agree on how to ensure the complementarity, across sectors, of cash transfers to blast affected populations and avoid duplication.
3. Achieve harmonization and coherence of cash assistance as requested by participants, including transfer value, modalities and currency of assistance;
4. Support agencies and Sectors by providing technical advice on cash assistance procedures and modalities with a focus on assistance tracking by using common tools for information management/establishment of a single data depository;
5. Report and map activities in the sectors using standardized approaches and formats;
6. Strengthen the flow of information from the sectors to the beneficiaries, government and donors to ensure transparency and accountability, in a manner that ensures data protection and respect to privacy;
7. Update regularly sectors and the EoC on the Cash Task Force activities;
8. Share lessons learnt, promote best practices and programme complementarities
9. Ensure that an exit strategy is defined, and linkages are made to existing frameworks (LCRP/Social Safety Nets Forum/BB recovery framework)

**Beneficiaries:** Cash assistance will be provided to Lebanese, refugees and migrants living in the areas identified through the zone analysis based on criteria determined by the Sectors. Effort will be made to aid priority neighbourhoods first (identified through the rapid poverty analysis).

**Membership**:

* Organizations with cash transfer programmes aimed at assisting beneficiaries in the affected zones are welcome to participate in this forum.
* Sector coordinators or their alternates
* Representatives from the LCRP and Social Safety net Forum

**Leadership**: The Task Force will be co-led by the Louise agencies (UNHCR/UNICEF/WFP), through the Louise Project Manager, and an NGO representative with a good track record in cash-based interventions and also substantially contributing the delivery of cash assistance in the ongoing emergency response.

**Meetings, Reporting and Communication Mechanisms**: The Task Force will meet every week on Tuesdays at 3pm. Ad-hoc meetings will be organized when necessary. Minutes will be taken and circulated to all members. Additionally, the Task Force leads will communicate outcomes of the deliberations through the Emergency Operations Cell (EOC) and existing coordination forums where relevant.

**Accountabilities**

Consistent with the Beirut Blast Emergency Response/Appeal and the coordination structure established thereof, the Task Force (co-) leads are accountable to:

* Emergency Operations Cell (EoC) through OCHA-established emergency inter-sectoral coordination structure;
* The Task Force members and parent sectors
* The institutions and individuals benefiting from the sector interventions in line with the Humanitarian Accountability Principles;

**Current Members**: (List of organizations – could be an annex)