September 2022

Health Sector Core Group
Terms of Reference
Lebanon

Background on sector coordination in Lebanon

The multifaceted and compounded crises facing Lebanon has led to the development of a number of response frameworks supported by international and national partners across the country. This includes the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP), which seeks to address the impact of the Syria crisis on Lebanon at the humanitarian and development levels and provide assistance and protection to refugees and the host community; and the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to address the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable among the Lebanese, Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL) and migrants affected by the crisis in Lebanon. Under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, the humanitarian and nexus community in Lebanon acknowledged the need for streamlined aid coordination to avoid gaps and overlaps, to increase efficiency and to ensure principled humanitarian assistance based on evidence of needs and vulnerabilities.

In line with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) guidance and the Refugee Coordination Module, joined-up sectors will fulfill the six sector core functions, to be applied to all population groups. They will work to ensure coherence and integration in the Health sector response strategy across the ERP and the LCRP and also at complementarity with other frameworks (UNSCDF1, 3RF2, 3RP3, government plans and strategies – particularly those of the Ministry of Public Health, and global strategies such as those of UN health agencies and the Global Health Cluster).

Background on Health sector in Lebanon

Per the HCT, specific sector ToRs are the responsibility of the lead/co-lead agencies[4]. For the Health sector, the LCRP has been led by the Ministry of Public Health, co-led by WHO & UNHCR, and coordinated by UNHCR. As for the ERP, it has been led and coordinated by WHO, and co-coordinated by an elected NGO[5]. For the joint Health sector, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in close coordination with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), lead the coordination of the health response. Furthermore, the Health sector operates jointly under the umbrella of the National Health Sector Working Group (NHSWG) which is the forum for national Health sector coordination and normally convenes on the last Friday of every month. Finally, the Health sector maintains a Core Group which plays a key role in Health sector technical and strategic guidance.

The TOR of the Health sector Core Group has been finalized by the joint Health sector coordination team in September 2022 following careful review and endorsement by the existing Health sector Core Group during a dedicated meeting for this purpose in June 2022.

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[1] United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Lebanon

[2] Lebanon Recovery, Reform and Reconstruction Framework

[3] Syrian Refugee Response and Resilience Plan

[4] Ref. NTF – Preliminary consultations on the revision of the humanitarian architecture, 8 April 2022

[5] Amel Association has served in this role since August 2020.

Objective

The objective of the Health sector Core Group is to provide strategic and technical guidance to the Health sector and facilitate accountability to its partners; oversee the implementation of the sector response plans, support the sector functions, and advise on any needed change in the modality of service provision as appropriate.

Principles

The Health sector Core Group supports the Health sector in an advisory role, drawing upon the respective mandates, expertise and experience of Core Group members and their agencies. The Health sector Core Group supports the development and the achievement of the sector response strategies[6], highlights key concerns and advises on remedial approaches, identifies new areas of strategic direction for consideration, and engages in substantive discussions regarding the implementation of sector response plans[7].

Role and responsibilities of the Health sector Core Group

- To provide advice and support the joint Health sector coordination team on key priorities, including:
  - Review, propose, and provide advice on strategic priorities for preparedness, response, and contingency plans.
  - Support the development and monitoring of the Health sector response plans[8], strategies, and logframes.
  - Identify the needs of relevant technical working groups (TWG) and task forces (TF)[9], and advise on establishment/disestablishment or activation/deactivation of these groups/teams.
  - Review all technical guidance prepared by TWGs and TFs and ensure conformity with international and national standards, guidelines, policies, and procedures. And advocate with MoPH for the endorsement of the technical guidance as appropriate.
  - Ensure alignment with national government strategy[10].
  - Provide strategic oversight on integration of inter and intra-sector planning and inclusion of cross-cutting issues (age, disability, protection, environment, HIV/AIDS, human rights, gender, local participation, early recovery, diversity and inclusion, social stability, accountability to affected populations)
- To provide advice and support the joint Health sector coordination team in the development of funding, communication, and advocacy strategies for the sector response, including:
  - The identification of humanitarian needs of the Health sector while ensuring an inclusive process.
  - The development of resource mobilization, advocacy, and fund-raising strategy.
  - Criteria for prioritization and for allocation of earmarked or un-earmarked funding [e.g., Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF), Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) among others].
  - Ensuring transparency in the prioritization of Health sector projects for Lebanon Humanitarian Fund or other allocations and response plans.
- To ensure that the joint Health sector coordination team upholds its responsibilities as highlighted in the *Lebanon Joint Health Sector ToR*, including providing strategic oversight for the development of sector monitoring and evaluation plan.

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[6] Not to be confused with the National Health Sector Strategy of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH)

[7] Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP).

[8] Ibid

[9] Including by not limited to Reproductive Health Working Group, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Task Force, 3RF Task Force, etc.

[10] National Health Sector Strategy of MoPH

- To provide administrative and representative support to the joint Health sector coordination team, including:
  - Assist in the development of agendas for the Health sector Core Group meetings.
  - Review and endorse the ToR for the Joint Health sector and the Health sector Core Group, if needed, upon revision and updates led by the joint Health sector coordination team.
  - Represent the Health sector when deemed needed and appropriate and support efforts to ensure full presence of the Health sector in relevant inter-sector meetings as well as avoiding overlapping schedules.

Health Sector Core Group functioning

- The Health sector Core Group will meet quarterly and whenever deemed necessary.
- The meetings will be conducted if the attendance of at least 60% of the members is confirmed.
- The draft agenda will normally be shared in advance of the meeting with all the members by the joint Health sector coordination team, but any member can suggest relevant items.
- The Health sector Core Group meetings will be chaired by the joint Health sector coordinator(s), with additional support provided by the Health sector co-coordinator and
- Decisions shall be taken to the extent possible based on consensus or by simple majority.
- Recommendations and decisions stemming from Health sector Core Group meetings in addition to any needed bilateral consultations or discussions shall be shared to Health sector partners and relevant stakeholders by the joint Health sector coordination team.
- The joint Health sector coordinators and co-coordinator will be responsible for calling meetings and ensuring minutes are taken and shared.

Composition of the Health sector Core Group

- Joint Health sector coordinators *(chairs)*
- Health sector co-coordinator
- Ministry of Public Health designated focal point
- UN Agencies with core health mandate (WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM, UNRWA) represented by the head of health unit.
- One International NGO active in the Health sector representing the international NGOs community. The NGO and the designated focal point will be elected following a transparent process by the Health sector partners. The call for nomination will be initiated and managed by the Health sector coordination team.
- One national NGO/CSO active in the Health sector representing the national NGOs community. The NGO and the designated focal point will be elected following a transparent process by the Health sector partners. The call for nomination will be initiated and managed by the Health sector coordination team.

Observers from other agencies, including relevant UN agencies, NGOs/CSOs, line ministries, academia, and donors, may be invited to attend Health sector Core Group meetings according to the discussion topics.

Membership Criteria

- Individuals to be represented on the Health sector Core Group should have:
  - Significant relevant work experience at a strategic level along with a solid understanding of the sector.

  - Be part of an organization with operational relevance in-country and in the sector at the national and field levels.
- Selected individuals commit to represent the interests of the Health sector and not their own agency/organization' interests.
- Agencies may be selected to represent the specific concerns and interests of vulnerable groups, including but not limited to refugees, migrants, etc.
- Members will be expected to attend, or delegate someone on their behalf, at least 75% of Health sector Core Group meetings and be involved in the activities outlined in these ToR.
- International and national NGO/CSO members of the Health sector Core Group should apply for the position. The candidate must be in good standing as defined as:
  - Have significant technical role and work experience within the agency or organization.
  - Attended at least 80% of the national Health sector working group meetings in the last 6 months; and
  - Reported to the sector regularly using the designated reporting forms over the past 6 months.
- Selected NGO/CSO representatives are encouraged to be chosen from among those agencies implementing under *multiple frameworks* of the sector.
- International and national NGO/CSO members of the Health sector Core Group will be determined through a transparent and inclusive electoral process by Health sector members for a two-year term. The NGO member of the Health sector core group will be responsible to nominate another candidate in case the elected one resigns from his/her position at the NGO.

Accountability

The Health sector Core Group is accountable to the Health sector partners (including MoPH, donors, UN agencies, I/NNGOs, CSOs, and academia).