

INTER AGENCY MEETING - Minutes – 11 January 2013 – Beirut

Meeting			
Name	Inter-Agency meeting	Meeting Date	11/01/2013
Meeting Location	ESCWA	Meeting Time	10 a.m.
Chair person	Mrs. Ninette Kelley – UNHCR Representative	Meeting Duration	2 hrs
Minutes Prepared by	Hiba Jardali		
Purpose of Meeting	To provide updated information on the situation of refugees in Lebanon, discuss priority needs and response		

Summary of discussions and action points

1.	UNHCR Presentation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Ninette Kelley, UNHCR Representative, presented the work of the different sectors in response to the Syrian crisis. (Presentation attached). <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For any update or information to be added in future meetings, please contact Anna Minuto UNHCR Information Management Officer, minuto@unhcr.org.
2.	UNRWA Updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 150,000 Palestinians were living in the Yarmouk Palestinian Refugee Camp in Syria before the crisis Attacks on the Yarmouk camp in Syria resulted in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 75% of the Palestinians left the camp, 6,000 IDPs are now displaced and are living in schools in Syria; ✓ At the beginning of the crisis, Lebanon received an average of 75 Palestinian refugees per day. After, the number increased to 700/day and now it is decreased to about 200/day VISA: Palestinians need to obtain an entry visa to Lebanon costing 25,000 LBP/17 USD. The cost is too high and some families were prevented from entering. A moratorium to cancel the fees has been agreed with the Lebanese Government, which will last until Jan 17, 2013, and it will be monthly renewed. Distribution: Cash vouchers of 40 USD and food vouchers of 25 USD were distributed for 17,000 Palestinian refugees In December. Distribution is going to continue based on funds availability Education: about 2,000 children are enrolled and supported in special and regular classes Health: Palestinian refugees have access to primary health care and life saving intervention. WASH: basic services are granted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHELTER: provision of shelter is becoming an issue. At present, refugees are renting apartments or staying in host families, however the living conditions are worsening. • COORDINATION: a new Emergency coordinator arrived in Lebanon, Mr. Charlie Rapoport <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNRWA will provide updates at every Inter-Agency meeting • IMC will start a mobile clinic to support Palestinian refugees in February • A Task force will be organized by the new Emergency Coordinator twice a month
3.	Support to non-registered or awaiting registration refugees
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CISP an NGO providing shelter, health and wash services in Tyre informed that they could not provide support to unregistered refugees or refugees awaiting registration. They expressed concerns as in the South, only a small percentage of refugees are registered so far and the waiting period for the rest is too long. Refugees are now receiving appointment with UNHCR for March. • UNHCR is working hard on accelerating the registration process and reducing the waiting period. The number of registered refugees In the North increased from 750 to 1,100 per day. In the South with the opening of the new office, the situation will improve soon. • Regarding the support of the unregistered refugees, SOPs have been set and unregistered refugees have access to emergency secondary health care, Primary health care (initial consultation and access), Non-food items (one off), emergency shelter/winterisation and WASH interventions as well as collective education support. • ECHO would like to have an update on the ongoing activities for the unregistered refugees and supports the idea that an assessment is being conducted. • UNHCR has already requested support to JIPS (Joint IDP Profiling Serviced) from Geneva to carry out a profiling exercise on unregistered refugees. Confirmation is expected on Jan. 16, 2013 – Anna Minuto, UNHCR IMO is the focal point. <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR is going to share with ECHO the updated information on the activities carried out for the unregistered refugees • The SOPs will be shared with all the stakeholders • Updates and information about the possibility to conduct a Profiling exercise will be shared in the next meeting
4.	WFP updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food voucher program is now implemented in the South: Nabatiyeh, Tyre and Saida. • Food voucher program is efficiently ongoing. Last December WFP reached 110,000 beneficiaries – 90% of UNHCR caseload. • There is a need to improve and better coordinate the support for vulnerable refugees awaiting registration. There is a lot of support coming from unofficial channels or private donations that need to be coordinated and maybe redirected to this category of refugees. • DRC in the North is conducting a pilot project of in-kind assistance funded by ECHO. This project might be extended to other areas if there is a need. • At the beginning of April, WFP would like to introduce electronic vouchers, that can be used also for other programs like “baby kits”, rent vouchers, etc.

	<p><i>Next Steps</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination and technical discussion will be carried out on the electronic vouchers.
5.	<p>Prime Minister Office Representative updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government launched its National Response plan on December 3, 2012 and the UN launched the Regional Response Plan (RRP4) on December 19, 2012. Harmonization, coordination and merging of the two plans is ongoing. • The Arab League will meet on Sunday Jan. 13, 2013 in Cairo where funds for Lebanon may be allocated. • Any assistance from outside the official channels must be coordinated and targeted according to the defined priorities. • The Government is working with UNHCR to improve the registration process and the Ministry of Social Affairs will allocate more resources (personnel, etc.) to support the UNHCR registration team. • Political consensus has been reached on the possibility of establishing transit centers in case of massive influx. • The Government is dealing with the contingency plan for mass influx very carefully, working on sustainable process between government and UN agencies <p><i>Next Steps</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting on Contingency plan will be held with UNHCR and other stakeholders. Stock and Pipeline will be taken in consideration • Donors will be updated on the Contingency plan
6.	<p>UNESCO Updates on assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection In Emergency assessment is now ongoing • Education Assessment is under discussion with Education Working Group <p><i>Next Steps</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings and updates will be shared during next meeting
7.	<p>Updates on QIPs (Quick Impact Projects) and community development support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees are scattered in more than 700 locations and support to the local authorities and local communities is needed. • QIPs have been implemented during 2011 and 2012 • Different organizations applied for CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund) funding for host community support project • A Task Force co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP is exploring ways to support host communities. <p><i>Next Steps</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QIPs updates will be shared during next meeting • OCHA will give updates on community support project funded by CERF

Attachments

Document	Location
UNHCR Presentation (presented by Mrs. Ninette Kelley – UNHCR Representative)	http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=1353.pdf&name=Inter%20Agency%20presentation_11Jan2013_FINAL.pdf (Updates: Inter Agency coordination Presentation 11.01.13)