

INTER AGENCY MEETING - Minute – 15 February 2013 – Beirut

Meeting			
Name	Inter-Agency meeting	Meeting Date	15/02/2013
Meeting Location	ESCWA	Meeting Time	3 p.m.
Chair person	Mr. Kamel Deriche – Assistant Representative Operations	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"> Mr. Deriche welcomed the audience on behalf of Ms. Ninette Kelley, UNHCR representative, who was in Geneva attending the regional representatives meeting and Felipe Camargo, Assistant Rep. (Coordination) who was absent from the country. Mr. Deriche presented the highlights of the agenda that includes UNHCR sectoral updates and assistance to new arrivals/waiting list (Link to the presentation data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=1523)
2.	Government update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Ramzi Naaman: Informed that based on the Government Plan issued in December 2012, and the Regional Response Plan set by the UN agencies, the government is in the process of consolidating the efforts, put one plan, and bring all the elements together. The government is also trying to come out with the budget needed for the coming 6 months in view of the increasing number of incoming refugees to Lebanon, hoping to put down a working table to look carefully into the main activities, main players, budgets allocated, timeframe stretched over 6 months period. The exercise would lead by the end of next week to a consolidated plan/coordination tool and a presentation of interests to donors. The plan is to be incorporated for RPP5 to be sent by the end of June.
3.	Assistance to unregistered
	<p>Mr. Deriche briefed the audience on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A map showing the distribution of unregistered refugees by location (The map attached) UNHCR has increased its capacity in four locations (Beirut, Zahleh, Qobayat and Chakka) Tyre office will be open in a week time. Ongoing discussions with government to accelerate registration of pending and new arrivals A working group is looking into means of assistance to unregistered (waiting list), and distribution of

	<p>NFIs, working on a standard NFI kit. Information related to distribution of NFIs is being collected from actors to be tabulated in one matrix.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR is finalizing a map tabulating all the actors in Lebanon, the 3 WWWs by governorate. • Looking into possibility to work through umbrella organizations formed by municipalities and unions of municipalities present in Lebanon (48 union of municipalities are present in Lebanon). That would be a good mechanism to reach closely the villages for assistance and identifying the needs and locations where to be present. • There is a need to work with additional partners, including international NGOs, CBOs, municipalities and local NGOS to bring additional capacities in terms of staffing and resources. • Mr. Bruno Rotival from ECHO stated that the map presented is very important for ECHO to make decision in terms of funding thanking UNHCR for the effort exerted. • Among the conditions that ECHO applies for funding organizations is information sharing, therefore sharing registration and NFIs distribution figures is a must • ECHO referred to the importance of coordination between UNHCR and local NGOs and the need to ensure their participation.
4.	Population Estimation Task Force
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Task Force will be revived as different organizations, working in the field, with population estimation data come together to compare available estimation at village/district level • Attempts to provide commonly agreed estimated figures (non-registered displaced Syrians) • Aim to support programming and further assessment (i.e. profiling exercise) • Next meeting will be call on 25th February 2013
5.	Sectors Update – Shelter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shelter situation is worsening, DRC started documenting the increased price of rent, Save the children started documenting the increased debts of Syrian families. • Assistance to vulnerable families not able to pay their rent must be started soon • Increase expansion of informal tented settlement in Bekaa, and many families renting garages or unfinished houses are preparing their equipment to build their tents in spring time. • Tented settlements are informal and some are being destroyed by the authorities • Action Against Hunger and Medair are supporting the tented settlements, but the WASH conditions are very poor. Action required from WASH partners. • UNHCR is planning to increase capacity of collective shelters and identify potential buildings through partners (IMI, DRC, NRC) • Mr. Simon Little asked about the government's response on the potential transit sites and what is the alternative to tented settlement noting that 70,000 refugees crossed the border during last month. • Mr. Alain Robyns explained that identifying building has been very difficult. Public buildings are very few and private buildings require high renting cost on top of the rehabilitation cost. The target is to make available 1000 family units within 3 months, that is depending on finding buildings and reaching agreement with the landlord • Mr. Ramzi Naaman explained that regarding the transit sites, the government together with UNHCR is doing its best to locate two sites, one in the North and the other in Bekaa. So far, the situation has been very difficult, after identifying several potential locations, negotiations with the municipalities

	<p>and key people in the regions had led to stopping the process. The hosting communities are resisting the idea even though they are supporting the Syrian humanitarian case. The other option left is to increase current collective shelters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Kamel Deriche added that UNHCR has presented together with the Ministry of Social Affairs the technical specifications of two identified potential sites in Bekaa and North Lebanon, waiting for the response from the government.
	Sectors Update - Education
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the estimates that we have according to registration, there may be as many as 120,000 children without school place. There is an urgent need to increase capacity and promote second shifts in key schools. • Joint Education Needs Assessment training is scheduled next week. • Global education strategy workshop next week led by UNHCR in Senegal. • Strategy to start in March within the RRP5 process • INEE minimum standard for Education Emergency workshop this coming week by UNICEF UNESCO and NRC • Accelerated learning task force, looking into best curriculum and best practices approved by the ministry and the modalities of transition into formal education • Advocacy points for Jan. and Feb., Syrian participation in final exams, waiting for ministerial decree on that because the original decree required documents from the Syrian Embassy or the Syrian government for students but the ministry of education has promised to be flexible. • Informal schools financed by NGOs teaching Syrian curriculum, they are participating in the focus groups, the Education Working Group does not support unaccredited education. but is liaising with the government to make sure that they integrate in the official system • Private schools are not very sustainable due to high tuition fees, but a possible venue for the second shift approach as a contingency for increased influx.
	Sectors Update - Health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Health Care (PHC) consultations: 1776 Beneficiaries • Secondary Health Care (SHC) admissions: 490 Beneficiaries • Health awareness activities : 565 Beneficiaries • Given the continued influx of refugees, focus on the provision of comprehensive PHC requires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Further analysis of accredited PHCs ○ Assessment on access to PHC • Support for management of non-communicable diseases (chronic diseases) remains a challenge • Partners continue to monitor closely any outbreaks of communicable diseases through MOPH/WHO EWARN system • There are still high numbers of provision of SHC as well as emergency referral care.
	Sectors Update - WASH

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASH sector strategy was finalized and shared on 5 Feb 2013 • Rapid assessment report on (WASH, Shelter and Food Security) by Solidarities International in North Lebanon was shared. • Technical working group on water, sanitation, hygiene and WASH sector specific contingency plan continue to work on developing technical briefings.
6.	Refugee Assistance Information System - RAIS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online system to assist with tracking and reporting on assistance provided to registered persons of concern. • Keeps refugee information up to date • Prevents duplication of efforts • Helps to provide targeted assistance • Reduces fraud and abuse of assistance services • Provides efficient reporting tools • Maintains security of data
7.	Other issues
	<p>Mr. Bruno Rotival from ECHO explained that by the end of June, the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon would reach 450,000 and currently there is lack of funding and capacities. Therefore, the Government and UNHCR must urgently raise the profile of the humanitarian situation in Lebanon to attract more attention from the international community.</p> <p>Mr. Dermot Carty from UNICEF noted that refugees are staying in locations where Lebanese community is in poverty. Hence, the impact on the host community will create a humanitarian requirement that must be considered carefully.</p>

Attachments

Document	Location
Presentation	Syria Refugee Response Web portal data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=1523
Map of Assistance to unregistered	Syria Refugee Response Web portal http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122