

## Inter Sectoral Meeting 18 November - Minutes

Meeting			
<b>Name</b>	Inter Sectoral Meeting	<b>Meeting Date</b>	Monday , November 18, 2013
<b>Meeting Location</b>	UNHCR	<b>Meeting Time</b>	10:00 A.M
<b>Chair person</b>	Mr. Jean Nicolas Beuze – Assistant Representative Coordination	<b>Meeting Duration</b>	1.5 Hour
<b>Minutes Prepared by</b>	Malak Rahal		
<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	Arsal influx and lessons learned from RRP6		

### Summary of discussions and action points

<b>1.</b>	<b>Arsal Influx</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Humanitarian partners are responding to an influx of 1,200 refugee families following heavy fighting that began on 15 November and is ongoing between the Syrian Armed Forces and Armed Opposition Groups in the Qalamoun area of Rif Dimashq, Syria</li> <li>- Registration is taking place and humanitarian partners have been on the ground since Friday 15 November to support municipal authorities. UNHCR is coordinating the inter-agency response under the direction of the Ministry of Social Affairs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Response</b></p> <p><b>Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partners have set up a protection desk and are providing information to new arrivals</li> <li>- More volunteers are needed to provide support to the local authorities re. registration</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partners have deployed mobile medical units providing immediate health services and vaccinations to new arrivals</li> <li>- Pregnant women and war-wounded refugees are also receiving immediate assistance. Many refugee children are suffering from diarrhea and lice.</li> </ul> <p><b>Shelter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sheltering large numbers of new arrivals is a significant challenge. Dar al Fatwah has provided a temporary site that can accommodate 50 tents and partners are installing emergency drainage.</li> <li>- 4 temporary collective shelters in public halls and mosques are also hosting refugees and identification of private land to increase shelter capacity.</li> <li>- Up to 80 families are believed to have found shelter in informal settlements while others have made makeshift dwellings in unfinished buildings or are staying with local families.</li> </ul> <p><b>WASH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to clean water and sanitation is a concern in all sites. Partners are providing latrines and water tanks to alleviate the situation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Core relief items and Food</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partners have started distributing core relief items to alleviate the immediate needs of refugees: refugees</li> </ul>
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	<p>are being assisted with food parcels, blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets and hygiene kits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women and children are being assisted with baby kits and dignity kits.</li> <li>- Stocks are in place to respond to future new arrivals.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partners are making preparations for a larger influx following reports of escalating violence in villages surrounding Qarah.</li> <li>- Partners will scale up in all sectors of response.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action points:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More volunteers are needed to support the municipal authorities and DRC to do the registration.</li> <li>- Contingency plans will be reviewed if asked by the coordination in Aarsal.</li> <li>- Reminder that the coordination and decision-making remain at the level of Aarsal and that the Beirut-level coordination is there to support</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>RRP6</b></p> <p><b><u>Reduction requested in the RRP funding requirement</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lebanon submission was reduced by US\$ 175 million (and not US\$ 350 million as requested) resulting in an appeal for humanitarian agencies amounting to US\$ 1.72 billion.</li> <li>- UNHCR and UNICEF made substantial reductions. NGOs were commended for their part in reducing the overall appeal.</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential consequences resulting from the reduction</b></p> <p><b>Protection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction in community outreach, which will limit the impact of community-based protection and resilience initiatives</li> </ul> <p><b>Shelter:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduced capacity to respond to a sudden mass influx; in Lebanon, funding requirements re. contingency planning are mainstreamed/'hidden' within each of the sector's requirements and were identified as an 'easy cut'</li> <li>- Quality and magnitude of shelter improvements will be limited at a time when everyone recognizes the extremely poor living conditions of a large segment of the refugee population (30% in sub-standard dwellings), with consequences regarding protection, health, WASH, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Health &amp; WASH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Diminution of number of hygiene kits which will severely limit the impact of the hygiene promotion activities, which in turn put at higher risk the population re. spreading of various diseases, skin/genital infections, reproductive health-related issues, etc.;</li> <li>- Reduced capacity to address needs of host communities, including through CSPs, which may have an impact on social cohesion/cohabitation between host and refugee communities and potential rise of tensions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Education:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shift from formal education (extremely costly) to non-formal education, which will limit the learning opportunities options and have longer-term consequences if non-formal education is not certified (cf. transition back into formal education system) and less support to the MoE.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Lessons learned in RRP6</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clarify budget ceilings per sector before submissions</li> </ul>

- Have a clear calendar with more time for comments and consolidations
- Use of existing tools such as the FTS rather than reinventing new tools, such as excel sheets with dropdown menus that need constant revisions
- Ensure that the field can play a meaningful role in the decision-making process
- Clear instructions must be shared with the field
- More technical support from the Regional Office

**Feedback from the INGO Forum:**

- Comments not always reflected in the narratives
- INGO that are not UNHCR partners were not invited to the process and NGOs still treated in some sectors as IPs (given instructions rather than considered as partners)
- Vulnerabilities, needs and capacities were not discussed in depth in the WGs
- Intersectorality aspect still very weak
- NGOs being part of RRP6 Steering Committee was smart and extremely useful

**Action point:**

- A meeting is organized with LHIF & UNHCR in the coming week

**Next steps:**

- On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of November, the high level narrative and sector financial requirements were sent to the regional office
- Sector narratives will be finalized and sent to the regional office this week. They are currently in circulation to partners for comments.
- Launch of RRP6 should take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December (tbc)
- The detailed agency submissions will be available on the web portal

**AOB**

- OCHA informed participants of the following requests from their Regional Office as part of the Regional Comprehensive Strategy initiative:

- donors to provide a detailed account on who/what they have funded
- to develop 4Ws with the help of sector leads
- to draft a Lebanon-specific chapter re achievements and strategies per sector

Attendance List

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