

Livelihoods Working Group Bekaa Meeting - Minutes

Name	Livelihood Working Group Bekaa Meeting	Meeting Date	March 4, 2014
Meeting Location	UNHCR Zahle	Meeting Time	2:30 pm
Chair person	Terra MacKinnon – UNHCR	Meeting Duration	1 Hours
Purpose of Meeting	Monthly meeting		

Summary of discussions and action points

1. Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR/UNDP Updates • Partner Updates • First Steps for Strengthening Sector • AOB
2. UNHCR/UNDP Updates	<p>UNHCR: New global level livelihoods strategy released by UNHCR (summary attached with minutes). Municipality support tracking sheet created, which colour codes locations according to vulnerability level (following the colour coding of the high vulnerability cadastra map) and indicates the number of projects completed in each area. Details of projects are on the second tab. UNHCR has entered all their projects for 2013 and asks that partners fill the tracking sheet template and return to UNHCR so that the data can be compiled and shared. Same will be done for 2014 projects. CSP 2014 strategy has been drafted based on the inputs of working group members in the previous session. The draft will be shared with these minutes for member feedback.</p> <p>UNDP: UNDP has taken primary leadership of the Livelihoods and Social Cohesion Task Force at the two associated working groups at national level. They are now working with UNHCR to roll out the working groups at regional level. The Bekaa is the only region that has both working groups established already. UNDP is creating an inventory of assessments at the national level as part of the Multi Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) exercise. A copy of the inventory will be shared as an annex to the assessment. The Bekaa LWG assessment inventory has been shared with UNDP for cross referencing and the Bekaa inventory will likewise be updated upon release of the national inventory.</p>
3. Partner updates	<p>IOM: have registered 17,500 Lebanese returnees. Supporting 70 families with business development pilot project. Updates on entrepreneurial/microfinance pilot to be shared with group for dissemination of lessons learned.</p> <p>DRC: final CSPs from 2013 budget closing out until end of month and ongoing community centre activities.</p> <p>Amel: Vocational/life skills training ongoing, but finding that more women than men participating and more Syrians than Lebanese.</p> <p>LOST: MCC and UNFPA supported vocational training programmes. Oxfam programme under discussion. Action Aid joint programme, youth fellows, about to start second round. Micro finance unit created. DEI laying hen/HH income generation project to expand.</p>

<p>WVI: Have secured EU funding for a water infrastructure project in West Bekaa and Zahle. Have taken care to ensure that Syrian jobs through the implementation of regular WVI programming (education, WASH, distribution, etc.). 800 youth engaged in life skills training. In process of finalizing Microsoft supported computer skills training programme (scale and location TBD). Providing psychosocial support, but under protection programming (not livelihoods).</p>
<p>Discussion key points</p>
<p>New UNDP role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP’s leadership and strengthening of coordination between national and regional level Livelihoods Working Groups will allow for clear and complimentary division of labour between levels. Group members have suggested that UNDP can work at the national level to: access and share government national development plans; update on government policy, especially related to Syrian livelihoods; advocate with the government; access government line ministries; etc. <p>Activity Info and 5Ws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group members have agreed to complete 5Ws in order capture and share all planned/proposed activities for 2014 in addition to ongoing. This is to act as a planning tool, enabling coordination between actors. Activity Info will be used to track monthly activity/achievements against the plans stated in the 5Ws. All group members, including UNHCR and UNDP, commit to the above points. <p>Community support projects (CSPs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DRC requested expansion in the membership of the CSP Committee. Suggestion to be brought to the committee for consideration. Meeting of the committee to be called this month. Both development and humanitarian actors are providing support to municipalities. Tracking of such support is crucial. The tracking tool created by UNHCR will aid in this coordination. <p>Vocational skills training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial analysis of partner 5W and other feedback indicates that ‘vocational training’ is a common programmatic intervention, especially among NGOs. However, such programmes do not necessarily have the desired impact on beneficiary livelihoods—ie improving their ability to be self-reliant and support a household. Partners are training in a variety of different ‘vocations’, chosen through different methods (market assessment, FGD with beneficiaries, etc.). Who is doing what, where will be captured in the 5Ws. In order to identify the most high impact areas for vocational training, it has been proposed to create a task force on vocation training to quickly analyse exiting materials (assessments, etc.) and programme impacts. The objective is to use an evidence base to arrive at recommendations that can be used to guide the vocational training programmes of group members. It is hoped this will increase desired impact of vocational training programmes in the sector. Possible task force members: DRC, SCI, LOST, Mercy Corps, WVI, UNHCR and UNDP. <p>Multi-sectoral Needs Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the assessment process, a ‘meta-inventory’ of assessments is being compiled, covering all sectors. A cross-sectoral analysis will be undertaken. Updates will be shared by UNDP.
<p>4. Action points</p>

- All partners to update and return 5Ws matrix before next session.
- UNDP to share national level inventory of assessments, if possible.
- Tracking sheet of municipalities supported in 2013 created by UNHCR to be shared with members. Template to be shared for partners to complete and return before next session so UNHCR can compile and share with the group. Same will be done for 2014 CSPs.
- Bekaa CSP 2014 draft strategy to be shared by UNHCR for feedback by group.
- Vocational Training Task Force to be called. Members to express interest.