

Interagency Working Group Meeting - Tripoli

Name	Interagency Meeting	Meeting Date	8 January 2015
Meeting Location	UNHCR Sub-Office Tripoli	Meeting Time	14.00
Chair person	Monica Noro	Meeting Duration	1h 30m
Minutes Prepared by	Khaled Kabbara		
Purpose of Meeting	Regular Inter-agency meeting		

1.	Security
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security situation remains calm and stable, no major incidents were reported. 	
2.	Protection monitoring
<p>An overview of protection monitoring tool was introduced to partners.</p> <p>The Protections monitoring enables the monitoring of the protection environment for Syrian refugees in North Lebanon. Its main objectives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of systematically collected and analyzed protection data on a weekly and monthly basis; Increased awareness of refugees regarding available services and basic legal issues; Enhance refugee community mobilization to contribute to awareness raising and other outreach activities; Referral of vulnerable cases in need of assistance to specialized service providers <p>The primary methodology is based on community-level assessments with an emphasis on key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. Household-level interviews are also conducted on a case-by-case basis when urgent protection concerns are identified and a need for referral to specialized service providers is identified.</p> <p>Dec. 2014 highlights: A snapshots of trend related to curfews, raids, evictions, arrests was presented including an analysis of incidents that challenged the social cohesion among groups. Additional restriction were imposed on refugees in Zgharta municipality – payment of residency taxes, night workers should hold night employment cards and a signature of a residency code of conduct was imposed. It is noted that arrests at checkpoints and raids decreased during December 2014.</p> <p>Action point: share protection monitoring themes with partners and set one theme to be introduced next IA meeting.</p>	
2.	Entry to Country
<p>New regulation for the entry of Syrians to Lebanon is effective as of January 5, 2015. The new regulations require Syrian nationals to declare their purpose for entry: tourism, business, property owners, study, transit to another country, medical treatment or appointment with a foreign embassy</p> <p>While UNHCR understands the reasons cited by the government in introducing these policies, UNHCR is still studying the new procedures and is seeking further clarification from the government on certain elements. Further details will be shared with partners as soon as available.</p> <p>Action point: UNHCR to share Q&A on the new regulations imposed on Syrians entering Lebanon by Lebanese government.</p>	
3.	Winterization
<p>UNHCR provided partners with an update on the implementation of the winterization plan and the Inter Agency response to extreme weather conditions following the storm that is hitting the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No major damages were reported in refugee locations, various assessments were conducted throughout the regional as per IA assessment plan. 	

- Shelter and WASH elements are currently being looked into by various partners.
- 35 Informal Settlements were assessed; the main needs are plastic sheets and minor shelter improvement elements including weatherproofing kits.
- UNHCR, Solidarite and DRC (ECHO items) tapped into their respective contingency stocks, hence once the emergency will be over there is need for the task force to revise and update stock availability in preparation of any future similar weather conditions.

UNHCR Winterization plan is still on-going. In general, it should be noted that fuel vouchers were replaced with 100 USD cash assistance and distribution of 15,000 UNHCR blankets is ongoing in collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross.

5. Sectoral Update

WFP:

- New value for targeted assistance is 27\$/person, the targeting will be further reduced to reach 55%.
- Verification exercise for E-card holders will be conducted to update refugees contact information; WFP and partners will do the verification in various sites throughout the region. UNHCR will also set a protection desk to disseminate information among refugees and ensure the update of refugee profiles when required.

UNICEF:

UNICEF partners are assessing the damages to WASH services in the ISs. So far minor damages reported, deluging and minor repair started. Assessment for winterisation will start next week followed by winter package distribution. UNICEF offered distribution of blankets and plastic sheets to the affected families. Zonal work plans of the UNICEF offices will be finalized next week. With this zonal needs based plans the decentralization efforts in all regions across Lebanon will become get a practical move. The field offices will benefit from an increased delegation of accountabilities and local need based decisions.

6. AOB

Activity info training:

A training will be organized on the 20th and 21st of January – Two half-day training sessions - on the new activity info. reporting guidelines

Action point: Organizations to communicate to UNHCR the number of staff to attend the activity info reporting training. UNHCR Focal Point: Aslak Solumsmoen - solumsmo@unhcr.org

Next meeting: Thursday 22 January 2015 at 14:00 at UNHCR Sub-Office Tripoli