



## Minutes of the Inter-Agency Meeting - 10 March 2017 Beirut, Lebanon.

<b>Meeting Location</b>	UNHCR - Lea Building - First Floor.	<b>Meeting Time</b>	11:30 A.M.
<b>Chairperson(s)</b>	Aimee Karam - MoSA. Sander Van Niekerk - UNHCR.	<b>Meeting Duration</b>	1.30 Hrs.
<b>Minutes Prepared by</b>	Kareem Khalil, Senior Protection Assistant (Inter-Agency Coordination) - UNHCR		
<b>Agenda of the Meeting</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Protection Update (UNHCR);</li> <li>2. Winter Support Update and Results (Basic Assistance Sector);</li> <li>3. Participatory Assessments Results (UNHCR);</li> <li>4. UNRWA Operational Update (UNRWA);</li> <li>5. A.O.B.</li> </ol>		
<b>Participating Organizations</b>	ADRA, Amel Association, CISP, CONCERN, Dorcas Lebanon, ECHO, Heartland Alliance, ICRC, INTERSOS, Makhzoumi Foundation, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Affairs, Seraphim Global, SIF, UNDP, UN-HABITAT, UNHCR, UNICEF, University of Balamand, UN-OCHA, UNRWA, WCH, and WHO.		

	<b>Summary of Discussions and Action Points</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Protection Update (UNHCR).</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><u>Presentation of the “Residency Waiver Update” (UNHCR):</u></b></li> <li>• <b><u>Key Points:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ On February 10, 2017, the General Security Office (GSO) published an announcement waiving the renewal fees for refugees registered with UNHCR prior to January 2015.</li> <li>○ A second circular (March 6, 2017) followed which provides further clarification and interpretations on the previous announcement.</li> <li>○ <b>The second circular states</b> that renewal applications can be received from displaced Syrians holding UNHCR certificates according to the requirements of previous residency circulars, provided they meet one of the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Previously granted temporary residency in 2015-2016 based on registration with UNHCR;</li> <li>- Present documentary proof of registration with UNHCR prior to 1/1/2015 (renewed and valid).</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>The above provisions are not applicable for</b> displaced Syrians who previously obtained residency based on pledge of responsibility (work or personal) or through title deed or rental contract or those who benefited from the temporary regularization in A'rsal.</li> <li>○ <b>Beneficiaries of this free of charge decision also include:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Syrians who entered irregularly, provided they did not engage in any form of labor (excluding daily workers in agriculture and construction);</li> <li>- Spouses and minor children who meet the above conditions, regardless of the status of their husband.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Waiver of renewal fees for UNHCR registered refugees expected to be in place indefinitely.</li> <li>○ <b>Included:</b> Refugees who renewed in 2015/16 based on the UNHCR certificates, or those registered with UNHCR prior to 2015.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Not included:</b> refugees not registered with UNHCR, refugees who entered unofficially, refugees who renewed on another basis, e.g. sponsorship, are not included.</li><li>○ <b>Required Documentation:</b> valid UNHCR certificate, housing attestation, national ID or passport, two passport photos, and pledge to abide by Lebanese laws.</li><li>○ <b>Monitoring matrix findings</b> – the matrix developed by the Protection Sector to evaluate how the circular is being implemented by 37 out of 47 different GSOs.</li><li>○ <b>Ways Forward:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ensure the maximum benefit to refugees from the waiver of residency renewal fees.</li><li>- UNHCR engagement with GSO at national level: a) clarification to GSO offices for consistent practice; b) ease documentary requirements; c) refugees who renewed on other categories; d) unofficial entries.</li><li>- Local level monitoring, advocacy and legal assistance at GSO Offices.</li><li>- Efforts to boost capacity at UNHCR reception centers</li><li>- Communication with communities: refugees, GSO and refugees, refugees and UNHCR reception centers.</li></ul></li><li>● <b>Discussion Points:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ UNHCR Q&amp;A's on waiver of the residency renewals fees to be shared with all humanitarian actors once finalized.</li><li>○ Sporadic cases of displaced Syrians reported to be reluctant to approach General Security Offices in fear of undergoing a regular judicial background check.</li></ul></li><li>● For any further information on the PPT presentation, please contact Samuel Cheung (UNHCR): <a href="mailto:cheung@unhcr.org">cheung@unhcr.org</a></li><li>● <b>The PPT presentation is attached to the Minutes of Meeting (MoMs).</b></li></ul>
2.	<b>Winter Support Update and Results (Basic Assistance Sector).</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b><u>Winter Support Update and Results (Basic Assistance Sector):</u></b></li><li>● <b><u>Key Points:</u></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ March 2017 marks the final month of distribution for the Inter-Agency Winter Support Plan.</li><li>○ Targeted population 265,260 Households (HHs); overall population reached: 220,035 HHs.</li><li>○ <b>Winter Cash Packages/Criteria:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Full winter assistance cash package: USD \$147 x 5 months / Populations targeted: Syrian and Palestinians.</li><li>- Altitude based winter assistance cash package: \$100 x 5 months / Population targeted: Palestinians.</li><li>- Top-up winter assistance cash package: \$75 x 5 months / Populations targeted: Syrian receiving regular multi-purpose cash assistance.</li><li>- One-off cash for winter top-up/clothing: \$40 per child / Populations targeted: Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinians.</li><li>- Fuel cards in lieu of cash: \$100 x 5 months / Population targeted: Syrian.</li></ul></li><li>○ <b>Funding:</b> Required (USD \$125 M), Secured (\$119M), Gap (\$6M).</li><li>○ <b>Percentage of Households reached by HHS with assistance, mainly cash:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Syrians - Targeted: 178,290, Reached: 168,686 (95%).</li><li>- Lebanese – Targeted: 30,000, Reached: 2000 (7%).</li><li>- Palestinians – Targeted: 9,214, Reached: 9,214 (95%).</li></ul></li><li>○ Due to operational delays in the ongoing recertification exercise, the one-off cash assistance programme allocated for the Lebanese population group targeted under NPTP will be postponed. The programme will be redesigned in coordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA).</li><li>○ <b>Core Relief Items and In-kind fuel (items distributed on ad-hoc needs basis):</b></li></ul></li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- High thermal blankets: 70,000.</li><li>- Stoves: 4,900.</li><li>- In-kind clothing: 46,653.</li><li>- Public school benefitting from fuel for heating: 527.</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ <b>Ways forward:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Post distribution monitoring activities planned; data collection has started.</li><li>- Reach families who failed to attend distributions; for cash caseloads retroactive payments may be considered until January;</li><li>- Inter-agency lessons winter support learned workshop planned in April 2017.</li></ul></li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For any further information on the PPT presentation, please contact Khalil Dagher (Basic Assistance Sector Coordinator): <a href="mailto:dagherk@unhcr.org">dagherk@unhcr.org</a></li><li>• <b>The PPT presentation is attached to the MoMs.</b></li></ul>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Participatory Assessments Results (UNHCR).</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b><u>Presentation of the “Key Findings of the Follow-Up Participatory Assessment” (UNHCR):</u></b></li><li>• <b><u>Key Points:</u></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ In Lebanon, the Participatory Assessment (PA) is conducted nationwide on a yearly basis since 2006.</li><li>○ The 2016/17 Follow-Up PA focused on targeted themes including: Community and Household Decision-making Processes (to understand how community structures impact individual and collective decision making), Exploitation and Abuse, and Social Stability.</li><li>○ <b>The groups selected for the consultations were based on persons who are most likely to be affected by the aforementioned issues and for whom little information was available.</b></li><li>○ <b>The groups included:</b> working boys/girls (8-13 years old), adolescent boys/girls (12-14 years old), male/female refugee youth or young adults (15-24 years old), male/female Lebanese youth (15-24 years old), female headed households, older persons, persons with disabilities (physical, sensory, mental) and their caregivers, and LGBTI.</li><li>○ Consultations were carried out through more than 180 focus group discussions <b>representing</b> 1,587 refugees (1,326 Syrians, 189 non-Syrians mainly Iraqis and Sudanese, in addition to 72 Lebanese).</li><li>○ 60% of the consulted refugees were women and girls, and 55% were children and youth.</li><li>○ 29 partners contributed in the follow-up PA in 2016/2017.</li></ul></li><li>○ <b>Theme I - Community and Household Decision-Making Processes:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Key Issues:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Decision-making in general lies with the father or elder male of the family at the individual, household and community level.</li><li>- Social norms and practices hamper females’ engagement.</li><li>- The increasing vulnerabilities of men in terms of irregular status, unemployment and restriction of movement is shifting gender roles.</li><li>- Female-headed households residing in the North and Mount Lebanon are more engaged in decision making at the individual and household level compared to their counterparts in the Bekaa and the South.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Ways Forward:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Empowering women and girls, and engaging men and boys in gender equality programming.</li><li>- Increasing the involvement of refugees in decision-making processes by consulting them frequently.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>○ <b>Theme II - Exploitation and Abuse:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Key Issues:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Worst forms of child labour – exploitative conditions with physical, verbal and emotional violence</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>



	<p>and abuse by the employers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Children obliged to work in order to support their families, often at the request of parents or extended family members.</li><li>- Violence and discrimination at schools in addition to corporal punishments.</li><li>- Inability to approach local authorities because of the lack of legal residency.</li><li>- Refugees do not report or seek support if subjected to exploitation or abuse due to lack of belief that the Lebanese authorities can protect them.</li><li>- Domestic violence, abuse by <i>shawish</i>/landlord, and exploitation by sponsors.</li><li>- Risk of detention and restriction of movement due to lack of regular status.</li><li>- Escalating numbers of early marriages due to social norms and deteriorating economic situation/perceived as a protective measure.</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ways Forward:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Formal reporting structures and mechanisms for addressing violence at schools.</li><li>- Strategic engagement of local religious men and Lebanese community leaders given their capacity to protect and support refugees.</li><li>- Raise awareness among parents, adolescents and youth to prevent early marriages.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>○ <b>Theme III - Social Stability:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Key Issues:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Perceived market competition between the two communities is escalating tensions.</li><li>- Syrian refugees perceived as easy potential targets due to their vulnerabilities.</li><li>- Sudanese children in Mount Lebanon reported that Lebanese and Syrians perceive them in a discriminatory manner.</li><li>- Syrian youth reported feeling discriminated/ rejected from the Lebanese community</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Ways Forward:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Increase joint activities and home visits to improve relations and reduce tensions</li><li>- Engage media to highlight positive examples of social stability.</li><li>- Document lessons learned in social stability and build on them to address protection risks in the community.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Discussion Points:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Reasons for limited access to Social Development Centers (SDCs) and Community Development Centers (CDCs) could be attributed to transportation costs, refugees having to travel to long distances, restrictions of movements (e.g.: irregular legal status, crossing checkpoints, etc.).</li><li>○ The focus group discussions identify key findings that can potentially be very beneficial in future planning, interventions and strategic directions.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Action Points:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Participants requested a comparative analysis between targeted themes in 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 to contextualize the figures presented.</li></ul></li><li>• For any further information on the PPT presentation, please contact Nabil Frem (UNHCR): <a href="mailto:frem@unhcr.org">frem@unhcr.org</a></li><li>• <b>The PPT presentation is attached to the MoMs.</b></li></ul>
4.	<b>UNRWA Operational Update (UNRWA).</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The UNRWA operational update highlighted two key areas: “Developments in Ain al Helwe Camp” and “Update on the Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS).”</li><li>• <b>Developments in Ain al Helwe Camp:</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Two militants killed in Ain El Helwe, 9 people injured, including a minor.</li><li>○ Lebanese authorities asked local Palestinian authorities to hand over wanted 51 suspects; as a result, a clash</li></ul></li></ul>



	<p>between different factions has taken place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ In addition, UNRWA suspended most of the education, health and other services in the camp.</li><li>○ Following a cease-fire agreement, it was agreed to establish a new security committee in the camp.</li><li>○ Subsequently, UNRWA resumed providing services again in the camp despite a tense atmosphere.</li><li>○ Estimated number of Syrian refugees in the camp between 10,000-15,000 people.</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Update on the Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS):</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 2016 witnessed a drop of 11,000 PRS in Lebanon, currently PRS estimated at 31,500 people.</li><li>○ Change in demographics and changes in family structures are placing PRS in vulnerable situation.</li><li>○ All new PRS arrivals are coming to Lebanon legally (embassy appointment needed).</li><li>○ PRS are unable to renew due to the costs associated with legal residency.</li></ul></li><li>● For any further information on the above, kindly contact Gwyn Lewis (UNRWA): <a href="mailto:g.lewis@unrwa.org">g.lewis@unrwa.org</a></li></ul>
5.	A.O.B.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The next Inter-agency meeting tentatively scheduled for April 21 2017.</li></ul>

Link to the presentation <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=13158>