**Working Group on Social Stability** – 27th February 2018 – Beirut

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| **Meeting** | | | |
| **Name** | Working Group on Social Stability | **Meeting Date** | 27/02/2018 |
| **Meeting Location** | MoSA-7th floor | **Meeting Time** | 11:30 |
| **Co-Chair person** | Tom Lambert –UNDP  Hiba El Douaihy - MoSA | **Meeting Duration** | 2 hours |
| **Minutes Prepared by** | Hiba El Douaihy |  |  |
| **Agenda** | 1. Introduction 2. Results of Coordination Survey & Introduction to Mainstreaming Conflict Sensitivity Survey 3. Regional Tensions Updates 4. ARK, Stabilization Monitoring Perception Survey (WAVE III Results) 5. Lebanon Support, Conflict Analysis Bulletin (January) 6. AOB | | |

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| **1** | **Welcome and Introduction** |
|  | Partners are welcomed to the Working Group which is focused on offering a comprehensive update on the state of tensions between host communities and refugees across the country. |
| **2** | **Results of Coordination Survey & Introduction to Conflict Sensitivity Survey** |
|  | **Results of the Coordination Survey** Priorities: Overall, priorities are well covered and effectiveness is strong.  However, two areas for improvement were identified that scored relatively lower:   1. Cross-sectoral discussions: respondents were not aware about what, if any, discussions were ongoing with other sectors of the LCRP response. Over 60% said that they ‘do not know’ whether cross-sectoral discussions are taking place. 2. Protection mainstreaming: respondents reported that this was the only area of work that the sector is underperforming on. 32% stating that protection mainstreaming is unsatisfactory.   Suggested priority areas:   * Protection & Conflict Sensitivity mainstreaming  Planning: Overall, planning is strong.  However, relatively weaker on:   * Preparedness and contingency planning; * Advocacy**.**  Coordination: Overall, the assessment of the performance of coordination for the Social Stability Sector was positive.   1. The frequency, duration, size, location and relevance of Working Groups was found to be satisfactory. 2. Most attend regularly (58%), with only some attending occasionally (32%), and a small fraction not attending at all (10%).    1. If respondents never attend, it was mostly because they do not receive invitations.   Key challenges for coordination:   * 1. Active participation;   2. Agenda relevance.   There were no comments on the results of the coordination survey from working group partners.  It was stated that the results will be discussed in the Core Group in order to strategize ways forward and amendments to the coordination functioning and structure as a result.  **Mainstreaming Conflict Sensitivity Survey**  Given the stated need to better ensure conflict sensitivity and tensions-related analysis is mainstreamed across the sectors of the LCRP response (as found in the coordination review survey), the SS sector will run a survey as it did in 2015 and 2017.  The survey will be designed to better understand if and how partners incorporate conflict sensitivity issues into their work, what challenges partners face in incorporating conflict sensitivity measures, and what support partners would desire in order to better mainstream conflict sensitivity into their work.  The design of the survey will be discussed and finalized at the Core Group meeting on 2 March 2018, and will be disseminated to all LCRP partners in the week of 5 March 2018.  Results will then be analysed and presented back to the next Working Group meeting. The results will then be used for the Core Group to start designing guidelines or trainings to best support LCRP partners in terms of mainstreaming conflict sensitivity. |
| **3** | **Updates from the field (Presentation attached)** |
|  | **Bekaa:**   * Concerning trends of increasing tensions, particularly around competition for businesses/shops & over utilities   + Threat of further evictions in central and west Bekaa in April, and renewed evictions around Riyak airbase   + 20% increase (Sept ‘17 to Feb ‘18) in fears around elections.   + Places of concern:     - Qab Elias, Al Qaa, Deir El Ahmar, Hermel all places of concern       * Concerns over water shortages growing       * Concerns over other utilities such as electricity provision also key point of tension     - Al Fakiha: Intra-Lebanese tension is high following mass resignation of municipality members.   **South**:   * Chebaa updates: following the reconciliation in Bet Jen and the go-see-visits, up to 550 individuals have signed up their names for voluntary return to Bet Jen (expected date of return March 14th 2018) * A new trend: municipalities conditioning that the sponsor is from the village * Spreading rumors (to be verified): Syrian refugees who are governmental institutes’ employees are being threatened to lose their jobs if they do not return (mainly to Aleppo that is deemed safe)   **BML**: **The eviction in Al Hadath**   * In Feb 2018, the situation in Al Hadath is still the same, some families are still receiving verbal evection orders, with no confirmation on further actual eviction, and in case of effective evictions, their numbers should be relatively small. * In total around 9 families left El Hadath and moved to surrounding neighborhoods. Not all areas in El Hadath were targeted. Advocacy is still ongoing on all levels to prevent any massive eviction. * The BML IA WG will be working on eviction SOPs customized for BML, based on the national guidelines and specificity of BML area.   **Other Updates**   * Conflict between Amal and Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) Parties and retaliation in the street in 28 Jan- 02 Feb 2018 * Conflict in Aramoun (Aley District) on 06 Feb 2018 * Tension increase at Palestinian community regarding funding shortage in Feb 2018   **North and Akkar**: **North:**   * + Assia: No major developments were observed during January and February regarding the intention of the municipality to issue new regulation related to the Syrian refugees at Assia.   + The genberal situation in the North remained the same as reported in January. * **Akkar:**   + The tension taskforce has concluded the revision of Akkar on Feb 26, resulting no major changes in the situation. Halba, Machha and Kherbet Daoud remained the highly tensed areas despite some positive developments in Kherbet Daoud.   + Bqarzla & Deir Dalloum: Deir Dalloum municipality have taken a municipal decision to sue Bqarzla because of a waste water concern that has been an issue since a long time.   + Khreibet el Jundi: One tent was set on fire in an informal settlement at Khreibet El Jendi. The identity of the perpetrator is still unknown, but some key informants have highlighted that this might be due to interpersonal tension between a nearby Lebanese landlord and few Syrian nationals from the informal settlement.   NB. The overall situation to be watched while approaching the parliamentary elections. |
| **4** | **ARK, Stabilization Monitoring Perception Survey (WAVE III Results)** |
|  | Purpose  To conduct regular perception surveys with both Lebanese and Syrian communities on the state of tensions across the country.  Methodology  -15000 interviews have been conducted over three waves (3 waves of 5,000 interviews so far).  - Important to note that reactions to incidents can drive spikes in tensions, for instance in wave II the Arsal offensives took place, driving up tensions nationally.  Findings  - Baseline measured in May (1st wave), and while some changes were observed during Wave I and Wave II, from Wave II to Wave III, across most indicators, trends returned to Wave I baseline levels.  - Relations have improved mostly in the South, though these changes are minimal so further work needs to be done.  - Social stability depends on many factors, not only one or two.  There were a number of hypotheses on the nature of tensions and programming to reduce tensions. This study has proven that these hypotheses (summarised in the house model of tensions presented by Ark), hold true.  -Level of satisfaction:  -The trend is ascending. There is a high degree of confidence of the Lebanese community in the police, municipalities, though low confidence in the central Lebanese Government.  -Lebanese have significant confidence in security institutions (LAF-ISF-Municipalities)  Elections:  -The correlation between the competitiveness of location and the elections is not perfect but there is still some correlation between them  -The Lebanese perception towards refugees does not only result from personal interaction (not necessarily) but is also based on national dialogue on it. Ie: In areas where there is no competition over job opportunities or interaction between both communities, there are still tensions that are driven by other factors  -There is a significant improvement in satisfaction from services (positive trend). Ie: in the perception of quality of services  -A common observation is the combination of dissatisfaction from services and the perception of that these services are in the favour of Syrians when the Lebanese are being neglected. However there is a common understanding (based on the data) that the Syrian refugees are those most in need, and that the municipalities are doing their best to respond to the needs of the people. (slide 14)  -Questions:   * **How would these studies be relevant to other sectors?**   Data would be used by the different sectors to draft their workplans and integrate into their programmes accordingly. This will involve approaching the sectors presenting this data effectively.  There are tailored portions of data and analysis that the SS sector could produce from the Ark data which could be presented to sectors. Eg. Water related data for water.  Suggestion from participant: Further comparisons between VaSyr and ARK should be made as the two works are largely complementary – Ark for Lebanese, VaSyr for Syrian. |
| **5** | **Lebanon Support, Conflict Analysis Bulletin (January)** |
|  | Lebanon Support tracks and records conflict incidents throughout the year, categorising them by type, location and frequency.  Important to note that the perception towards Syrian refugees is not only based on incidents such as Miziara, but also based on the socio-economic situation and competition over jobs.  2017 review  *🡪* 5,039 incidents mapped  1531 **arrest** operations.  644 incidents categorised as **illicit trade.**  76 incidents categorised as **gender-based violence.**  535 incidents classified as **Syrian Border Conflicts.**  131 incidents classified as **Conflicts of Social discrimination.**  In focus: gun violence and ownership   * 4 million licensed guns in Lebanon (*Permanent Peace Movement).* * 431 shooting incidents classified as **Individual Acts of Violence** mapped. * Resulting from **brawls/disputes** that evolved violently. * Celebratory shootings: peak in June. * Hundreds of casualties   Map of Collective Actions  This map is continuously updated.  Each mapped collective action is based on a **typology** devised by Lebanon Support.  The objective of the map is to explore collective actions by providing **accurate data** and relevant **information** on mobilizations happening on the territory.   * Collective actions:  It would have been important to list examples and how the media have a different version of that same event/incident whether positive or negative   In 2018, any organization who would like to collaborate with Lebanon Support is encourage to do so. |
| **6** | **AOB** |
|  | * Any organization is welcome to present at the WG – please approach the Sector Coordinator * Everyone is kindly requested to complete and share the Mainstreaming Conflict Sensitivity Survey * The Core Group on Friday is to discuss the priorities for 2018 * All the SoSt maps, assessments and online surveys are on the portal |

**Organizations present at the Livelihoods WG meeting**: UNDP, Palladium, Trocaire, MoET, Concern Worldwide, Digital Opportunity Trust, LHIF, Youth for Development, TdH Italy, UROA, AVSI, RDPP, ESFD, FAO, Cesvi, UNRWA, ILO, Caritas Germany, Caritas Lebanon, ARCS Lebanon, Oxfam, Al-Majmoua, Amel Association, MoSA, WOL, Unicef, Mercy-USA, IECD, Care, EF, Jica Study Team, Austarlian Emb. DFAT section, ACF, Positive Planet, Near East Foundation, Mercy Corps, IRC, PU-AMI, HEKS/EPER, World Vision.