



Minutes of NATIONAL INTER-SECTOR MEETING

6 July 2018, 10:00-12:00

Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Beirut

Chairperson(s)	Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh – UNDP Mazen Riachi – MoSA Carol Ann Sparks – UNHCR
Minutes Prepared by	Hiba Taha – UNHCR
Agenda of the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on the Steering Committee meeting and overview of the 2019 LCRP planning process• Water sector strategy workshop• WhatsApp survey in Quaraoun/Bar Elias• A.O.B.

Summary of Discussions and Action Points

1. Update on the Steering Committee meeting and overview of the 2019 LCRP planning process

Key Presentation Points:

- The Steering Committee (SC) meeting was very well attended, there was good representation from the government, UN agencies, donors and NGOs.
- The proposed approach to develop the Brussels monitoring mechanism and the LCRP 2019 Guidance Note were validated by the SC, which means the inter-sector response management team can move forward accordingly.
- There was some discussion on the update of the most vulnerable localities map.
- The SC was briefed on the monitoring framework that aims at tracking pledges and commitments made during the Brussels conference II, using existing monitoring mechanisms. Two draft frameworks for education and funding were developed in consultation with relevant actors.
- The IS team will report back to the SC twice a year to give an update on progress moving forward; the first progress report will be at the end of Q1 2019.
- The final draft of the monitoring framework will be submitted to the next SC meeting, which should be held in November 2018.
- The Midterm Review was also presented during the SC:
 - The first MTR should be conducted at the end of 2018 to take stock of progress made under the LCRP, lessons learned, key challenges and review the coordination model;
 - The MTR will be based on key evaluation questions previously identified, centered on efficiency, relevance, effectiveness and sustainability;
- The total amount secured by end of Q2 2018, including carry-over from 2017, is \$880M, which is better than the funding level at the end of Q2 2017 (\$764M). The greater funding level is mainly due to the high carry-over from 2017.



- As part of the 2019 LCRP planning process, sectors are required to update the situation analysis, update the overall sector strategies, revise logframes, take stock of progress towards 2018 targets and reflect sector contributions to the LCRP strategic objectives.
- Presentation of the 2019 Planning process timeline, included in the attached 2019 Guidance Note. The highlights are:
 - July: VASyR workshops;
 - August: **Multi-Stakeholder workshop** to perform a risk analysis and agree on planning assumptions for 2019 as well as training on **Human-centered design** (human first approach);
 - 3-7 September: **Multi-Stakeholder workshop** on situation analysis;
 - 17 October: **Inter-sector workshop** to review the sector strategies;
 - 19 October: Submission of draft Sector Strategy for inter-sector review;
 - 24 October: Deadline for Expression of Interest (EoI);
 - 7 November: Deadline for submission of final list of partners by sector;
 - 16 November: **Deadline for approval of sector strategies** for 2019 by Sector Steering Committees;
 - 23 November: Tentative SC meeting;

Key Discussion Points:

- The research questions that the Basic Assistance sector has submitted pertain to information gaps.
- The identified research questions by sector will be mostly addressed through secondary data collection. The sector coordinators with support from the inter-sector team will decide on the way forward and give recommendations as to how to fill these gaps.
- Research questions will help the IS team and the sectors identify/articulate the needs and priorities in terms of data, which allows for researchers who are interested in the operation to assist in providing it through their studies.
- The research questions could potentially be fed into the Participatory Assessment that is conducted each year by UNHCR and the In-Focus dashboards developed by the Inter-Agency team.
- Our financial tracking exercise and products on funding update are constantly improved to reflect the donors' needs/requirements and better track the pledges made during Brussels conference, namely on multi-year funding.
- Sectors are expected to articulate the vision moving forward into the theory of change when updating their overall sector strategy. Sectors are not expected to include transition in the logframes, rather set a strategic direction based on discussions with relevant partners, namely development partners.
- It would be helpful to start considering initiatives outside the LCRP that have a long term dimension
- Some findings from the Participatory Assessment on Health and Protection will be presented during the VASyR workshops.



The meeting presentation could be accessed through the following link:

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/64971>

Action Points:

- The consultations/discussions around the Brussels monitoring framework will proceed with the EU, UN agencies, NGOs and the government.
- Sector coordinators who have not yet submitted the research questions relevant to their sectors, are kindly asked to do so.
- The presentations and outcomes of the last SC meeting along with the 2019 LCRP Guidance Note to be shared with the IS next week.
- Sector coordinators to identify relevant stakeholders and start the discussions on the way forward regarding the sector strategies.
- The Inter-sector team to develop a coherent understanding of the next steps within the LCRP by initiating conversations with relevant partners on solution strategies
- Strengthen the gender analysis within the sector strategies and provide further data segregated by age and gender.
- The sectors are asked, concerning partners' appeals to get the partners together and map out gaps in the response to ensure coverage.

2. Water sector strategy workshop

Key Presentation Points:

- The Water sector is organizing four workshops for sector partners and relevant stakeholders to reflect on progress to date and agree on strategic recommendations in light of the decreased funding.
- The main objective of the workshops is to evaluate the sector's performance by identifying lessons learnt, successes, failures and challenges as well as brainstorm on ways to improve the emergency response and reduce its cost.
- There is a heavy focus on informal settlements (IS) as it is a major challenge within the sector.
- The schedule of the workshops is as follows:
 - **Monday 16 July:** i) Wash Assessment Platform (WAP), that is a tool developed within the sector that maps every IS and scores its WASH vulnerability, and ii) Water in IS, mainly looking at how to reduce the cost of trucking;
 - **Tuesday 17 July:** Hygiene and Solid Waste Management (SWM) from municipalities' perspective;
 - **Wednesday 18 July:** Sanitation in IS;
 - **Friday 20 July:** Non-residential urban WASH – it has been a challenge within the sector to identify the needs in non-residential urban areas - and cross-sectoral M&E – the relationship of WASH with other sectors;
- The workshops will focus on successful projects that could be scaled up and the long-term implications of WASH activities on public health and the environment.
- The most active actors within the sector, under the LCRP, will participate in the workshops.
- Follow up sessions will take place to provide recommendations to the government and donors.



Key Discussion Points:

- Interested sector coordinators are welcome to participate in the workshops.

The meeting presentation could be accessed through the following link:

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/64969>

3. WhatsApp survey in Quaraoun/Bar Elias

Key Presentation Points:

- A WhatsApp based survey of Syrian refugees and host communities, funded by UNDP Innovation Facility: “Speak up via WhatsApp: the Potential of WhatsApp Surveying for humanitarian and development operations in Lebanon” was presented.
- The main idea behind using WhatsApp as a surveying tool is to pull people away from generalization and stereotyping by asking them about personal experience in an intimate manner.
- WhatsApp is a great way to do deep dive qualitative surveying because it is widespread and has a voice message feature that facilitates communication with illiterate individuals.
- The survey was piloted in Quaraoun and Bar Elias; over a thousand people participated in the survey.
- The survey questions were designed in collaboration with community stakeholders to make sure they are conflict sensitive.
- One key finding of the survey was that there are multiple relationships between refugees and host communities that follow different trajectories: relationship with neighbors might be improving while transactional relationships with landlords and employers are deteriorating.
- WhatsApp could be used in i) Human-centered design whereby the suggestions/complaints/recommendations of beneficiaries are incorporated into every step of the design, ii) real time monitoring tool in a project cycle, iii) cross-country communication tool.
- The pros of WhatsApp surveying are scale and speed, cost-effectiveness, increased outreach and unfiltered speech.
- It also has some limitations that include the dependence on phone numbers and data reliability.

Key Discussion Points:

- WhatsApp surveying could potentially be used by all sectors to inform the planning process of the LCRP.
- The response rate was 17%.
- The survey was conducted over a period of one month to experiment which time of the day was more likely to yield a higher response rate.
- The analysis was mostly qualitative rather than quantitative.
- It would be an added value to combine WhatsApp surveying with the PA assessment.



The meeting presentation could be accessed through the following link:

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/64968>

4. A.O.B: 2018 Recalibration of the Targeting Model

Key Presentation Points:

- The overall objective of this exercise is to enhance the targeting system for food and cash assistance through technical expertise. The 2018 recalibration of the Targeting Model is aligned with the 2018 VASyR data collection.
- The Recalibration Process timeline:
 - By the end of July, final scores are submitted;
 - In August, operationalization discussions will take place concerning the desk formula results and the Redress Mechanism;
 - 1 September, families will be notified of the results through SMS;
 - 1 November: Inclusion/discontinuation of assistance;
- The objectives of this exercise is i) the re-estimation of the regression model and validation of scores and ii) the review and optimization of the redress mechanism.
- The recalibration of the Targeting Model in 2018 is based on an integrated mechanism with three pillars: the desk formula, being the quantitative model, the validation through quantitative assessments and enhanced redress mechanisms. It is an ongoing cooperative process that involves the BA and Food Security sectors alongside bilateral efforts by WFP/UNHCR.
- An ad-hoc BA meeting will take place on Tuesday 20 July to introduce the technicalities of the new model.

Key Discussion Points:

- The inter-sector team is the link between the technical working group and the leadership of the LCRP. It is important for sector coordinators to understand the targeting process to be able to draw on inter-sectoral issues; at the same time the leadership/political actors need to be involved in the formulation of the targeting approach and its implications on beneficiaries.
- A Communication with Communities sub-working group will be formed under the BA sector to look more specifically into communication with beneficiaries.

Action Points:

- Sector coordinators to be more involved in the operationalization of the targeting process, particularly as it relates to communication with communities.
- Sector coordinators are kindly requested to send a one pager articulating the referral system within their sector.

The meeting presentation could be accessed through the following link:

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/64970>