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|  | Meeting |  |  |
| Name | IMWG | Meeting Date | 25/10/2018 |
| Meeting Location | UNHCR, S&K Building B1 Level | Meeting Time | 10:00AM |
|  |  | Meeting Duration | 2hr:10min |
| Minutes Prepared by | Bernard Chedid |  |  |
| Purpose of Meeting | 1. VaSyr 2018 Key findings.  *by Inter-Agency*  2. LCRP 2019 Planning.   * ActivityInfo 2019 appeal database. Expression of interest (2019) * New version version versus old version of “Forms” * Additional Age/Gender disaggregation (recommendation from IMWG)   3. Informal Settlements Mapping (UPDATE) *by MEDAIR*  4. Presentation of WAP MARK II  *by UNICEF*  5. The new “Spongebase” and latest add-on to the portal: “Contact Hub”  *by UNHCR*  6. COSIMA Update.  *by UNHCR*  7. UNICEF brief update on the status of MICS  *by UNICEF* | | |

Summary of discussions and action points

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| 1. | VaSyr 2018 |
|  | The 2018 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) is the sixth annual multi-sectoral survey assessing the situation of a representative sample of registered Syrian refugee households to identify situational changes and trends. VASyR is an essential tool for planning, decisions and needs-based programme design. Furthermore, the findings of the VASyR are used by ten sectors under the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) to understand the evolving situation in Lebanon year after year, set targets for the coming year. DEMOGRAPHICS  * Same average household size as in 2017: 4.9 (2017: 4.95, 2016: 5.1)  ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY  * Decrease in % households under MEB: 68% (2017: 76%) * Decrease in % households under SMEB: 51% (2017: 58%)  |  | | --- | | *Economic vulnerability is determined by a household’s expenditure. The Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) and Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) serve as thresholds to identify the proportion of the population in poverty. Results of the 2018 VASyR show a decrease in the percentage of households under the MEB and SMEB levels. The improvement could be partly attributed to the assistance received in the past year and the increased number of households receiving monthly multi-purpose cash in 2017 (40% increase – from 40,000 to 60,000 households). Another reason could be attributed to the increase of households with working members. It should be noted that if the level of assistance reduces, poverty might increase – this has been shown in some districts where the level of assistance has decreased (ex: Beirut).* |  * Increase in debt per capita: $250 (2017: $227) * 88% of households have debts (2017: 87%), and almost half (43%) have a debt higher than US$600 * Average expenditure per month: $111 (2017: $98)  FOOD SECURITY  * Decrease in severe and moderate food insecure: 34% (2017: 38%)   *Food security for Syrian refugees improved in the last year, even if changes varied significantly geographically, with deteriorations in some governorates and improvements in others. Higher levels of food insecurity were again associated with higher economic vulnerability. While female-headed households remain more vulnerable than male-headed households, overall, female-headed households showed significant improvements compared to 2017 across all food security and vulnerability indicators.* FOOD CONSUMPTION  * 67 % of household have an acceptable food consumption an increase compared with 2017 (2017: 63%) * Increase of number of meals consumed by adults and children: Number of meals consumed per day adults 2.2 (2017:2.1), children 3.0 (2017:2.4)  COPINGS  * 90% of households are adopting food related coping strategies (e.g. consume less preferred meals, reduce number of meals per day and portion size etc.) – (2017: 96%) * Households in Beirut are adopting more food related coping strategies compared with 2017; * Reduction of households applying crisis and emergency copings strategies (51% in 2018, 55% in 2017)  LIVELIHOODS  * On average, 68% of households have at least one working member (2017: 64%) * When considering the Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) (which is: Employed Population + Unemployed Population / Total Population above 15), 73% are men, and 16% are women, while the total percentage of labour force is 43%. * Unemployment among labour force was reported at 40%, that is 61% for women and 35% for men; * Looking at the aggregation of the three main sources of income households relied most frequently on informal credit and debts (52%), followed by WFP assistance (32%), construction (21%) and agriculture (14%). * % working age Syrian men employed: 47% (data not comparable with 2017 – ILO definition changed) * Main reason for not working - men: injury/medical condition (38%) * % working age Syrian women employed: 6% (data not comparable with 2017 - ILO definition changed) * Main reason for not working - women: gender considerations (29%)  |  | | --- | | *The economic situation in Lebanon had a negative impact on the employment of refugees who can only work in construction, agriculture and environment sectors. Overall the increase of households with at least one working member increased the economic status of Syrian refugees. In some governorates (i.e. Beirut), however, income opportunities decreased due to the crisis in the real estate sector. The agriculture sector was also impacted this year; the lack of water from rainfall in the Bekaa affected some main crops which could explain the reduction in the percentage of refugees working in agriculture in the region.*  *Higher employment rate in some governorates could be related to higher rate of refugees with legal residency and resulting mobility.* |  PROTECTION  * % individuals with legal residency remained steady: 27% (2017: 26%) * % of households with all members above age 15 having legal residency: 18% (2017: 19%)  |  | | --- | | *While the GSO waiver in February 2017[[1]](#footnote-1)did not apply to all refugee, an increase in the number of individuals was somewhat expected. One of the main hindering factors that could be making it difficult for individuals to obtain legal residency is the limited capacity at GSO centers. Governorates with large refugee populations tend to have lower rates of legal residency.* |  * Increase in birth registration for children born in Lebanon: 21% (2017: 17%)  |  | | --- | | *Small improvement may be explained by new policies put in place[[2]](#footnote-2) easing the birth registration process for Syrian refugees. While there has been an improvement in birth registration nationally, the level remains low in some governorates. Similar to legal residency one factor that could be hindering birth registration is limited capacities at the Foreigners Registry. That being said, it may be too early for the impact of the new birth registration policies to be measured. In addition to this, lack of awareness on the importance of birth registration causes families to rely solely on hospital certificates and/or UNHCR certificates as valid birth documentation.* |  WASH  * % of household members with access to improved drinking water sources: 90.7% * % of household members with drinking water available when needed on premise: 60.5% * % of household members with access to improved sanitation facility: 87.4%  |  | | --- | | *VASyR does not test quality of water and so “improved drinking water sources” may in fact be contaminated.* |  SHELTER  * % living in residential structures: 66% (2017: 73%), % living in non-permanent structures: 19% (2017: 17%), % living in non-residential structures: 15% (2017: 9%) * 35% of all shelters were found visibly substandard (2017:32%) * % evicted in last 6 months: 4% (2017: 5%) * For evicted households: 16% used to live in non-residential structures in previous accommodation; while 28% were currently living in non-residential structures post-eviction * Average rent remained steady: $182 (2017: $183)  |  | | --- | | *Stopping of blanket assistance in informal settlement might have led to increase in percentage in substandard shelters. 51% of shelters in informal settlements were found substandard in 2018, an increase from 42% in 2017.*  *In addition to this, refugees who get evicted (for inability to pay rent) tend to move to more substandard shelter types.* |  CHILD PROTECTION  * % married girls aged 15-19 remained steady: 22% (2017: 22%) * % children aged 5-17 working in last 30 days remained steady: 5% (2017: 5%)  |  | | --- | | *Higher rate of child labor was reported in districts with more agricultural fields (ex: Nabatiyeh, Akkar, Baalbek Hermel ) and higher rates of poverty.* |  HEALTH  * % households able to access the primary healthcare they required: 87% (2017: 89%) * Main reason for not accessing PHC: cost of drugs/tests/treatment (54%) * % households able to access the secondary healthcare they required: 77% (2017: 80%) * Main reason for not accessing SHC: cost of treatment (68%)  SOCIAL TENSIONS  * Increase in % reporting ‘positive’ or ‘very positive’ quality of interactions between refugee and host community: 51% (2017: 44%) * Main reason for community tensions: competition for jobs: (38%) (2017: 47%) * % reporting curfew imposed in their area: 14% (new indicator this year)  |  | | --- | | *One security incident in an area might trigger a number of other incidents. Districts with more households reporting security/safety issues had recently witnessed a serious incident. For example one murder incident in Miziara Becharreh prompted eviction of Syrians and municipalities imposing curfews on refugees. This was shown in the VASYR data where 83% of households reported curfews imposed in the district of Bcharre.* |  EDUCATION  * % children aged 3-5 attending school increased by 5% (2017: 15% to 20% in 2018) * % children aged 6-14 attending schools remained steady: 68% (2017: 70%) * % children aged 15-17 attending schools remained steady: 20% of children aged 15-17 (2017: 22%) * % children with disabilities aged 6-14 attending schools: 44.4% * Primary Gender Parity Index: 0.91 * Main reasons for non-attendance: cost of transportation to school (30%), cost of educational materials (26%) and attending non-formal/informal education program (16%) * % children aged 15-17 attending schools remained steady: 20% of children aged 15-17 (2017: 22%) * Main reasons for non-attendance: cost of transportation to school (21%), cost of educational materials (20%) and marriage (13%)  |  | | --- | | *In rural areas (ex: Nabatiyeh Governorate) long distances to schools and high cost of transportation explain lower attendance rate. Second shift schools are filling up in areas with large concentration of refugees (ex: Chiyah-Baabda) where the level of attendance is lower compared to other regions. It was also reported that families prioritize rent and food for spending and de-prioritize education.* | |
| 2. | ActivityInfo for 2019 |
|  | 1. Expression of Interest (EoI) for 2019  * A New DB is available on ActivityInfo and all partners are invited to provide the potential LCRP 2019 Outputs per Governorate they wish to tackle the coming year.  1. New version/old version of Forms.  * The old version of forms will not be supported beyond 2020. A test will be run on the new version to decide it’s adoption for 2019 or use the old version knowing we will have to shift to the new one by 2020. * A test database has been developed and Interested partners will be invited to participate in evaluating the new interface and share their experience through a small survey. Further details will be provided in the email disseminating the minutes.  1. Age-Gender Disaggregation  * An additional reporting requirement for 2019 was requested for further disaggregation of the indicators by age and gender for some sectors. * Discussion: * What will be the additional benefit for partners after providing a time-consuming input? * Can we input age-sex disaggregated data for specific indicators at national to avoid additional data entry that will not be used? * Livelihoods & Food Security sectors already report on age-sex disaggregated data from their partners. * Strong justification is needed before investing in time consuming data entry, and to let sector coordinators narrow down on which indicators the reporting is needed and which geographical level. * How will the data be used? How? * Will the data collected provide additional info that will improve the program? |
| 3. | IAMP update |
|  | 1. Presentation of the latest IAMP (#55)   New shelter types have been introduced this year and the classification of shelter types mapped as part of the IAMP now is:   * Non-Residential: only mapping non-residential structures within existing Informal settlements. Those are garages, farms and similar structures used by refugees as shelter. The information collected is by asking the shawish how many people live in these structures (not door to door as tents and other self built structures). * Non-Residential (self-Built) * Prefab * Tent   With the new re-classification 2 sweeps have been already conducted this year and the third will be completed by the end of 2018.  A dashboard is available under the following link:  <https://eu.qlikcloud.com/view/5bd0722b04827d5cfc501a69>  username: medair\_shared Password: Shared123  Please share your comments on the dashboard to improve it and make it as useful as possible: [im-pm-leb@medair.org](mailto:im-pm-leb@medair.org)  Discussion:  On different possibilities for referral of new sites: Maybe a more user-friendly app than ArcGIS collector, such as WhatsApp location sharing or ODK collect.  WAP and IAMP coordinators to meet and improve data flow between the 2 platforms. |
| 4. | WAP Mark II presentation |
|  | * Water Assessment Platform (WAP) is a tool used to score WASH vulnerability and display the results through a dashboard in an automated and interactive way. * Data is collected through ESRI Survey 123, quality controlled and then linked to ArcGIS on-line to display inter-active maps and dashboards revealing the vulnerability scoring of cadasters. * An easy handover of sites between partners is possible through polygon selection on a map interactively. * For more details don’t hesitate to contact Mehdi Wehbe ([mwehbi@unicef.org](mailto:mwehbi@unicef.org)). |
| 5. | The upgraded “Spongebase” and new “Contact Hub” tools |
|  | * Spongebase is now searchable by sector / Funding source / date / partner name across the different administrative levels and down to municipality level. * Tabulated data of interventions can also be exported to multiple formats including Excel. * Spongebase can be accessed through the link below: * <http://data.unhcr.org/lebanon/spongebase> * For additional info contact Jad Ghosn, [ghosn@unhcr.org](mailto:ghosn@unhcr.org) |
| 6. | MICS Update |
|  | * Multiple Indicator cluster survey (MICS) is a National Level survey that will collect information on Women, Children and Households. * The survey will run in 2019 and cover the whole country in a large sample. It will also cover the 3 population groups of Lebanese, Syrians refugees and Palestinian refugees. The survey will also help to provide information on SDG indicators. * Results are planned to be published in 2020. * For additional Info contact Rodolphe Ghoussoub: [rghoussoub@unicef.org](mailto:rghoussoub@unicef.org) |

1. On February 10, 2017, the General Security Office (GSO) published an announcement waiving the renewal fees (200 USD/person/ year for individuals above 15 years of age) for refugees registered with UNHCR prior to January 2015. A second circular (March 6, 2017) followed which provides further clarification and interpretation of the previous announcement. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The Personal Status Department (PSD) issued two memos in September 2017 and March 2018 to facilitate birth registration. In February 2018, the Council of Ministers adopted a decision giving the Ministry of Interior and

   Municipalities (MoIM) exceptional authority to adopt measures to facilitate birth registration of Syrian children born in Lebanon post 2011. In summary, new rules remove need for costly court process for unregistered births. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)