####  Arsal Coordination Meeting

***Minutes of meeting***

Date: 13.03.2018

Place: UNHCR Zahle

Participants: Deputy Mayor of Arsal, MSA, NRC, UNHCR, Amel, IRC, UNICEF, DRC, Abaad, HI

***Updates***

* On basic assistance, 5,054 households are receiving multipurpose cash assistance through ICRC, ACF and UNHCR, this assistance can be redeemed in ATMs in nearby towns. 1,837 households received winter assistance through UNHCR and ICRC which can be redeemed through the POS machines in two gas stations in Arsal. Winter assistance was initially a $225 one off assistance covering months of November, December and January to those scored severely not receiving MCAP and highly vulnerable. Following confirmation on a top up on our winter assistance, an extra two months was covered for families with their common card including MCAP beneficiaries (three months one off of $225). Cash upload will be initiated in the month of December. A assistance outcome monitoring was conducted on the multipurpose cash assistance program, especially since it is the first year the cash program is implemented in Arsal (presentation on the outcome attached).
* Deputy Mayor stresses that the situation in Arsal is escalating in terms of tension and perhaps an outcome monitoring assessment should be conducted with the host community to see if this is affecting them and to help reduce tension. As she states that the economy in Arsal has went down in the last couple of years noting that out of 1050 shops present in Arsal only 350 of them belong to Lebanese while others are for Syrians. It is also important to note that 65% of employment are of Syrian nationals in Arsal. In addition to the 450 taxi service present only 65 are to Lebanese.
* On WASH: MC, ACF and lost are still operating in Arsal. With regards to the developmental projects of the network and the plant, a lot of meetings are still ongoing on Beirut level with donors. The donors seem responsive; however, no official commitment have been made yet.
* Municipality has been receiving a lot of complains from informal settlement Abrar 4 as the holding tanks are flooding in the streets, and waste water is getting to the schools and cemetery. UNICEF states that they are applying mitigation measures to the holding tanks since they are cracked and not in a good condition and they are discussing on rehabilitating holding tank and increasing the measure. The Deputy Mayor advises retreatment for the dislodging sites such as usage of a bamboo or something.
* As mentioned earlier a UNHCR center with support from MOI, MoSA and the municipality was established in Arsal of which daily activities are ongoing. As per UNHCR previously we had 9,930 registered households, comprising of 41000 individuals. As of today in the center 5,463 households had ongoing different activities in the center from add ons for children and other… UNHCR will finish the renewal exercise at the end of March; however, that does not mean that UNHCR will not maintain its presence in Arsal.
* In Arsal, around 2000 cases have expired or expiring certificates and are not approaching the center 1,000 of them are receiving some kind of cash assistance and active. The registration unit present in Arsal is trying to contact these families to verify that they are present in Arsal. The OV’s are to spread the word among refugees to those expiring in 9 months from now as well. Arsal was exempted from the normal procedure for the past four years; however, as the situation is better and UNHCR is present in Arsal and as per normal procedure n UNHCR if the certificate is not renewed within three months of its expiry date, the case number loses their entitlement and their file is deactivated. Protection unit urges all agencies in the field to support in spreading the word for those families to approach UNHCR’s center in Arsal or call for renewal appointment. Protection is to share the statistics and number with the municipality.
* Labour market assessment was done through the consultant triangle in Arsal and a workshop took place in UNHCR office. The next step is to translate the findings following another sessions in BO for UN and other agencies so that they are fully aware of the findings and recommendations. UNDP also provided machinery to the municipality. UNDP urges coordination in all assessments being conducted by agencies as they heard that a market assessment is being conducted through MoSA.
* Health working group was held prior of which the minutes of meeting will be shared along with the updates on health AAP 2018. The plan is working as per the timeline with minor delay regarding informing ministry with the items needed. Amel is receiving medicine for chronic diseases and assisting the Lebanese along with YMCA as well as Syrian refugees. RI starts supporting Amel PHC through UNHCR, 9 health OV’s are recruited and are being trained to work in houses and informal settlements with regards to public health concerns and psychological concerns as well. There are also social workers present and operating in Arsal and working on the main gap of delays at the checkpoint at times up to 4 hours.
* The main challenge that the health unit is facing is with regards to the delays with the WASH sector and their agencies to respond especially in health emergencies such as water borne diseases. This delay causes a waste in health sector’s response of which an intervention is needed two or three times to resolve an issue. Urgent follow up with the WASH sector is needed with this regards.
* Labour market assessment was done through the consultant triangle in Arsal and a workshop took place in UNHCR office. The next step is to finalize and translate the findings following another sessions in BO for UN and other agencies so that they are fully aware of the findings and recommendations.
* Demining- should have started in November for Arsal to cover all set of audience specified to LAF and its partner Balamand- mining action center. Started in public schools and areas surrounding Arsal like Laboue. Project is still ongoing with some delays that should be covered this month. Decided jointly with LAF mine action center and Balamand university to target stone industries, farmers and labours in outskirts of Arsal in addition to civil coalition society and UNDP related to public/technical school students and teachers, in effort to have a TOT intervention in future on landmines.
* With regards to the RE project in Arsal, HI is in touch with the Lebanese Mine Action Center (LMAC) to work on a project to implement through National Steering Committee, which will be complementary to the project supported by UNICEF. UNICEF project is targeting the youth, HI project will target any other groups potentially exposed to the contamination. This project would most probably concern a larger area than Arsal (perhaps the whole Baalbeck governorate), and would start within 3 to 4 months and could last for several years. Meanwhile, in order to tackle the current threat, HI is working on an emergency RE project to implement directly only for Arsal The project would start within 1 to 2 months maximum and could last up to 9 or 12 months.

***Action points***

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| Action | Who |
| Consider outcome monitoring assessment for host community.  | Basic Assistance.  |
| Follow up complains in Abrar 4.  | WASH/UNICEF |
| WASH to actively respond in health emergency.  | UNHCR,UNICEF |