



Minutes of Meeting Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG)

Meeting Location	Remotely Via Zoom	Meeting Date	7 July 2023
Chairperson(s)	Dr. Ola Boutros – LCRP General Supervisor (Ministry of Social Affairs - MOSA) Camilla Jelbart Mosse - Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR)	Meeting Time	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Minutes Prepared by	Jana Nasr, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Assistant (UNHCR, Inter-Agency)	Meeting Duration	2.00 hrs.
Participants	Annex 1		
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Opening RemarksTaking Stock for the Duration of 2023:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mid-Year ReviewQ2 Sector DashboardsCross-sectoral Prioritization ExerciseInter-Agency Emergency Response: Summer UpdateBusiness Continuity Plan: July 2023 UpdateAOB: Services Overview		

1. Opening Remarks

Dr. Ola Boutros, LCRP General Supervisor (MoSA)

In her opening remarks Dr. Boutros highlighted the following points:

- The need for increased engagement and support from the international community towards the deteriorating economic and social situation in Lebanon was emphasized.
- Early recovery efforts in the country are essential, particularly in terms of construction, energy, water, and solid waste management.
- An emergency plan and response mechanism for the summer, considering past incidents such as fires, is of high significance.

2. Taking Stock for the Duration of 2023

Camilla Jelbart, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR – Inter-Agency)

Mid-Year Review

For the mid-year review, Camilla mentioned that:

- It is important to be working in a targeted manner while maintaining coherent sector strategies, ensuring alignment with priorities, and guiding dialogue with donors.
- The exact amount of funding allocated to Lebanon is uncertain, but it is expected that funding would gradually decrease year on year due to global priorities.
- Last year, a structured mid-year review process was followed to produce a dedicated document. This year, a lighter touch approach is suggested due to the comprehensive planning expected for 2024. The purpose of the light touch mid-year review is to: evaluate progress, identify overachievements, review indicators, and ensure appropriate sector budgets.
- Sectors are encouraged to review activities, assess progress, discuss priorities, identify any deviations from sector indicators, and ensure suitable budgets for the sectors.



Q2 Sector Dashboards

It is time for the sectors to develop the Q2 dashboards. As a guidance, Camilla emphasized that:

- Three key questions to be addressed while using the Q2 sectoral dashboards to provide feedback for the mid-year review (rather than having two separate documents):
 1. Elevating priorities for the duration of 2023.
 2. Assessing the achievability of expected results for 2023.
 3. Reviewing the funding situation at the half-year point.
- It is vital to have clear rationale and identification of funding gaps, while acknowledging the ongoing engagement with donors.

Action Point:

Sector Coordinators, Co-Coordinators & IM Colleagues to submit the final draft of the Q2 Dashboard AND Logframe by Friday 21 July 2023 COB as per the guidance sent via email from lebbeia@unhcr.org with the following subject: "Request for Submission: Q2 Sector Dashboards and Logframe - Deadline: Friday 21 JUL 2023".

Cross-sectoral Prioritization Exercise

For the cross-sectoral prioritization exercise initiated in previous meetings and conducted by sectors, Camilla mentioned that:

- Mainstreaming priorities at the sector level were highlighted as an essential component for a safe and protective environment.
- Sectors should prioritize interventions based on their concerns about insufficient visibility and support from donors.
- It is essential to frame interventions rather than specific outcomes based on:
 - The criteria of contributing to the LCRP strategic objectives.
 - Addressing protection and tensions.
 - Feasibility and cost-effectiveness.

Action Point:

Sector coordination teams and mainstreaming focal points were requested to finalize the prioritization exercise, while ensuring a narrow prioritization lens and a cross-sectoral focus.

Slides included in the presentation shared via email (also linked [here](#)). The online editable document is accessible via this link: [Prioritization Exercise - Google Sheets](#). Inputs on the prioritization exercise are kindly requested by Tuesday, 11 July 2023 COB.

3. Inter-Agency Emergency Response: Summer Update

Dr. Chadi Abdallah, Director of Research (National Council for Scientific Research - CNRS)

Stephanie Laba, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR – Inter-Agency)

In a joint presentation, Dr. Chadi & Stephanie presented on the Inter-Agency Emergency Response. Main points included:

- Overview of the Inter-Agency emergency response, highlighting that the current situation has increased the vulnerability and risk of emergencies, while decreasing the capacity to respond, contain, and mitigate them.
- The anticipated emergencies for the upcoming hot summer season include weather related emergencies such as heatwaves, droughts, and fires and water-borne diseases and outbreaks such as acute watery diarrhea, cholera and hepatitis A
- There is a need for a risk map on droughts and a fire dashboard for prioritization in response efforts.
- Suggestion for adding a prioritization layer for informal settlements is being worked on.
- Concerns addressed regarding waterborne outbreaks and infectious diseases given the water scarcity and inadequate sanitation.



- Lebanon remains at a high risk of another wave of cholera due to poor infrastructure and the fading effect of vaccines.
- Conflict sensitivity is significant in emergency responses; it calls for an updated conflict analysis to be integrated into assessments during emergencies.
- Staff training on conflict sensitivity and participatory methods for community engagement are crucial.
- Dr. Chadi Abdallah was invited to present the function and products of the National Council for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Lebanon (CNRS) and its link with the DRM (Disaster Risk Management) Unit. He presented the following main points:
 - CNRS is considered the scientific arm of the government and supports the DRM; they have been conducting studies on natural hazard risk assessments since 2014, while collaborating with various organizations such as UNDP and the World Bank.
 - The Early Warning System was established in collaboration with DRM in 2015.
 - CNRS has developed a comprehensive web mapping system to plot and develop hazard maps related to soil erosion, landslides, floods, earthquakes, and fires.
 - Daily forest fire risk mapping is done using satellite imagery and models.
 - CNRS calculates the fire weather index and produces danger maps, which are communicated to the Ministry of Interior Affairs and municipalities. The information helps in issuing warnings and implementing fire risk reduction measures.
 - Interactive flood and storm dashboards allow users to select and view specific information (casualties, hazards, exposure, and impact) based on location, type of risk, and flood/storm.
 - CNRS studies on vulnerabilities and risks in informal settlements and displacement camps provide information on the level of risk and hazards faced by these communities, helping in early actions and disaster mitigation planning.

Action Point:

Inter-Agency Coordination to conduct a meeting with the CNRS on 10 July 2023 to learn more about CNRS products and their work with DRM (including the Early Warning System), to discuss guidance on droughts, and to explore possible ways of collaboration for the emergency preparedness and response.

4. Business Continuity Plan (BCP): July 2023 Update

Stephanie Laba, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR – Inter-Agency)

A general overview was presented on the BCP including the major changes for the recent updates.

Points included:

- The aim of the BCP is to:
 - a) Understand the context in which the LCRP operates, particularly in terms of the risks listed in this BCP;
 - b) Understand the interaction between the context and LCRP interventions;
 - c) Outline how partners can act on this understanding to minimize the negative impact on interventions and maximize the positive impact of operations based on risk mitigation through putting in place prevention and preparedness measures;
 - d) Provide an overview of the LCRP response capacity in-country;
 - e) Outline coordination arrangements on the ground in the event of additional crisis.
- Major changes in the BCP:
 - Shifting from the lack of containment of COVID-19 outbreak to the lack of containment of outbreaks in general and infectious diseases.
 - Updating contextualization based on current updates and developments in the country; deterioration of protection space and transfer values.



Action Point:

ISWG members are kindly requested to have a final look on the BCP and provide any last inputs from their end by Friday, 14 July 2023 COB while considering the below guiding questions:

1. Is the ISWG confident that overall, the risks and mitigations in the BCP remain relevant and appropriate? Is there anything major that we are missing in the current landscape?
2. Do all of the actions have appropriate 'owners'? How can sectors take forward ongoing action/discussion with partners on their actions?
3. As in the past, should sub-national Inter-Sector Working Groups prepare 'prioritised' versions of the BCP, focusing in on the most important actions in your areas? If so, how can we ensure consistency while allowing for flexibility in addressing local requirements?
4. What kind of support is required from beyond sectors / sub-national inter-sector working groups? Are there any resource gaps, training needs, or coordination mechanisms that need to be improved?

The online editable document is accessible via this link: [Business Continuity Plan](#).

5. AOB: Services Overview

Rasha Akil Associate Protection Officer (UNHCR – Inter-Agency)

Rasha briefed on:

- Update on the services across sectors.
- The challenge of having expired services still reported as active creates difficulties for partners seeking timely and accurate information.
- Despite the monthly automated reminder sent to partners to update their services, the percentage of expired services remains high. The goal is to aim for a 10% expiry rate in each sector.
- Any services that remain expired will be deleted to avoid misleading information on the service mapping and requested circulating a reminder among other sectors.

Action Point:

Sector coordinators to remind their partners to update the sector service mapping (available on [ActivityInfo](#) in the [0. Lebanon Service Mapping](#) database) by Wednesday, 26 July 2023 COB.

Any service which is expired needs to be removed from the mapping after the deadline to ensure that we have an updated list of services that aids us in conducting timely referrals as part of our accountability for affected people.



Annex 1

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