

Minutes of Meeting Partner Briefing – Launch of Partner Appeal

Meeting Location	Remotely Via Zoom	Meeting Date	12 February 2024
Chairperson	Camilla Jelbart Mosse, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR – Inter-Agency)	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	300+ partners have participated from the Government of Lebanon (GoL), UN Agencies, and NGOs.		
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Remarks 2. Introducing the Lebanon Response Plan 3. Sector Strategy Overview: Outcomes, Budgets, PiN, Targets 4. Launch of Partner Appeal 5. Q&A 		

1. Opening Remarks

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

In her opening remarks, Camilla Jelbart welcomed the participants and acknowledged the efforts of the Inter-Sector Coordination Team. She presented the agenda, emphasizing collaboration across Government of Lebanon (GoL) entities, Donors, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Sector Coordination Teams, and United Nations (UN) agencies.

2. Introduction to the Lebanon Response Plan

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

Camilla introduced the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) highlighting:

- The LRP is a two-year unified humanitarian stabilization response framework for crisis affected populations in Lebanon, co led by the GoL and the UN. It builds upon the previous Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (LCRP) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP).
- The LRP addresses the needs of vulnerable populations, including Lebanese, displaced Syrians, Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS), Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL), migrants (and 'other' category for reporting including refugees of other nationalities).
- The LRP also includes interventions targeting households internally displaced due to escalation in hostilities in South Lebanon across population groups.
- The development of the framework faced some delays, progress is underway as reflected in the timeline on slide 5 of the presentation [here](#), aiming to have the final plan endorsed by the LRP Steering Committee in March 2024.
- The situation analysis is informed by cross-sectoral workshops & draws on various key assessments including the Multi-sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR), Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Lebanon Vulnerability Assessment Panel (LVAP), Regular Perceptions Survey of Social Tensions throughout Lebanon (UNDP/ARK), and Lebanon Integrated Micronutrient and Anthropometry Survey (LIMA).
- Four strategic objectives guide the LRP:
 1. Enhance protection of vulnerable populations.
 2. Provide immediate humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations to ensure critical needs are met.
 3. Support service provision through national systems including national rapid response capacity.
 4. Reinforce Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability.

- Commitments include adhering to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPN); focusing on accountability through protection mainstreaming and PSEA; recognizing the vital role of local actors; and reinforcing government sectoral plans/roadmaps.
- Principles governing the LRP encompass prioritization based on targeted strategies and realistic needs, collaborative planning aligned with the UN Strategic Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), efficient implementation, strengthened area-based coordination, timely information sharing and tracking, and the adoption of a conflict-sensitive approach.
- Contextual planning assumptions include the Socio-economic crisis, infrastructure & basic services, unmet needs, impact of Syria crisis, inter-communal tensions, escalation of hostilities in the South of Lebanon, reduction in donor funding, as well as individual and institutional vulnerability.

Helena Mazarro, Deputy Head of Office (OCHA), mentioned that the total affected population, including both displaced and non-displaced, is estimated to be around 200,000 people for the first quarter of 2024 (January to March). OCHA is leading the coordination for the response to Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon while maintaining linkages with government-led coordination efforts. Helena also reminded partners that the figures related to the response to the Escalation at Southern Border should be incorporated into the partner appeal expression of interest.

3. Sector Strategy Overview: Outcomes, Budgets, PiN, Targets

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

Stephanie Laba invited sector coordination focal points to provide a general overview of their sector strategies, highlight any major changes or strategic shifts, explain how and what has been prioritized, and present key figures on budgets, People in Need (PiN), and targets. The sector presentations are available from slides 12 to 21 of the presentation [here](#).

Health

Dr. Md Shajib Hossain, Health Sector Coordinator (WHO)

- There are no major strategic shifts for the LRP 2024 Health Sector Strategy, which is developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and is aligned with the Lebanon National Health Strategy–Vision 2030, ensuring comprehensive allocation of resources.
- The four outcomes of the strategy are similar to those in the previous year, with minor refinements in terminology.
- All population groups in Lebanon are targeted based on needs and geographical locations.
- The Health Sector Strategy targets 2.45 million people with a budget of \$295 million.

Nutrition

Amirhossien Yarparvar, Nutrition Sector Coordinator (UNICEF)

- The National Nutrition Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2026) serves as a backbone for the development of the LRP 2024 Nutrition Sector Strategy, which addresses nutritional deprivations in Lebanon. The sector strategy is also informed by the preliminary results of the LIMA survey conducted in 2023.
- While there are no significant changes in the strategy, efforts have been made to prioritize activities that are crucial for children’s survival, growth, and cognitive development. Focus has therefore shifted to connecting nutrition with child development.

- Each of the three outcomes adopts a prevention-focused approach, with treatment available when prevention fails, as well as a life cycle approach, addressing early years, school-age children, adolescents, and specific groups of women.
- The strategy addresses all population groups in Lebanon and aims to support capacity development for all partners in the nutrition response, and to connect synergies with other sectors through referral mechanisms and linkages.
- The Nutrition Sector Strategy targets 0.72 million people with a budget of \$27 million.

Food Security and Agriculture

Paradie Karamanoukian, Food Security and Agriculture Sector Coordinator (WFP)

- There are no major changes in the LRP 2024 Food Security and Agriculture Sector Strategy; noting that the sector had already consolidated its activities under one logframe in the previous year, streamlining the process for 2024.
- Emphasis is placed on enhancing coordination to improve information sharing and assessment methods, and to strengthen the capacities of public institutions and humanitarian partners.
- The strategy includes 3 outcomes which focus more on activities rather than thematic concepts of food security. The outputs are distributed among different modalities targeting all population groups in Lebanon.
- The Food Security and Agriculture Sector Strategy targets 2 million people with a budget of \$821 million.

Basic Assistance

Hadi Haddad, Basic Assistance Sector Coordinator (UNHCR)

- The LRP 2024 Basic Assistance Sector Strategy is aligned with the five pillars of the National Social Protection Strategy and addresses the needs of all populations in Lebanon affected by seasonal hazards and emergencies, including provisions for core-relief items and cash assistance.
- A component on responding to the Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon is integrated, with both in-kind and emergency cash assistance.
- Specific indicators for national social grants have been added but there are no major changes in the strategy.
- The Basic Assistance Sector Strategy targets 2.42 million people with a budget of \$453 million.

Livelihoods

Yousra Taleb, Livelihoods Sector Coordinator (UNDP)

- Some activities and outputs have shuffled in the LRP 2024 Livelihoods Sector Strategy for better alignment with outcomes. However, there are no major changes.
- The focus of the strategy has shifted from working on higher-level policies and laws to working within a comprehensive ecosystem, involving unions, syndicates, employers, employees, chambers of commerce, etc.
- Targeting remains the same, focusing on actively unemployed individuals.
- In response to the Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon, activities needed for rehabilitation, cash for work, and support to businesses have been considered. Noting that the Livelihoods sector is not an emergency response sector, but a recovery sector.
- The Livelihoods Sector Strategy targets 75,000 people with a budget of \$188 million.

WaSH

Mehdi Wehbi, WaSH Sector Information Management Focal Point (UNICEF)

- The LRP 2024 WaSH Sector Strategy aims to improve access to WaSH services for vulnerable populations in both temporary and permanent locations.
- A comprehensive household-level analysis and geographical distribution assessment have been conducted to assess needs and data on water-borne diseases, WaSH-related tensions, and access perceptions have been considered to refine targeting across all populations in Lebanon.
- Interventions for water and wastewater system support in emergency and normal scenarios are prioritized, highlighting the importance of collaborating with relevant authorities and optimizing geographical insights for effective implementation.
- The WaSH Sector Strategy targets 1.64 million people with a budget of \$190 million.

Education

Caitlin Manning-Riley, Education Sector NGO Co-Coordinator (SCI)

- Aligned with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education's (MEHE) Lebanon Five-Year General Education Plan 2021-2025, the LRP 2024 Education Sector Strategy focuses on access, quality, and system strengthening in education.
- The overall strategy remains consistent with previous years, with minor adjustments to the logframe, and enhanced integration with the child protection sector to address vulnerabilities such as child labor, early marriage, and being out-of-school.
- The PiN and targeting methods are aligned with the global education cluster.
- Priority interventions related to accessing education and strengthening protection systems in crisis situations (such as the Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon) are included.
- The Education Sector Strategy targets 0.93 million people with a budget of \$284 million.

Shelter

Samar Skaff, Shelter Sector NGO Co-Coordinator (NRC)

- There are no significant changes in the LRP 2024 Shelter Sector Strategy, except for the incorporation of collective site management activities for repair and management.
- An area-based framework is adopted, potentially involving a multi-sector approach.
- The Shelter Sector Strategy targets 0.54 million people with a budget of \$100 million.

Amani Gokalp, Site Coordination Coordinator (IOM)

- Two activities have been added in response to the Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon. The first aims at enhancing site support through mobile site management, and the second focuses on capacity building of national institutions and organizations in site management and coordination.
- A detailed explanation of these activities, including sub-activities and indicators, is provided in an annex.

Protection

Sophie Etzold, Protection Sector Coordinator A.I. (UNHCR)

- The three outcome areas under the LRP 2024 Protection Sector Strategy are maintained with slight updates for a more inclusive approach focusing on legal frameworks, community engagement, and response services.
- Strategic shifts include a localization agenda reinforced through field and subnational working groups, engagement with local NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), reinforcing primary protection responsibilities of underlying ministries, using a different

protection analysis framework for case management prioritization, and focusing on evidence-based protection activities pilot projects.

- Emergency response activities are embedded throughout the strategy with focus on information sharing, access, risk mitigation, protection monitoring, and trend analysis.
- Protection, Child Protection (CP), and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) are all integrated in the overall strategy and logframe.
- The Protection Sector Strategy targets 1.56 million people with a budget of \$207 million.

Social Stability

William Barakat, Social Stability Sector Coordinator (UNDP)

- The outcomes under the LRP 2024 Social Stability sector focus on strengthening the ability of institutions and partners to alleviate resource pressure and well as their capacity to monitor and address sources of tensions.
- In response to the Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon, the sector strategy includes activities on tension monitoring and analysis, support for basic services, support for disaster risk management, and humanitarian mine action, involving clearance, awareness, and identification of areas at risk.
- The strategy emphasizes the prioritization of interventions and the targeting of all population groups in Lebanon.
- An annex has been incorporated to provide partners with guidance on targeting geographic areas, assessing tensions, and employing trust-building approaches. Special considerations for specific types of interventions are also highlighted.
- The Social Stability Sector Strategy targets 3.1 million people with a budget of \$165 million.

4. Launch of the Partner Appeal

Maroun Sader, Assistant Information Management Officer (UNHCR – Inter-Agency)

Maroun Sader briefed the partners on the LRP 2024 Partner Appeal process explaining:

- An appeal is an “ask” for funding harmonized activities / activity packages that are aligned with sector strategies. The LRP 2024 Appeal is needs-based meaning that it is the sum of the sectors’ needs-based appeal.
- LRP partners are partners appealing directly under the LRP, partners implementing activities for an organization (ex. UN) who is appealing under the LRP, and partners who participate in working groups. Partner names are listed in the LRP publication, 3Ws, sector dashboards / activity reports.
- Benefits of being an appealing partner are outlined on slide 26 of the presentation [here](#).
- The ‘LRP-Appeal’ database is created on [ActivityInfo](#) and partners can start appealing from 6 to 20 February 2024 noting that: budgets need to be added by sector output; targeted population figures need be added at sector level (Displaced Syrians, Lebanese, PRS, PRL, Migrants); governorates coverage needs to be flagged at sector level.
- Steps to Appeal are included on slide 28 of the presentation [here](#) and an example on ‘How to Appeal’ is available on slides 31 and 32.
- New partners who have not previously appealed under the LCRP or ERP are requested to submit documents for capacity assessment. The documents are listed on slide 30 of the presentation [here](#).

Listed below are key links to support partners with the LRP Partner Appeal Process.

- [3RP Regional Strategic Overview 2024](#)
- [Lebanon Information Hub](#)
- [LRP 2024 Appeal ActivityInfo Database User Guide](#)

- [LRP 2024 Appeal Template](#)
- [Sector Coordination Teams Contact List](#)

5. Q&A

The floor was opened to address questions from partners and provide clarification on the LRP Partner Appeal process. For further reference, please refer to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section in the [LRP 2024 Appeal ActivityInfo Database User Guide](#).

Action Points:

1. Inter-Sector to share the draft LRP 2024 Sector Strategies & Logframes with partners.
[DRAFT LRP 2024 Sector Strategies & Logframes](#)
2. Partners to submit their LRP 2024 Partner Appeal by Tuesday, 20 February 2024.