

Minutes of Meeting Inter-Sector Coordination Group Meeting

Meeting Location	Remotely Via Zoom	Meeting Date	10 May 2024
Chairperson(s)	-Sophia Glazunova, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR) -Elina Silen, Chief Technical Advisor (UNDP) -Helena Mazarro Garcia, Deputy Head of Office (OCHA) -Natalie Sarafian, Head of Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO)	Meeting Time	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Minutes Prepared by	Jana Nasr, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Assistant (UNHCR)	Meeting Duration	2.00 hrs.
Participants	Annex 1		
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Remarks 2. Preliminary Funding Update 3. Trends Presentation: Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, & Gender Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection • Conflict Sensitivity • Gender & GBV 4. Cross-Sectoral Referrals: Presentation by RIMS on Annual Results 5. Update on Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings of the Meeting with DRM Nabatieh • Cross-sectoral Findings from Rapid Participatory Assessment with Lebanese 6. CERF/LHF: Allocation & Next Steps 7. AoB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting and Coordination Products • 2024 3RP BXL Side Event 		

1. Opening Remarks

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

In her opening remarks, Stephanie Laba welcomed the participants, presented the agenda, and introduced Sophia Glazunova, who recently joined the Inter-Agency Coordination unit at UNHCR as the Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator and co-chair of the Inter-Sector Coordination Group alongside UNDP, OCHA, and RCO.

2. Preliminary Funding Update

Faisal Al Fakeeh, *Associate Information Management Officer (UNHCR)*

Faisal Al Fakeeh provided a funding update based on preliminary data:

- 52 partners have reported their activities, with contributions from 34 different donors.
- Funding received in the first quarter of 2024 amounts to approximately \$264.7 million, representing about 9.7 per cent of the \$2.72 billion appeal.
- Distribution of received funds: 79 per cent to UN organizations; 19 per cent to international NGOs; 2 per cent to national NGOs.
- The carry over and multi-year funding amounts to \$245.6 million.
- Therefore, available funds in Q1 2024 amount to \$510.3 based on preliminary data.
- Funding trends from 2020 to 2024 are available on slides 6 and 7 [here](#).

Action Point:

1. Sector Coordination Teams to check the funding data related to their sectors, identify any inaccuracies or anomalies, and revert to Faisal Al Fakeeh at alfakeeh@unhcr.org by **Monday 13 May 2024 COB**.
2. Faisal & IMO's to incorporate comments from sector, publish final data, and share it with members of the ISCG.

3. Trends Presentation: Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, & Gender Remarks

Protection

Josiane Noun, Protection Sector NGO Coordinator (NRC)

Josiane Noun provided an overview of main protection trends witnessed over Q1 2024:

- General referral trends for 2023 showed a high volume of protection-related service requests.
- Over 1,000 restrictive measures, increased legal fees, and heightened anti-refugee sentiments have severely limited the capacity of Syrians to register births and renew residency, leading to increased onward movements by boat and returns.
- Debt accumulation, livelihood insecurity, and limited access to essential services have disproportionately impacted children and women, exacerbating issues like violence and child labor.
- Displacement has heightened protection risks for families, particularly for persons with disabilities and older persons, while causing increased distress among children and caregivers.
- Starting 23 March 2024, protests led to closures of UNRWA installations, impacting access to services, schooling, and medication distribution, while ongoing violence in several camps and the escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon have exacerbated livelihood issues and mental health problems among Palestine refugee families.
- There has been an increase in new migrant arrivals in 2024 compared to previous years and an increased demand for legal services, cash assistance, and medical support.
- Migrants continue to face ongoing challenges such as wage withholding and document confiscation by employers.

Sophie Etzold, Protection Sector Coordinator (UNHCR)

Sophie Etzold discussed disability inclusion as part of protection mainstreaming efforts:

- Feedback from Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) indicates significant shortcomings in including persons with disabilities (PWD) and older persons in programs, particularly in project development, engagement, accessibility, communication, and data disaggregation.
- The Disability Mainstreaming Project by Humanity Inclusion (HI) has developed pools of disability inclusion trainers for local and international NGOs as well as an inclusion checklist. The project also aims to help sectors enhance disaggregation and review accessibility.

Conflict Sensitivity

Nisreen Jaafar, Conflict Analysis and Mainstreaming Officer (UNDP)

Nisreen Jaafar highlighted conflict sensitivity resources and tools, capacity building, and trends:

- Conflict sensitivity mainstreaming resources and tools include regular reporting and reports, production of 6 Lebanon specific guidance notes, training of 1,000+ partner staff per year (90 organizations), and technical support to all sectors.

- Plans for 2024 include expanding conflict sensitivity training, covering both Arabic and English, and doubling the number of graduates from the training of trainers program.
- A conflict sensitivity monitoring and evaluation guidance note is being developed by UNDP and will be made publicly available once it is finalized.
- A conflict sensitivity in emergencies checklist is available to support actors in emergency contexts such as we escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon.
- Conflict-sensitive communication strategies, both strategically and at the local community level, are essential to ensure that conflict sensitivity is mainstreamed across various themes.

Gender & GBV

Simona Pari, Inter-Agency Gender Specialist (UNDP)

Simona Pari discussed latest tools and trainings on gender and gender-based violence (GBV):

- At the inter-sector level, ten gender and GBV risk mitigation sector focal points have been trained to support sectors noting that technical support to focal points and mentorship to organizations is ongoing.
- Moreover, gender action plans are available to support mainstreaming across annual work plans.
- Sector-specific gender and GBV risk mitigation tipsheets and gender analysis sectoral briefings are also being finalized and will be made available.
- Training materials include a comprehensive training package as well as a gender e-learning module.
- A report on mapping and supporting women's rights and women-led organizations in Lebanon will soon be published with contacts and key information.

4. Cross-Sectoral Referrals: Presentation by RIMS on Annual Results

Anastasia Mokdad, Referral Information Management Coordinator (DRC)

Anastasia Mokdad presented the 2023 Referral Information Management System (RIMS) annual results:

- RIMS is a referral tool developed by the Danish Refugee Council and is used by over 160 organizations to facilitate referrals, with 19,546 referrals processed in 2023.
- The sectors who received the highest number of referrals in 2023 were protection, health, and child protection (details for each sector available on slides 25, 26, and 27 respectively [here](#)).
- The highest volume of referrals in 2023 was witnessed in November.
- Mount Lebanon consistently stands out at the regional level, reporting the highest number of referrals on RIMS where protection, child protection, and education sectors are predominantly featured.
- The North and Akkar region exhibits diverse referral priorities, including protection, health, and basic assistance.
- The primary referrals conducted in Beirut are for education, health, and protection services.
- In the south, especially during the last three months of 2023, top priority needs were for basic assistance, protection, and education services.
- Elaborate key recommendations on enhancing cross-sectoral responsiveness, addressing resources constraints, promoting equitable service distribution, adapting to seasonal variation, and enhancing demographic representation are available on slide 28 [here](#).

Action Point:

3. Inter-Sector to share the 2023 RIMS Annual Report and the RIMS One Pager Overview with the participants after the meeting.

5. Update on Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon

Findings of the meeting with DRM Nabatieh

Jinan Chinder, South Area Manager (UNDP)

Jinan Chinder discussed findings following the recent meeting with the Disaster Risk Management (DRM) unit in Nabatieh:

- Due to limited livelihood opportunities, there is a rise in tensions between displaced people and the host community in Nabatieh.
- Tension is also escalating among residents in apartments provided by local owners due to overcrowded living conditions and shared resources, contributing to a volatile living environment.
- To effectively assess and respond to the emergency needs, coordinated field visits by donors and implementing partners with local authorities are needed.
- There has been minimal support to address the urgent emergency needs specific to the summer season, necessitating immediate action.

Cross-sectoral Findings from Rapid Participatory Assessment with Lebanese

Sophie Etzold, Protection Sector Coordinator

Sophie provided an overview of the Rapid Participatory Assessment with internally displaced Lebanese due to the escalation of hostilities in South Lebanon:

- The assessment was conducted between 12 and 15 March 2024 targeting collective shelters and urban spaces to:
 - Identify protection and cross-sectoral risks and needs.
 - Map agencies, services, community structures supporting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).
 - Identify community capacities for self-protection and decision-making structures.
 - Provide cross-sectoral recommendations.
- The methodology was comprised of desk reviews, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews.
- Identified immediate priorities include returning to homes in peace, access food/basic needs, being in a private shelter, and access to medication. Further concerns are mentioned on slide 35 [here](#).
- The complete findings from the assessment are accessible [here](#).

6. CERF/LHF: Allocation and Next Steps

Yendi Ghossein, Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (OCHA)

Yendi Ghossein provided an update on the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) / Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) allocation and next steps:

- LHF allocation of \$21 million: The allocation process was reviewed, with a focus on the strategic alignment of funding. The closing date for allocations has been extended to May 22 and a meeting is scheduled to discuss the scorecard and project revisions.
- CERF allocation of \$9 million: Feedback from headquarters was discussed, leading to adjustments in the submission. The disbursement is expected by the end of May or early June 2024.
- The proposed timeline is displayed on slide 44 [here](#).

- Strategic review committees will have balanced representation of UN agencies, national NGOs, international NGOs, and gender and disability experts.
- The three pillars of the allocation are:
 1. Multisectoral response to needs arising from conflict in South Lebanon through provision of comprehensive packages of services for people displaced or remaining in area of conflict.
 2. Addressing unmet multi-sectoral needs across Lebanon for most vulnerable profiles of people in need.
 3. Support a strengthened localized response in line with LHF 2024 Localization Strategy.

7. AoB

Stephanie Laba, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR)

Reporting and Coordination Products

Stephanie thanked the sectors who submitted their Q1 2024 dashboards and reminded those who haven't to kindly submit them. She mentioned that if the LRP is not endorsed by the time the dashboards are published, a disclaimer will be included noting that the strategy is pending endorsement by the steering committee. Additionally, she offered IM support for sectors experiencing difficulties in drafting and submitting their dashboards.

Action Point:

4. Sector coordinators to submit their Q1 2024 dashboards at their earliest convenience as the submission deadline was 8 May 2024 COB.

2024 3RP BXL Side Event

Stephanie announced the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP) BXL side event titled "The situation of Syrian refugees in neighboring countries: Challenges, opportunities, and ways forward" and encouraged participants to [REGISTER](#) for it. The event will be taking place on 22 May 2024, 4:00 - 5:30 PM (Beirut time). Further details and information can be found [here](#).

Action Point:

5. Inter-Sector to share the BXL Side Event registration link with the participants after the meeting.

Annex 1

Name	Title	Organization	Email
Abdulrahman Abdelghani	Shelter Sector Coordinator	UNHCR	abdelgab@unhcr.org
Alain Chatry	North Area Manager	UNDP	alain.chatry@undp.org
Amani Gokalp	Site Coordination Focal Point	IOM	agokalp@iom.int
Anastasia Mokdad	Referral Information Management Coordinator	DRC	anastasia.mokdad@drc.ngo
Annaliza Laylo	NGO Co-Coordinator	Save the Children	Annaliza.Laylo@savethechildren.org
Bahaa Hilal	Health Sector IM Focal Point	WHO	hilalb@who.int
Caitlin Carr	LHIF Country Coordinator	LHIF	coordinator@lhif.org
Checrallah AbouJaoude	Assistant Government Liaison Officer	UNHCR	aboujc@unhcr.org
Dayane Ibrahim	DTM/Site Coordination IM Focal Point	IOM	daibrahim@iom.int
Elina Silen	Chief Technical Advisor	UNDP	elina.silen@undp.org
Faisal Alfakeeh	Associate Information Management Officer	UNHCR	alfakeeh@unhcr.org
Gulsun Inal	Child Protection Coordinator	UNICEF	iinal@unicef.org
Hadi Haddad	Basic Assistance Sector Coordinator	UNHCR	haddadh@unhcr.org
Helena Mazarro Garcia	Deputy Head of Office	OCHA	mazarro@un.org
Houssein Sweid	SRH Coordinator	UNFPA	sweid@unfpa.org
Hovig Atamian	FSA Sector NGO Co-Coordinator	CARE	hovigatamian@careliban.org
Jakub Pajak	WaSH Sector Coordinator	UNICEF	jpajak@unicef.org
Jana Nasr	Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Assistant	UNHCR	nasr@unhcr.org
Jinan Chinder	South Area Manager	UNDP	jinan.chinder@undp.org
John F		OCHA	
Josiane Noun	Protection Sector NGO Co-Coordinator	NRC	josiane.noun@nrc.no
Kaja Holmeide Blattmann	Migrant Sector Coordinator	IOM	kblattmann@iom.int
Kassem Chaalan	Disaster Risk Reduction Director	LRC	kassem.chaalan@redcross.org.lb
Khouloud Mahdi	Humanitarian Affairs Officer	OCHA	khouloud.mahdi@un.org

Lana Simpraga	Task Force Co-Lead - A.I.	UNFPA	simpraga@unfpa.org
Maguy Ghanem	Program Specialist	UNFPA	maghanem@unfpa.org
Malak Kanj	Associate Information Management Officer	OCHA	malak.kanj@un.org
Manon Suzanne Astrid Jones	Information Management	IOM	majones@iom.int
Marguerite Nowak	Head of Bekaa Office	UNHCR	nowak@unhcr.org
Maroun Sader	Assistant Information Management Officer	UNHCR	sader@unhcr.org
Mira Mokdad	Nutrition Sector NGO Co-Coordinator	ACF Spain	mmokdad@lb.acfspain.org
Mohammad Nasser	Information Management Officer	UNDP	mohammad.nasser@undp.org
Nanthawan Assawamanakul	Protection Officer	UNHCR	assawamn@unhcr.org
Nisreen Jaafar	Conflict Analysis and Reporting Officer	UNDP	nisreen.jaafar@undp.org
Ola Boutros	MoSA Gov. Focal Point	MoSA	olaboutros@gmail.com
Pamela Di Camillo	Gender & GBV Task Force Co-Lead	UNFPA	dicamillo@unfpa.org
Paradie Karamanoukian	Food Security and Agriculture Sector Coordinator	WFP	pardie.karamanoukian@wfp.org
Racha Hajj			
Raffi Kouzoudjian	Basic Assistance Sector IM Focal Point	UNHCR	kouzoudj@unhcr.org
Randa Hobeich	Social Stability Sector Lead	MoIM	randahobeiche@yahoo.com
Robin Saghbini	Comprehensive Refugee Response Officer	UNHCR	saghbini@unhcr.org
Shajib Hossain	Health Sector Coordinator	WHO	smd@who.int
Shoghi Emerson	Head of Programmes	DRC	shoghi.emerson@drc.ngo
Simona Pari	Inter-Agency Gender Specialist	UNDP	simona.pari@undp.org
Sonia Ben Salem	Basic Assistance Sector NGO Co- Coordinator	ACF Spain	sbensalem@lb.acfspain.org
Sophia Glazunova	Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator	UNHCR	glazunov@unhcr.org
Sophie Etzold	Protection & GBV Coordinator	UNHCR	etzold@unhcr.org
Stephanie Antoun	LHDF Coordinator	UNHCR	ingosforum@gmail.com
Stephanie Laba	Inter-Agency Coordination Officer	UNHCR	labas@unhcr.org

	& Health Sector Coordinator		
Talin Sahakian	Education Sector Coordinator	UNICEF	tsahakian@unicef.org
Tatsuji Shinohara	Humanitarian Affairs Manager	UNICEF	tshinohara@unicef.org
Try Harysantoso	Chief of Field Office (Tyre)	UNICEF	tharysantoso@unicef.org
Vicken Ashkarian	Child Protection & Education Sectors IM Focal Point	UNICEF	vashkarian@unicef.org
William Barakat	Social Stability Sector Coordinator	UNDP	william.barakat@undp.org
Yendi Ghossein	Lebanon Humanitarian Fund	OCHA	ghossein@un.org
Yousra Taleb	Livelihoods Sector Coordinator	UNDP	yousra.taleb@undp.org