

Minutes of Meeting Lebanon Response Plan Partners' Update Meeting

Meeting Location	Remotely Via Zoom	Meeting Date	17 May 2024
Chairperson(s)	-Sophia Glazunova, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR) -Yusra Taleb, National Livelihoods Coordination Officer (UNDP) -Helena Mazarro Garcia, Deputy Head of Office (OCHA)	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	200+ partners have participated from the Government of Lebanon (GoL), UN Agencies, and NGOs.		
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening Remarks 2. Funding Update: Q1 2024 3. VIII Brussels Conference 4. Cross-Sectoral Referrals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 2023 Referral Data by Sectors • RIMS Annual Results 5. Trends Presentation: Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, & Gender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection • Conflict Sensitivity • Gender & GBV 6. Update on Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Situation Updates & Products (Flash Update) • South Rapid Participatory Assessment • Situation of Displaced Adolescent Girls and Young Women (UNICEF) 		

1. Opening Remarks

Sophia Glazunova, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR)

Yusra Taleb, National Livelihoods Coordination Officer (UNDP)

Helena Mazarro Garcia, Deputy Head of Office (OCHA)

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) Co-Chairs welcomed the participants and presented the agenda.

2. Funding Update: Q1 2024

Faisal Al Fakeeh, Associate Information Management Officer (UNHCR)

Faisal Al Fakeeh presented the funding update for Q1 2024:

- \$557.3 million was made available in the first quarter of 2024, representing about 10 per cent of the \$2.72 billion appeal.
- Out of the available funding, \$268.4 million was received between January and March 2024, and \$288.9 million is carried over as a part of a multi-year funding.
- Around \$10.9 million was received for the response to the escalation of hostilities in south Lebanon.
- The Food Security and Agriculture sector received the most funding, while the Nutrition sector received the least funding.
- Sectors are encouraged to identify new potential funding opportunities and partnerships.
- Funding trends from 2020 to 2024 are available on slides 7 and 8 [here](#).

3. VIII Brussels Conference

Daniella Khalil Protection and Community Economic Development Program Coordinator (Amel Association – LHDF Committee Member)

Daniella Khalil presented an update on eighth Brussels Conference on “Supporting the future of Syria and the region”, which took place in April for various non-governmental participants:

- The conference saw significant involvement from European donors, indicating a commitment to collaborate closely on addressing the Syrian refugee crisis in Lebanon.
- There was a focus on addressing the tensions arising from competition over scarce resources between the host and refugee communities. This involved discussions on the equitable allocation of resources and efforts to mitigate tensions through various strategies.
- A round table discussion emphasized enhancing the sustainability of basic services and creating income opportunities for refugees and host communities.
- There was a recognition of the specific vulnerabilities faced by youth and other vulnerable populations, such as migrant workers, LGBTQIA individuals, and people with disabilities.
- The conference also addressed the economic crisis in Lebanon and its impact on both refugees and host communities.
- It was emphasized that organizational projects need to be aligned with the priorities outlined in the conference to maximize funding potential.

4. Cross-Sectoral Referrals

Review of 2023 Referral Data by Sectors

Sophie Etzold, Protection Sector Coordinator (UNHCR)

Sophie Etzold provided an overview of 2023 referrals data:

- A total of 153,112 referrals were received in 2023 across sectors and systems, noting that the majority were received in Q3.
- The high number of referrals to the Protection sector (71,000) suggests a significant need for services related to safety, security, and well-being. This could be due to ongoing crises or specific vulnerabilities faced by certain populations.
- Mount Lebanon, Bekaa, and the North governorates have the most referrals. This might indicate that these are areas with heightened vulnerability or limited-service availability.
- The data suggests that many referrals aren't being acknowledged or accepted by receiving agencies. This could be due to a lack of capacity, unclear eligibility criteria, or communication issues.
- Sector coordinators are encouraged to analyze referral data and pinpoint sectors with high unmet needs or areas with low referral success rates to inform targeted interventions.
- Key service mapping and referral tools are available on the [Lebanon Information Hub](#).

RIMS Annual Results

Anastasia Mokdad, Referral Information Management Coordinator (DRC)

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

- RIMS is a cross-sectoral, inclusive, and protected referral tool developed by the Danish Refugee Council and is used by over 160 organizations to facilitate referrals.
- 19,546 referrals were processed in 2023 with increased successful resolutions, noting that the highest volume of referrals was witnessed in November.

- The sectors who received the highest number of referrals in 2023 were protection, health, and child protection.
- Mount Lebanon consistently stands out at the regional level, reporting the highest number of referrals on RIMS with 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.
- Challenges and response rates are outlined on slide 22 [here](#).

5. Trends Presentation: Protection, Conflict Sensitivity, & Gender

Protection

Sophie Etzold, Protection Sector Coordinator (UNHCR)

Sophie Etzold provided an overview of main protection trends witnessed over Q1 2024:

- Communal tensions and restrictive measures targeting Syrians have significantly increased. Measures include movement restrictions, raids, taxes/fees affecting refugees, checkpoints, data collection, restriction to livelihood and rental accommodations.
- Several circulars and internal memos were issued by GSO imposing significant increases in residency fees, including a steep rise of LBP 4,900,000 for renewals even after one day of expiration, and eliminated waivers for UNHCR certificate holders, complicating residency regularization.
- A surge in boat departures from Lebanon to Cyprus was witnessed in April with more than 20 boat departures in April encompassing more than 1,000 passengers.
- There was an alarming case of trafficking by a criminal network of pedophiles luring children through social media (tiktok) to meet with perpetrators which resulted in their exposure to rape and sexual violence.

Conflict Sensitivity

Nisreen Jaafar, Conflict Analysis and Mainstreaming Officer (UNDP)

Nisreen Jaafar highlighted findings from the Q1 2024 Tensions Monitoring System (TMS) and conflict sensitivity mainstreaming resources:

- Community insecurity is heightened with high propensity to violence, leading to dramatically worsening perceptions of safety and security, scapegoating of refugees, violence against alleged perpetrators, and informal security arrangements.
- There have been continued anti-refugee actions and renewed negative sentiments toward the international community.
- Hostilities in the South continue to drive inter- and intra-communal tensions.
- Economic and Labor-related incidents have increased compared to the fourth quarter of 2023, as discontent with the government the over wage policy emerged prominently.
- Incorporating conflict sensitivity into all programming to avoid exacerbating tensions is crucial; best practices include community consultations and conflict risk assessments.
- A conflict sensitivity monitoring and evaluation guidance note is being developed by UNDP and a conflict sensitivity in emergencies checklist is available to support actors.

Gender & GBV

Simona Pari, Inter-Agency Gender Specialist (UNDP)

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

- Gender and GBV risk mitigation focal points across all 10 sectors have been trained.
- A series of training sessions aimed at capacity-building were conducted, targeting relief workers.
- Technical support is available for local organizations seeking assistance in integrating gender perspectives into their projects.
- Gender training packages in Arabic and English are now available for download. These packages include practical exercises and examples, making them easy to use and adaptable to organizational needs.
- Gender analysis briefings tailored to specific sectors have also been developed, providing practical tips and examples for integrating gender considerations throughout project cycles.
- An online gender training program has been launched to accommodate participants who may not be able to attend in-person sessions.
- Participants are encouraged to download available resources and utilize them within their organizations or share them with partners.

Action Point:

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

6. Update on Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon

Situation Updates & Products (Flash Update)

Helena Mazarro Garcia, Deputy Head of Office (OCHA)

Helena Mazarro provided an update on the Escalation of Hostilities in South Lebanon.

- Hostilities continue in the South, with approximately 20,000 to 25,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) across various locations.
- Efforts are ongoing to provide shelter and assistance to affected civilians, with a focus on monitoring civilian casualties.
- Updates on the situation and assistance efforts will be shared regularly through reports and coordination meetings which are currently occurring on a bi-weekly basis.
- A system is in place to facilitate the movement of humanitarian missions in border areas, where significant needs persist.
- Collaboration with various organizations, including IOM and the Lebanese Red Cross, ensures comprehensive assistance and distribution of resources.
- Funding allocation discussions are underway, with a significant portion expected to support the south response.
- The latest flash update highlighted urgent needs for humanitarian assistance, particularly in shelter, food, and medical aid.
- Key figures on displacement, casualties, and civilian infrastructure are available on slide 31 [here](#).

South Rapid Participatory Assessment

Sophie Etzold, Protection Sector Coordinator

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

- The assessment conducted on 12-15 March 2024 targeted collective shelters and urban spaces to:
 - Identify protection and cross-sectoral risks and needs.
 - Map agencies, services, community structures supporting 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](#).
- Recommendations across Protection, Basic Assistance, Livelihoods, Health, WaSH, and Education sectors are listed on slide 36 [here](#).
- The complete findings from the assessment are accessible [here](#).

Situation of Displaced Adolescent Girls and Young Women (UNICEF)

Tatsuji Shinohara, Emergency Specialist (UNICEF)

Tatsuji Shinohara introduced the report on the ‘Situation of Displaced Adolescent Girls and Young Women in the South of Lebanon’ and presented key highlights:

- The comprehensive analysis of the findings was derived from both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.
- The study engaged 46 participants, comprising adolescent girls and young women aged between 11 and 24 years old, with a demographic breakdown of 93% Lebanese and 7% Syrian.
- This research was conducted in collaboration with two key partners, Terre des Hommes Lausanne (TDH Lausanne) and INTERSOS, ensuring a robust and multidisciplinary approach.
- Data was gathered from four shelters situated in the South of Lebanon, providing critical insights into the living conditions, unique challenges, and needs of displaced young females.
- Key findings on safety, learning, and household chores are highlighted on slide 38 [here](#).
- Targeted interventions are urgently needed and proposed action plans include:
 - Establishing safe spaces and educational programs tailored for adolescent girls and young women.
 - Enhancing GBV prevention and response initiatives, including community awareness campaigns and support services.
 - Collaborating with local and international partners to ensure comprehensive and coordinated support.

Action Point:

2. Inter-Sector to share the UNICEF report on the ‘Situation of Displaced Adolescent Girls and Young Women in the South of Lebanon’ with the participants after the meeting.