

Minutes of Meeting Inter-Sector Coordination Group Meeting

Meeting Location	Remotely Via Zoom	Meeting Date	7 June 2024
Chairperson(s)	-Sophia Glazunova, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR) -Elena Ferrari, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNDP) -Helena Mazarro Garcia, Deputy Head of Office (OCHA) -Camilla Jelbart, Senior Response Advisor (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"> Opening Remarks LRP Update PSEA Global Comprehensive Assessment WaSH Conditions in Informal Settlements and its Potential Impacts Tensions Overview AoB 		

1. Opening Remarks

Sophia Glazunova, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR)

Elena Ferrari, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNDP)

Helena Mazarro, Deputy Head of Office (OCHA)

In their opening remarks, the LRP Co-Chairs welcomed the participants, presented the agenda, and highlighted the significance of sector contributions to the discussions.

2. LRP Update

Camilla Jelbart, Senior Response Advisor (RCO)

Camilla Jelbart provided an update on the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP):

- The Government of Lebanon (GoL) has confirmed that the LRP will serve as a common framework to objectively respond to the ongoing impact of crises and prioritize the provision of assistance and support to vulnerable populations in Lebanon.
- A new LRP Steering Committee (SC) will be formed to provide strategic oversight of the response and will be convened to endorse the SC Terms of Reference and the 2024 LRP.
- An ISCG planning workshop is scheduled for 21 June 2024 to discuss the Inter-Sector Workplan for the remaining 6 months of 2024 and to engage in a more detailed discussion on the next steps of the LRP process. Further details are available on slide 6 [here](#).
- There are plans to hold a comprehensive LRP donors meeting, inclusive of all donors supporting the LRP, not just those in the informal donor working group or the steering committee. The meeting will focus on mid-year progress, challenges, and funding gaps.
- Subnational consultations on response and coordination will be initiated over the summer to gather inputs and enhance coordination at the local level.
- A kick-off workshop for LRP planning is scheduled for September, which will help shape the strategic direction and priorities for the next phase of the LRP.
- Key dates are available on slide 7 [here](#).

Discussion:

- **Challenges:** Participants discussed the challenges in implementing the LRP in areas with high levels of instability and limited access. The need for flexible and adaptive planning to address these challenges was emphasized.
- **Funding Gaps:** Participants highlighted significant funding gaps that are hindering progress in key areas and agreed on the importance of presenting a clear and compelling case to donors to secure additional funding.
- **Coordination:** Participants discussed the importance of improved coordination among different sectors and stakeholders to avoid duplication of efforts and ensure efficient use of resources. The role of subnational consultations in enhancing this coordination was also emphasized.
- **Community Engagement:** Participants expressed the need for greater community engagement, recommending more active involvement of local communities in planning and implementation processes. This approach would aim to ensure that interventions are contextually appropriate and sustainable.

3. PSEA Global Comprehensive Assessment

Elisa Cappelletti, PSEA Network Coordinator (OCHA)

Moira Reddick, Consultant (UN Office of the Special Coordinator on SEA)

Elisa Cappelletti and Moira Reddick emphasized the need for institutionalizing PSEA within the global cluster terms of reference. They discussed the specific challenges in Lebanon identified during meetings and field visits:

- PSEA efforts in Lebanon are not fully institutionalized, meaning they are not deeply embedded within the structures and operations of relevant organizations.
- There is a recurring issue of turnover in personnel responsible for PSEA coordination, leading to periods of inconsistency and impacting the continuity of efforts.
- PSEA is not fully integrated into global staffing norms, meaning it may not receive consistent attention or priority across different phases or rotations of personnel.
- Despite challenges, there has been significant PSEA capacity building in Lebanon over the past eight years, and there have been substantial efforts to keep PSEA initiatives moving forward during transitional periods.
- The PSEA network aims to work with sector coordinators in Lebanon to address the identified challenges, implement best practices, and overcome bottlenecks.
- The following four questions were posed to guide the discussion:
 1. What are the main PSEA challenges currently faced?
 2. How can best practices be effectively implemented?
 3. What gaps need immediate attention?
 4. What are the bottlenecks hindering progress?

Discussion:

- **Challenges:** Balancing competing priorities makes it difficult to prioritize PSEA. The integration of PSEA into programming faces obstacles due to lack of clarity, thereby hindering effective implementation. Furthermore, limited resources and capacity, particularly at the subnational level, pose significant challenges. Tackling these issues requires sustainable resourcing, particularly at the national and subnational levels.
- **Implementation of Best Practices:** Identifying dedicated PSEA resource persons (not focal points) at both national and subnational levels would help ensure sustained focus on PSEA needs. Moreover, using tip sheets and practical guidance is a seamlessly way to integrate PSEA into program design, strategy development, and organizational practices. Engaging

partners and sectors to tailor approaches and address specific needs would foster collaboration and enhance effectiveness.

- **Addressing Gaps:** Establishing clear referral pathways and providing guidance for handling PSEA issues is essential. Enhancing awareness and understanding of PSEA, is also crucial for implementation of activities. Moreover, providing material and human resources support from PSEA colleagues, as well as customizing approaches for different partners and sectors, can bridge existing gaps and strengthen efforts through tailored solutions.
- **Bottlenecks Hindering Progress:** Limited resources and capacity, as well as competing priorities, pose significant challenges. The limited understanding of how to integrate PSEA into program activities, and the difficulty in operationalizing guidance further hinders progress. Moreover, lack of expertise in measuring PSEA impact and risk in programming calls for innovative solutions.
- **Sectors:** For Health and other sectors, it would be beneficial to first identify a roadmap featuring practical strategies for PSEA mainstreaming, tailored to each sector and type of activity, and then to develop methods to measure outcomes.

4. WaSH Conditions in Informal Settlements and its Potential Impacts

Jakub Pajak, WaSH Sector Coordinator (UNICEF)

Jakub Pakak presented the overall WaSH conditions in informal settlements and brought attention to the significant impacts and risks:

- Around US\$35 million annually is required to deliver adequate, up-to-standard WaSH services and facilities to displaced Syrians in informal settlements (ISs). The significant decrease in funding puts these vital services at risk and could result in suspending water trucking and desludging services for 100,000 more residents.
- Due to contaminated water sources and irregular water supply, many informal settlements lack reliable access to clean and safe drinking water.
- Moreover, many sanitation facilities are either non-functional or not properly maintained, including the lack of adequate toilets and bathing facilities.
- Ineffective waste management practices, including the absence of regular garbage collection, are leading to the accumulation of waste in living areas, which exacerbates health risks and incidences of waterborne diseases such as cholera, dysentery, and typhoid.
- Other hygiene-related illnesses are also prevalent, including skin infections and respiratory issues, stemming from inadequate sanitation and waste management.
- The necessity to mitigate these health hazards calls for urgent improvements to WaSH infrastructure to meet basic human needs and ensure a dignified living environment.
- The WaSH sector appeals to donors for diversified funding to meet 2025 needs, fill the 2024 funding gap, uphold technical standards, support infrastructure, utilities, and ensure targeted provision via cash-based responses.
- The WaSH sector urges Lebanese authorities to fulfill SDG 6 commitments, uphold the Human Right to Water and Sanitation, integrate displaced populations into planning, and reduce service costs.

Hussein Younes, WaSH Secor Co-coordinator (WVI)

Hussein Younes proposed various strategies to improve WaSH conditions in informal settlements and discussed the broader impacts of improved WaSH conditions:

- Regular maintenance schedules and immediate repairs to damaged facilities would help establish long-term functionality of WaSH infrastructure.

- Adopting community-based approaches would ensure that solutions are contextually appropriate and sustainable. Approaches can include involving local residents in the planning and implementation of WaSH improvements, conducting trainings, and empowering community members to take an active role in managing WaSH facilities.
- Moreover, establishing partnerships with local authorities and NGOs would provide consistent and reliable WaSH services and help guarantee uninterrupted service delivery.
- Improved WaSH infrastructure would lead to significant improvements in public health situations, reducing disease prevalence and overall healthcare costs. It would also enhance the quality of life for residents which will have potential social benefits, including increased school attendance and productivity due to better health.
- Accordingly, WaSH conditions have the potential to significantly contribute to social stability and community resilience in the face of environmental challenges.

5. Tensions Overview

Nisreen Jaafar, [Conflict Analysis and Mainstreaming Officer \(UNDP\)](#)

Nisreen Jaafar presented an overview of tensions and perceptions, and highlighted the major recent trends:

- Q1 2024 saw a notable increase in community insecurity, marked by a greater likelihood of violence, which is contributing to deteriorating perceptions of safety.
- Additionally, there are ongoing restrictive measures and negative sentiment toward the international community.
- Internally, Lebanese relations are strained due to political and economic issues, resulting in increased strikes and protests, although some tension is alleviated by government salary reforms.
- Furthermore, conflict in the South is intensifying, fueling inter- and intra-communal tensions, particularly regarding displacement and strife over the engagement in the war.
- High insecurity, clashes, and violence were reported in Q1, with increased perceptions of unsafety, noting that social media sentiments around insecurity peaked in April 2024.
- Service-related tensions across populations vary across regions as noted on slide 30 [here](#).
- Drivers of inter-communal tensions remain largely economic in nature, while drivers of intra-Lebanese tensions are political and sectarian in around 50% of the districts.
- It is essential to adopt strategies to mitigate these tensions, emphasizing the importance of coordination with local authorities, community leaders, and other stakeholders to navigate complex environments and ensure the continuation of critical service delivery.

6. AoB

Helena Mazarro, [Deputy Head of Office \(OCHA\)](#)

Helena Mazarro reminded sectors of the upcoming Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) lessons learned session scheduled for 20 June 2024, led by REACH. The MSNA is being rebranded as LENA (Lebanon Extension Needs Assessment) to reflect its updated approach and collaboration. This is part of a broader effort to expand collaboration, including partnerships with WFP, IOM, UNICEF, and UNHCR.

7. Closing Remarks

Sophia Glazunova, [Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator \(UNHCR\)](#)

Elena Ferrari, [Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator \(UNDP\)](#)

Helena Mazarro, [Deputy Head of Office \(OCHA\)](#)

In their closing remarks, the LRP Co-Chairs thanked the attendees for their participation, reminded them of the upcoming Inter-Sector planning workshop on 21 June 2024. The next ISCG meeting is scheduled for 5 July 2024.

Annex 1

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