



BML Livelihoods Sector Working Groups Meeting - Minutes

BML Livelihoods WG Minutes of Meeting			
Name	Livelihoods WG / Coordination Meeting	Meeting Date	7 th August 2024
Meeting Location	UNDP – Qubic Business Center _ Sinn el Fil	Meeting Time	10:00 am till 11:30 am
Chairperson	Marianne Al Haibe/ UNDP Amir Mounif / MoSA	Meeting Duration	1.5h
Minutes Prepared By	Marianne Al Haibe / UNDP		
Participants 12 Organizations	Elias Sahyoun / JRS – Manal Mudawar / Beit El Baraka – Sabine Nassim / Beit El Baraka – Rachad Sakr / LMTA – Leah Andraos / Caritas – Vartkes Keutelian / Makhzoumi Foundation – Nada Ozeir / LUPD – Karlyn Maamari / UNHCR – Joseph Bou Jaoudeh / NRC – Amir Mounif / MoSA – Hoda Khatoun / Amel Association – Stephanie El Rayes / UNOPS – Abbas Tohme / LUPD Volunteer		
Meeting Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome and Introductions - Mid-year assessment: Challenges and Lessons Learned - BCP and Contingency Planning - AoB 		

Summary of Discussion Points

I.	Welcome and Introduction
	The meeting started with a round of introductions for all attending partners.
IV.	Challenges and Lessons Learned

- **Vocational Training:**

- **Challenges:**

- Partners giving different incentives is leading to participants leaving some programs to enroll in others with better incentives such as transportation fees, provision of kits, and provision of certificates.
- Some market assessment results are topics that are not feasible to be implemented especially by certain groups of people such as PwD.
- Some VT graduates are not able to secure an internship because their certificates are not official and they only receive a certificate of attendance.
- Some participants are attending different VT implemented by different partners making it hard for partners to track them.
- Data sharing is always a challenge and partners lack access to available data and sampling is never being enough and well representative.

- **Lessons Learned:**

- In PwD programming, it is helpful to conduct a home visit followed by an assessment to the status of the person prior to registration and conducting the baseline.
- Budget Reallocation for transportation if needed.
- Provide online sessions when facing challenges in access to activities.
- Incorporate safe childcare spaces to give caregivers the ability to take part in activities.
- Schedule sessions for women during school times.
- Schedule sessions for men and for working women in the afternoon.
- Have a unified incentives package by organizations (unified transportation fees, etc)
- Build the selection of courses on Job Market assessment and not on available trends.
- Tailor programs based on the interest of community members and participants.
- Work in consortiums – organizations can divide sectors among each other and each can work on a topic ensuring they have a joint market analysis and creating a better impact.
- Referrals.
- Tailor the programs based on the conducted outreach.

- **BCP and Contingency Planning:**

- Due to the current situation, there is a decrease in commitment among participants.
- Two organizations mentioned that they are working on contingency planning, yet none is final yet.
- In case the situation escalates, partners are considering shifting to online, changing location, or even stopping activities - Shifting to cash for work and distribution – Shortening the VT and providing short internships and on-the-job training in affected areas.

- **Support to Businesses:**

- **Challenges:**

- Funding
- Outreaching registered businesses
- Sharing data leading to breaches in implementation

- **Best Practices:**

- Ensure linkages to market

- Have tailored services
- Have practical interventions and a participatory approach.

- **Recommendations:**

- Look into alternative funding such as crowdfunding

- **BCP and Contingency Planning:**

- Activities are still ongoing.
- One organization providing microcredit support is now pausing its disbursement activities in the red zones.

- **Cash for Work:**

- **Challenges:**

- Lack of funding
- Inflation leading to constant changes in the market on the level of wages – sometimes changing every month.
- Labor law and taxes need clarification to understand better in which category workers should fit
- Not enough initiatives are happening in rural areas on environmental topics
- Be flexible in timeframes as there are many challenges on the field sometimes delaying implementation

- **Best Practices:**

- Good daily incentives increase commitment
- Focus activities during certain seasons (youth are more present in summer, and outreach is challenging during harvest season and during school and university cycles)
- Use buses or carpooling for transportation as it is more organized and is of lower cost.
- Wish is being a good third party to use for payment though lately, they added some restrictions.
- Rotation in providers

- **WBL/Internships:**

- **Challenges:**

- Increase in requests for internships during summer (seasonal) as schools are closed.
- Cultural challenges
- Lack of interest of participants in the activity
- Lebanese employers are afraid to have Syrian interns in their businesses as this will potentially subject them to being questioned by Lebanese GSO and local authorities and having their businesses potentially closed.
- Resistance of local artisans in having people not from their families learn their skills.

- **Recommendations:**

- Have specialized types of internships

- Organizations were asked to update the BML Tracking Sheet:

[2024 BML Livelihoods, SoST, and Municipal Requests - Google Sheets](#)

- **AOB**

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reporting activities related to IDPs- Reporting on Activity Info and Service Mapping- 2024 Activities- Next meeting will be on the 5th September 2024 |
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