



BML Livelihoods Sector Working Groups Meeting - Minutes

BML Livelihoods WG Minutes of Meeting			
Name	Livelihoods WG / Coordination Meeting	Meeting Date	6 February 2025
Meeting Location	Online - Teams	Meeting Time	10:00 am till 11:15 am
Chairperson	Marianne Al Haibe/ UNDP Amir Mounif / MoSA	Meeting Duration	1.15 h
Minutes Prepared By	Marianne Al Haibe / UNDP		
Participants 22 Organizations	Amir Mounif / MoSA – Abdallah Al Assaad / UNDP – Rawan AL Hakim / IOM – Claude Geagea / YMCA – Bashar Abou Shiker/ SIF – Lea Fadel/ NCA – Stephanie el Rayess/ UNOPS – Marie-Jo Dib/ Safadi Foundation – Nada Ozeir/ LUPD – Jessica Bou Shroush/ AFDC – Sharif Zaatari/ AFDC – Edith Hachem/ ACTED – Hala EL Ahmadih/ ACTED – Malak El Hout/ Makhzoumi – Nazha Alam/ IRC – Haifa Najjar/ Al Fanar – Ola Hariri/ LMFA – Rachel Haddad/ LLWB – Rita Chemaly/ LLWB – Gizem Karlsi / ILO – Ghassan Nehme/ UNDP – Khalid Khan/ UNDP – Marwan Nasser/ SBT – Jeanne Frangieh/ HAD – Lea Andraos/ Caritas – Elie Abou Chaaya/ Plan International – Patil Mardigian/ ILO – Elias Sahyoun/ JRS .		
Meeting Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome and Introductions - National Updates and 2025 Sector Strategy - BML WG Assessment 2024 - Field Updates - AoB 		

Summary of Discussion Points

I.	Welcome and Introduction
	The meeting started with a round of introductions for all attending partners.
II.	National Updates
	<p>Refer to Annex 1.</p> <p>A discussion on Cash for Work stipends took place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LLWB want to follow the guidelines of the sector yet 12USD is too low. Some people mentioned that 12\$ is to be paid by hour not by day. - LUPD: 15\$ is too low as people with disabilities need more money and 2\$ is not enough to cover their transportation and their basic needs.
III.	BML WG Assessment 2024
	What went well in 2024 BML Livelihoods Sector Coordination?

- The coordination and sharing of experiences between local and international organizations, challenges, and lessons learned
- The Open discussions and sharing of recommendations
- The get-together and discussions
- Meeting partners and sharing data
- The continuous meetings that were taking place despite the situation to better understand the economic situation
- Very good communication
- Updates were shared in an organized manner
- The recommendations and shared experiences provided during the coordination meetings
- Prompt response
- Good coordination, strong presence, and support from UNDP livelihoods sector coordinator
- Coordination between actors on region and activities leading to better usage of limited resources

What can be done differently?

- NGOs to collaborate more on Market system analysis, even if not funded by the same donor
- More thematic topics in meetings
- Share more promptly trends and changes
- Advocate more for common requests such as transfer values
- Create a dashboard or a shared platform where all opportunities are visible to members
- Have more cross-sectoral coordination such as who is working on women's employment?
- Have partners present the work they're doing at a more frequent rate
- Further MSMEs support coordination to prevent overlap and ensure complementarity as needed
- Have a clear data set on who from the public sector is working on labor and economy
- Have clear priorities and recommendations for the livelihoods sector and economy with a brief action plan
- NGOs to conduct together a market system analysis even if they are not funded by the same donor
- More MSMEs focused on financial and technical support, especially after the war

Topics you would like to discuss in 2025:

- Linkages with other sectors
- Market System Analysis and recommendations
- Impact of the war on MSMEs and sector guidance on how to approach recovery

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tips to activate the network and coordination between local and international partners - Skills needed for training - Study on gender discrimination within the private sector - Market trends and gaps - Private sector engagement - Round table with the private sector, organizations, donors, and job seekers - Conducting a clear mapping of stakeholders and the main actors with their roles and data - Impact of the war on MSMEs and sector guidance on how to approach recovery - Study and discussion on the elders and women who should return to work due to their vulnerability and need to access better livelihood opportunities - Invite MoL, MoET, MoSA, CCIB, Chamber of Commerce, ECOSOC, and NCLW to livelihood meetings - More MSME focused projects/support - Financial and technical support to MSMEs and job placement - Policy discussion with MoET, MoSA, MoL... to better understand needs and recommendations. <p>What went well during the war response?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the war, it was great having the livelihood meetings as we were able to explain and share with others what we were conducting not to duplicate efforts. - Close follow-up by the sector and shorter more frequent meetings. - The MSMEs response <p>What could've we done differently during the war response?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clear guidance on criticality/continuity of activities to ensure a harmonized approach - Livelihoods sector was one of the most affected sectors in the war – assessments should have been made promptly - Mapping of stakeholders and initiating a dialogue with the ECOSOC, MoET, MoL, and MoSA - Have a more feasible response - Create opportunities for volunteering - Donors' response was slow, in such emergencies the response should be quicker - Make sure to respond to the needs of recovery after the war
VI.	National Updates

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSMEs Support: ACTED (Beirut) – LLWB (Coastal Metn) – SIF (BML) – Makhzoumi Foundation (BML – partial grants and loans) – JRS (Bourj Hammoud) => JRS and LLWB to coordinate - TVETs: LUPD (Gemmayze) – IRC (area not specified yet – to present program in upcoming meeting) – Makhzoumi Foundation (In Mazraa and Aramoun by request not a project) – Safadi Foundation (Renovation of Horsh Beirut + 3 training in BML) – Caritas (Ajaltoun) - Cash for Work: LUPD (Mar Mkhayel – Three different projects – UN Women + ACTED + CBM) – SIF (participants get paid to do job training in MSMEs they are supporting) – Caritas (Ajaltoun) - Other: LMFA (Training on digital financial literacy and supporting IECD in implementing workshop on financial literacy specially in Beirut) <p>Partners are asked to share their 2025 plans on the below sheet: 2025 Internal Mapping_ BML LH and SOST - Google Sheets</p>
V.	AOB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next meeting is taking place on the 6th of March 2025 at 10:00 am. - Reporting achieved activities on Activity Info and the ongoing programs on Service Mapping for further information please reach out to our IM Officers: mohammad.nasser@undp.org and abdallah.al.assaad@undp.org