

SOUTH New Comers (NFI's) Working Group – Minutes of Meeting

Purpose of Meeting	Coordination of New Comers (NFI's) distribution in the South region		
Meeting Location	Tyre, UNHCR FO	Meeting Date	24 July 2013
Chair person	Astrid Castelein (castelei@unhcr.org)	Meeting Time	15.00
Minutes Prepared by	Ali Al Akhdar (alakhdaa@unhcr.org) Astrid Castelein (castelei@unhcr.org)	Meeting Duration	1h45

Introduction

- Presentation of agenda and achievements expected from the meeting;
- Next NFI's meeting scheduled on 2nd Wednesday of August, 14th August 2013 at 3.00pm.

Update on recent activities

Mercy Corps

MC launched in June a distribution project funded by ECHO for newcomers in Zahrani, Hasbaya, and Jezzine districts. Distributions include beddings, hygiene and kitchen sets according to UNHCR's standards. The project will last from June to December 2013 and target 892 Syrian refugee families and 392 Lebanese families.

Recommendations:

- MC, being new in the South, has been advised to closely coordinate all distribution activities with relevant partners, share undertaken assessments with UNHCR and inform UNHCR of future assessments.
- MC shall share their distribution lists with DRC to avoid duplication;

DRC

DRC are targeting unregistered new comers with the standard newcomers' kit in Hasbaya, Nabatiye, Marjaayoun, and Tyre districts. Registered New arrivals are considered to be receiving assistance for UNHCR and /or IP's.

Lists of the new comers willing to register are referred to UNHCR Protection (registration).

Recommendations:

- DRC will follow up with SHEILD to ensure that all newly arrived families are dully referred to UNHCR for registration
- DRC will coordinate with NGOs working in the South to prevent duplication of distributions and identify the gabs.

CISP

Distribution of beddings and kitchen sets targeting registered and unregistered took place in Nabatieh, Tyr, Bint Jbeil and Marjaayoun during the month of June.

IOM

IOM informed partners of their recent distribution activities in Tyre, Sarafand, Insariye, Loubiye, Ghassaniye and Akbiye. To summarize the distribution projects of IOM in the South: targeted population: all those affected by the Syrian crisis (including registered and non-registered Syrian families and Lebanese returnees); Total foreseen population targeted: current funds aim to provide NFI kits to around 2000 families (more families might be covered from other potential grants, being currently discussed with different donors). Recent distributions were undertaken in close coordination with municipalities.

Recommendations:

- IOM, being new in the South, has been advised to closely coordinate their distributions with relevant partners and UNHCR, and to inform UNHCR about on-going and future distribution activities to facilitate the on-going mapping exercise and avoid duplications.
- Set a monitoring mechanism to ensure registered new arrivals are effectively receiving monthly assistance

Targeted assistance and impact on newcomers

- The criteria for assisting new arrivals are those listed in the SOP's for new comers: "Any family fleeing Syria due to the conflict that has been in Lebanon for the period up to 1 month (as of their date of entry to Lebanon), regardless of nationality (i.e. it includes Palestinians, Lebanese returnees, Iraqis, Bedouins etc...)." However, some flexibility is advised as families may have good reasons for not having been assisted within the 30 days. Even if already registered, but not yet assisted they should be able to approach the NGO that provides newcomer assistance in area and ask for help. However, Newcomers HH which arrived more than a year ago would need scrutiny rather than automatically being provided with NFIs that they seem to lack, to determine how they coped since their arrival.
- Hence, targeted assistance will only concern registered refugees.
- Questions and Answers (Q&A) have been completed in collaboration with partners attending the meeting.

Inter-agency contingency plan – particularities for South

All IP's considered the case of massive influx of refugees, and discussed the geographical locations of the stores to be located in an area that is divided per district, and in a central city to allocate the availability of transportation from the store to other locations.

Suggested locations for contingency planning:

- City of Nabatiye – Nabatiye district
- City of Hasbaya – Hasbaya district
- City of Saida – Saida district
- City of Tyre / Housh – Tyre district
- City of Bent jbeil / Tebnin – Bent Jbeil district
- City of marjaayoun – Marjayoun district
- City of Jizzine – Jizzine district

Lessons learned on winterization 2012/harmonization of winterization package 2013

- When it comes to targeting the winterization assistance, targeting by shelter status/conditions and geographical location is not sufficient. Others – the chronically sick or disabled / the very old or very young – also need the support, regardless of whether they live along the coast in a city or in a tent in the mountains, because they are relatively immobile and will suffer more from cold and damp. Shelter conditions, geographical conditions and personal situation are the criteria that will be taken in account for targeting the winterization assistance.
 - Shelter Winterization Action Plan to be discussed at Inter-Agency level in Beirut, on 30 July 2013.
- CISP will discuss with their head office in Beirut the available budget, and capability of procurement, and will revert to UNHCR in case they need UNHCR procurement.
- Based on partners' reports covering December 2012 to March 2013, UNHCR FO will consolidate the answers to the three questions on Lessons learned:

1. What items you provided in the way of winterization assistance (for shelter and NFIs) last winter, to how many households and where.
2. I would also be interested in knowing the value of any fuel vouchers you distributed, the number of months for which you distributed them, and the number of households you supported in this way, month by month.
3. Finally, what, if any problems did you encounter in your winterization programme last year document shall be shared with partners to be filled and sent back after being explained and discussed

To Do List

Action	By who	By when
MC & IOM to coordinate with concerned (I)NGOs and UNHCR before any distributions and share future distribution plans with UNHCR to avoid duplication.	MC, IOM	continuously
IOM to share content of distribution kits (hygiene kits) to ensure harmonized approach among partners and avoid tensions between beneficiaries.	IOM	continuously
IOM will check the availability of funds to cover clothing for the south	IOM	14 Aug 2013
DRC will follow up with SHEILD to submit lists of new comers to UNHCR registration unit and inform UNHCR in case of any problem related to updating of distribution lists	DRC	continuously
All partners shall share their reports with UNHCR for the period November 2012– March 2013	All Partners	6 August
UNHCR will gather all reports of the winter period, compile the information related to the questions of “lessons learned”, then share with partners this draft for them to complete the eventual gabs.	UNHCR	14 August