



Minutes of Meeting: Livelihoods sub-working group meeting

21 March 2013 Syria Refugee Response Plan

UNHCR-Beirut office

List of participants

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Summary of discussions

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Introduction and welcoming <p>The meeting commenced by welcoming the attendees, thanking them for their presence, clarifying the main objective of launching the Livelihood sub-working group and what is the RRP.</p>		
Presentation of the UNHCR Livelihood strategy <p>Carol El Sayed presented the overall livelihood strategy for the Syrian operation for discussion. Statistics and figures were shared in order to reflect the real situation of the Syrians refugees. The presentation focused on the objectives, the challenges, needs, gaps and the possible livelihood activities.</p>		
Main issues raised <p>In relation to work permits for Syrians, it was discussed that they are free to work in any sector. However, more information on labor law with regard to Syrians was raised as a gap. Further assessment is required.</p>		-
<p>Targeting the host communities in livelihoods is a common objective. Social cohesion underpins all livelihood activities.</p>		-
<p>It was observed that among some Syrian communities, culture and religious practice were obstacles for women empowerment through work and education. Awareness campaigns to refugee women and men are thus necessary. Innovative ways are needed to mobilize and engage women e.g. provision of tool-kits for refugee women to facilitate the work from home. Provision of tool-kits in general was considered as a good practice.</p>	-	

	Al Majmouaa	
The Lebanese micro-entrepreneurs are afraid from the Syrian entrepreneurs and wondering if they will have access for microfinance institutions.	Al Majmouaa	
The livelihood intervention is good in general but it is not enough as Lebanon has a high non-employment rate. The needs and correspondent capacity should map. The persons identified through MOSA poverty production programme can be identified for targeted livelihood activities.	MOSA	
Coordination between the other working group is needed, given the cross sectoral nature. It was recommended that cash be discussed within the livelihood coordination group.	IRC	
The coordination should start from the assessment level in order to avoid duplication of projects. Different plans, activities and capacities exist. The action plan and the target should be defined in order to define the gaps. Agencies should have the same instructions and the same terminology. At this level the RRP can be managed and prioritized.	MOSA	
Closure and next steps		
It was agreed to share the presentation and all relevant document waiting next meeting to be decided accordingly.	Carol	