

Draft Terms of Reference

Working Group on Livelihood

Lebanon

Rationale

1. The Task Force on Support to Host Communities brings together more than 30 UN, NGO and Government organizations concerned with the increasingly critical impact of the Syrian crisis on Lebanese communities from social, economic and security perspectives. Formed in October 2012, and Co-chaired by UNDP and UNHCR, together with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), the TF seeks to enhance coordination and information sharing as well as support strategic planning, advocacy, and communication efforts.
2. The purpose for focusing on host communities is to both support the growing needs of host communities in the face of the crisis and mitigate tensions and prevent conflict between Lebanese and Syrians populations.
3. So far an indicative strategic framework has been developed highlighting three priority areas of intervention, namely: livelihoods and income generation; basic service delivery and social cohesion.
4. At the same time, the Regional Response Plan (RRP) includes the Social Cohesion and Livelihoods Sector, also co-chaired by UNDP, UNHCR and MoSA, providing a space for the inclusion of these priorities within the humanitarian response.
5. Interventions within livelihood have so far been limited. But with the crisis now in its third year, the transition to targeted assistance in all sectors, as well as severe poverty among refugees and host communities, demonstrate the need for a comprehensive strategy on self-reliance.
6. A series of assessments have been conducted to identify the socio-economic impacts of the crisis on both refugees and host communities, including studies by UNDP, DRC, Oxfam, NRC, Save the Children and IRC. A common conclusion is that job opportunities in the most affected areas are limited within the principal economic sectors of agriculture, construction and services. Recommendations have included strategies around developing new markets, business creation and interventions that directly stimulate job growth and provide incomes.
7. The increase of cheap labour of Syrian refugees has put downward pressure on wages in agriculture and other sectors at a time when costs of living are rising. Moreover, the decline of export and import to Syria, has also affected local economies which have traditionally thrived on cross-border trade. The immense and growing strain on host communities is

contributing to rising tensions between host communities and refugees, as evidenced by an increase in the number of violent incidents between Lebanese and Syrian refugees.

8. With the acceleration in the number of refugees entering Lebanon, host communities are increasingly strained (As of 2 July 2013, 582,854 Syrians are registered or pending registration with UNHCR). Vulnerable members of Lebanese host communities will be targeted by livelihood activities, as most refugees are concentrated in areas marked by high poverty and unemployment rates.
9. In order to further operationalize both the Task Force and the RRP Social Cohesion and Livelihoods Sector in a synergistic manner, it was agreed to create a Livelihood Working Group uniting the two platforms. The role of the working group is to produce criteria and basic tools and to ensure consistency in selecting, designing, targeting and implementing projects, as well as compiling lessons-learned. It reports to the Task Force which serves as a platform for bridging the gap between short-term humanitarian and medium and long term development interventions while gaining a better understanding of the nature of impact on host communities and effective response strategies.

Composition of the working group on livelihood

1. The WGL will comprise agencies engaged in livelihood activities. It consists of UN agencies, government authorities, and NGOs.
2. Considering the importance of regular meetings and follow-up, members should communicate to the WGL a back-up person who would be able to attend on their behalf and perform pending responsibilities in their absence.
3. The WGL is co-chaired by UNHCR, UNDP and MOSA.

Responsibilities

- **Establish a common livelihood strategy** with criteria and policy guidance for the selection of projects, including:
 - Identify priority communities for livelihood interventions in ref to GOL, Unicef, UNDP and UNHCR countrywide vulnerability index and burden mapping
 - Identify priority groups to benefit from livelihood activities in ref to persons with specific needs and at heightened risk
 - Define assessment/research necessary to inform strategy particularly in relation to identification of new potential markets and livelihood assets of targeted population
- **Prevent duplication and overlapping services** through:
 - Mapping of “Who/What/Where”
 - Facilitate exchange of information

- Harmonise reporting, evaluation and monitoring mechanisms to ensure efficient coordination among actors in all livelihood activities targeting refugees and host communities
- Close coordination with other coordination mechanisms with livelihood linkages to ensure complementarity of strategies, programmes and activities e.g. WASH working group, Social Cohesion Working Group, Cash Working Group, etc.
- **Optimize results of livelihood sector**
 - Share experiences and lessons learned
 - Compile Lessons-Learned and Best Practices of livelihood programmes/activities and review progress, performance, synergies with other related activities and overall impact
 - Support training and capacity building of humanitarian partners and national actors on livelihoods
 - Facilitate inter-agency referral of beneficiaries to take advantage of complementary services
- Coordinate fundraising efforts and develop a joint fundraising strategy
- Advocate to include refugees in other UN/bilateral livelihood development programmes