

Social Cohesion Working Group Bekaa Meeting - Minutes

Name	Social Cohesion Working Group Bekaa	Meeting Date	January 8, 2014
Meeting Location	UNHCR Zahle	Meeting Time	11:00 pm
Chair person	Terra MacKinnon	Meeting Duration	1 Hour
Purpose of Meeting	Regular Monthly Meeting: connecting protection monitoring and social cohesion		

Summary of discussions and action points

1. Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -UNHCR/UNDP Updates (registration and RRP6) -Partner Updates -Connecting Protection Monitoring with Social Cohesion -AOB
2. Partner Updates	<p><u>Action Aid</u>: running a youth fellowship project in Baalbek in association with LOST. Groups of youth (targeting university educated) are mentored to identify and implement community development/social cohesion projects. Beginning with Syrians and will add Lebanese in later rounds. 1st round of 25 now active. Cash for work, women's empowerment and protection/psychosocial programme in Joub Jannine.</p> <p><u>Oxfam</u>: working in West Bekaa doing protection monitoring; 6 focus group discussions completed. Making referrals and creating a service mapping for beneficiaries to use. Working in North Bekaa; 2 focus group discussions completed. Protection monitoring includes FGDs, thematic surveys and key informant interviews. Summaries as only IM/analysis tool. SAWA is local partner.</p> <p><u>LOST</u>: three year peacebuilding project funded by GIZ (research; platform for debate; capacity building). Working in 8 schools, with 8 local NGOs and with 8 municipalities; to expand to 32 of each in 2014. Working in Baalbek, Bednayel, Al Ain and Hermel. Have own PB school curriculum created from own staff experience and knowledge of traditional community leaders. Local partner of Action Aid (youth project in Baalbek) and SCI (livelihoods in West Bekaa).</p> <p><u>Mercy Corps</u>: running both social cohesion and protection monitoring programmes. Working in Hermel, Baalbek (4 locations) and Zahle. Have started with community events to gain trust and acceptance from local communities. Conducting assessments on public perception and working with municipal leaders. Creating a municipal guide to managing conflict/refugee impact (working with 12 municipalities to develop). Running a project to increase market access for 400 farmers (Metna, Taybey and Baalbek).</p> <p><u>Search for Common Ground</u>: planning a three pillar project (FGD/assessment, capacity building and CSPs).</p>

<p>LOST as partner for EU funded project in February with 160 youth (80/80 Syrian/Lebanese) to overcome stereotypes and discrimination with a camp in Baalbek and Hermel.</p> <p><u>UNDP</u>: programmes focus on three areas (media, local authorities and NGOs/teachers). Undertaking conflict mapping. Have peacebuilding toolkit integrated with Lebanese public school curriculum. Have capacity for newspaper supplement/media campaign for positive messages.</p>
<p>3. Key Points</p>
<p>Emerging issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many refugees are not registering with UNHCR, and thereby not eligible for regular assistance, and religious or politically affiliated organizations are filling the resultant assistance gap. This has consequences in terms of social tensions and assistance coverage. (Action Aid) • Security concerns in north Bekaa are causing legal problems for refugees and restricting access to registration with UNHCR. (Oxfam) • Corruption in healthcare provision in north Bekaa reported. (Oxfam) <p>WG initiatives to be undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>5Ws and/or Activity Info</u> (Note: 5Ws completion was suspended with advent of Activity Info. However after evaluation of Activity Info as a planning tool, it is recommended to complete 5Ws in addition, which will create a roadmap. Activity Info can then be used to track progress against this roadmap.) • Creation of an <u>inventory of assessments</u>. It was agreed that this inventory will be held by UNHCR instead of hosted on the information porthole. Assessments should include the FGD and community working group locations to avoid replication and FGD fatigue. • <u>Conflict and peace mapping</u>. Mechanism to record and analyze incidents of conflict identified through protection monitoring in addition to mapping of community level mechanisms for peacebuilding/social cohesion. The 'peace assets' mapping will help to guide scaling up and even coverage. Analysis of both peace and conflict mapping will help match need with response. • Members agreed that <u>ongoing analysis</u> is needed and a core function of the group. • Members agreed that the WG is a platform for <u>sharing tools</u>. <p>Conflict analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different members of the group are operating variations of <u>conflict mediation groups</u>. The output from these groups can be shared to better analyse overall concerns and trends. • Outcomes from mediation groups can be <u>connected with community support projects (CSPs)</u>. • <u>UNDP</u> volunteered to take <u>leadership on conflict incident mapping</u> in cooperation with ISF and shared at the Beirut level SCWG.
<p>4. Action points</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite new members: Save the Children, DRC, WVI, SAWA and SSL(?). • All partners to complete 5Ws/Activity Info inputs before next meeting. • All partners to update assessment inventory before next meeting.