

## Inter-Agency Working Group Meeting – T5

<b>Name</b>	Inter-Agency Meeting	<b>Meeting Date</b>	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2015
<b>Meeting Location</b>	UNHCR North Sub Office - Tripoli	<b>Meeting Time</b>	14.00h
<b>Chair person</b>	Monica Noro (UNHCR) Lama Srour (UNDP) Khaled Osmane (MOSA)	<b>Meeting Duration</b>	1h
<b>Minutes Prepared by</b>	Funmi Osibona (UNHCR)		
<b>Purpose of Meeting</b>	Inter-Agency meeting		

<b>1.</b>	<b>General Overview</b>
<p>Search and arrests continue across T5, with refugees being detained for up to 48 hours. While partners continue to address the specific needs of refugees affected by the search operations, the Protection Working Group (PWG) has begun discussions on enhancing its capacity to provide psychosocial support to those affected including released arrestees and groups of affected women and children. A similar activity is also taking place within the recently established Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Task Force (MHPSS TF) chaired by the Mental Health Program at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and co-chaired by WHO &amp; UNICEF. Findings/trends from both the taskforce and the PWG will be combined to inform the enhancement of the psychosocial support.</p> <p>Evictions also continue, the majority are relatively small scale treats in comparison to the recent eviction of 6,000 individuals in the Sahel area of Akkar and the 630 individuals relocated in Minnieh on account of their close proximity to military bases. Both eviction committees (T5 and Akkar) are working on preparedness measures to determine their capacity to respond, should the number of evictions continue to increase (especially considering a significant amount of resources have already been exhausted).</p> <p>With regards to assistance for evicted cases, DRC mentioned that the organization is moving towards more monetized relief packages such as cash for rent. These grants will be available from September onwards. The Shelter sector will follow up on consolidating information on this type of assistance or any other change in partners' assistance.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Akkar Eviction Committee to deliver a presentation on the current eviction status across the North and lessons learnt from the Sahel eviction.</p> <p>UNHCR has noted an increase of individual emergency cases with extreme vulnerabilities requiring immediate assistance. Last week a refugee attempted self-immolation at the UNHCR Tripoli compound gate. The incident was swiftly contained to prevent the refugee from harming himself and others. The case has been referred to Restart for mental health support and to Caritas for case management. UNHCR has also offered community based support through outreach volunteers.</p> <p>Handicap International noted that mental health reports and individual emergency cases have increased. UNHCR requested that organizations alert UNHCR of such cases and bring the main trends to the PWG through the T5 protection coordinator Carolina Mateos (<a href="mailto:mateos@unhcr.org">mateos@unhcr.org</a>).</p> <p>COOPI expressed that some municipalities in Koura are stopping NGOs from visiting informal settlements and directly supporting Syrian refugees. DRC also reported experiencing some hostility from municipalities in Koura. UNDP explained that relations with municipalities could be improved by greater utilization of municipality support assistants (MSAs) and by highlighting interventions that benefit the</p>	

host community. Other partners such as IRD have not faced any challenges in developing activities in this district. UNHCR & UNDP recommend to keep authorities informed of the activities and to target not only Syrians but also Lebanese beneficiaries.

**Action:** UNDP to finalize Deddeh Map of Risk and Resources (MRR) and organize a meeting with the mayor of Deddeh for the last week of August/first week of September. UNDP to also look into developing MRR coordination exercise for other municipalities in Koura.

A brief update of the IA contingency plan was provided, highlighting that all sectors are updating the technical part of the plan including stocks. **The Sector Leads were asked to finalize the revision by end of the week 17/21 August.**

## 2. WFP update

WFP delivered a presentation on the findings of the 2015 VaSyR exercise and recent food assistance reduction. The presentation is attached for ease of reference.

The forum was also informed of the survey on the Impact of WFP food assistance reduction. Sector Leads are collecting inputs from sector members and all heads of organizations were asked to ensure that their inputs are submitted on time. The final deadline for submission is **Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August.**

The forum brainstormed ways to mitigate the impact of food reduction and concluded that involvement of the authorities would be essential to ensure that resources available within various municipalities are also factored in while conducting the analysis. The IA agreed to have an ad hoc meeting to brainstorm specific mitigating measures that can be taken by sectors and partners in response to the food assistance reductions. This can then be followed by a meeting with the Governor's office.

**Action:** UNHCR to send out an invitation for the session in around 10 days.

## 3. MOSA Update

At the end of July, MOSA distributed 4,000 parcels for Syrian and Lebanese families. 80% for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees (list provided by WFP) and 10% for vulnerable Lebanese families. The distribution took place at the Sir el-Dinnieh SDC and at the Rashid Karami Fair in Tripoli.

MOSA has started to process the cases of new born for add-ons to the file of their family. All Syrian refugees have been informed that they should ensure that the birth certificate and other necessary documentation display the name of the newborn.

## 4. Sector Updates

**Protection:** Suspension of registration for newly arrived refugees continues. UNHCR will start recording the basic information of unregistered Syrians in RAIS, so the information will be available for partners. Partners should provide assistance for unregistered Syrians recorded in RAIS through the existing available resources and referral pathways.

UNHCR has also started the decentralization of registration and renewal for non-Syrian refugees. All non-Syrian refugees residing in the North can now approach the registration center in Tripoli as opposed to Beirut. UNHCR is also supporting partners running protection desks in the North to ensure that their social workers are also equipped to provide counseling and information on services for non-Syrians. The PWG is updating the referral pathways for North Lebanon and it will include the focal points for referrals in all sectors and for Syrian and non-Syrian beneficiaries. A new version will be circulated soon.

**Livelihood and Social Stability:** The Livelihood sector still has a big gap in T5 as most interventions are focused on training and cash for work. New interventions are desperately needed in the area.

<p>Additionally, some projects with cash for work components are not being reported under livelihood on Activity Info. Partners were asked to ensure that all projects with a livelihood component are also reported under livelihood, even if the funding comes from another sector while indicating the source.</p> <p>The same issue applies for social stability. UNDP asks that all CSPs are also reported under SoSt for example WASH projects that are community based or provide municipal support should also be reported under Social Stability on Activity Info. UNDP is also updating the mapping of interventions that support municipalities. Once updated, the map will be shared for partner's inputs.</p> <p><b>WASH and Shelter:</b> Both sectors are drafting SOPs to respond to mass evictions. WASH has been monitoring water scarcity and has noted that in some informal settlements, landlords have begun requesting money for the provision of water. Partners are following up.</p> <p>With regards to winterization, Shelter is working on the distribution of weather proofing kits. There is some concern about stock levels and so partners have been asked to remember to update the contingency stock on Activity Info.</p> <p><b>CSMC:</b> Fire response SOP has been presented to the working group and MOSA. The plan looks at both response and preventive measures and involves actors such as LRC who are ready to support training for committees and communities on fire prevention measures. Various training curricula available are under revision.</p> <p><b>Education:</b> Accelerated Learning Programme is still ongoing at selected schools and should last until September. An assessment was conducted with UNICEF and the Ministry of Higher Education (MEHE) in informal settlements and collective centers to identify gaps in access to education.</p> <p><b>Basic Assistance:</b> The sector is busy with contingency planning and has begun discussion on the impact of reduction of food assistance. The sector is also updating their contingency stock.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> All sectors/partners to ensure that they update their contingency stock on Activity Info.</p>	<p><b>5. Rapid Assessments Preparedness for Emergencies</b></p> <p>The Assessment Working Group in Beirut has suggested that the inter-agency adopt a single 'rapid assessment tool'. The tool developed by the Assessment WG was presented and it was noted that it can be expanded and modified to assess any type of emergency. This will reduce the risk of having different assessments tools for different emergencies (fire, mass eviction, extreme weather etc).</p> <p>The rapid assessment and its coordination structure were presented to the forum and are <u>attached for ease of reference</u>.</p> <p>It was agreed that the North Information Management Working Group will act as the focal point and manage coordination, training and technical data collection for the assessments. Meanwhile organisations have been asked to fill out a matrix indicating whether they have the capacity to conduct the assessment and which geographical area they can cover.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> UNHCR to share matrix in due course.</p>
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#### Next meetings:

- Next meeting will be on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 14.00 hrs at UNHCR Office in Tripoli. Invitations will be sent accordingly.

Organization	Name	Title	Email
<b>Co-Chairs</b>			
UNHCR	Monica Noro	Head of Sub Office	noro@unhcr.org
MOSA	Khaled Osmane	North Coordinator	khaled_kobm@hotmail.com
UNDP	Lama Srour	Coordination Officer	lama.srour@undp.org
<b>Organisations</b>			
COOPI	Francesco Lanino	Head of Mission	lebanon@coopi.org
CISP	Pascale Chidiac	Assistant Project Coordinator	pascalechidiac.cispleb@gmail.com
ICRC	Jamila Hammami	Head of Sub-Delegation	jhammami@icrc.org
	Freya Raddi	Deputy Head of Sub-Delegation	fraddi@icrc.org
Handicap International	Miriam Lindsay	Field Coordinator	field.co.trp@hi-emergency.org
IRD	Sandy Zahkem	Project Manager	selzahkem@irdglobal.org
Oxfam	Helen Liu	Area Manager	hliu@oxfam.org.uk
DRC	Andrea Berardi	North Area Manager	andrea.beradi@drclebanon.dk
NRC	Nusret Osmanpahic	Area Manager	nusret.osmanpahic@nrc.no
<b>Government Authorities</b>			
MOSA	Mariam El Sayed	Mobile Social Worker	mariamsmsayed@gmail.com
<b>UN Agencies</b>			
UNICEF	Hania Alsaket	Information Management Officer	helsaket@unicef.org
WFP	Bassel Dabous	Senior Programme Assistant	bassel.dabous@wfp.org
UNHCR	Vanan Mandjikian	Education Associate	mandjiki@unhcr.org
	Adrian Combrinck	Information Management Officer	combrinc@unhcr.org
	Ronan Herve	WASH/Shelter Officer	herve@unhcr.org
	Marcel van Maastrigt	Head of Tyre Field Office	masastrig@unhcr.org
	Funmi Osibona	Assistant Reporting Officer	osibona@unhcr.org
	Elena Guseva	Field Officer	guseva@unhcr.org
	Carolina Mateos	Protection Officer	mateos@unhcr.org
	Elias Shalhoub	Liaison Officer	shalhoub@unhcr.org