**National Livelihoods Working Group Meeting**

Minutes – 28 June 2016 – Beirut

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| **Meeting** | | | |
| **Name** | Livelihoods Working Group meeting | **Meeting Date** | 28/06/16 |
| **Meeting Location** | UNDP-6th floor | **Meeting Time** | 1.30pm |
| **Co-Chair person** | Bastien Revel – UNDP  Sabine Farah - MoSA  Rafif Berro – MoET (absent) | **Meeting Duration** | 1.45 hours |
| **Minutes Prepared by** | Noemie Lanternier – UNDP |  |  |
| **Main discussion points**  **Participants:** | 1. Welcome and introduction 2. Sector update    1. Mid-year results and progress    2. Steering committee update    3. Update/follow-up on skills training workshop    4. Update/follow-up on Private sector engagement 3. Presentation of Early Findings of UNDP Labour Market Needs Assessment in the Construction, Industry and ICT sectors 4. Presentation of Child Protection Minimum Standards on Child Labour by the CP Coordinator 5. Presentation of IASC Guidelines for integrating GBV interventions in Humanitarian Actions by the SGBV coordinator 6. AoB   MoSA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, IRC, DRC, WFP, Oxfam, NRC, B&Z, Al Majmoua, UNIDO, UNRWA, Solidar Suisse, SIF, IECD, AVSI, WVI, Intersos, Italian cooperation, Recycle Beirut, TDH Italy, ACF, PCM, Concern, ESCWA, University of Balamand, SFCG, ARCS, IOM, Alef, USAID/OTI, VNGI, PU-AMI, Headway, Welfare Association, RDPP, Near East Foundation, UNOPS, UNICEF, FAO, EU Delegation, RET Liban and International Alert. | | |

**Summary of discussions and action points**

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| **1** | **Welcome and introduction** |
|  | The chair welcomed the participants on behalf of the co-leads.  The agenda of the meeting was briefly presented to partners and validated. |
| **2** | **Sector update** |
|  | 1. **Mid-year results and progress**  * The Q2 Social Stability and Livelihoods Dashboards were shared with working group members. * Key findings for the LH sector: * Worrying lack of funding of the sector (already least funding sector in 2015): * USD 12m received so far (compared to 21m last year in June). It represents 9% of the LH sector appeal and 2% of the total LCRP funds received for the year 2016. * 21 active partners (out of 30 who took part in LCRP appeal) – highest number in a month for the past two years. * 263 businesses receiving cash and in-kind grants so far this year, worth over 900,000 USD in support (only 164 companies were supported in 2015) * Over 900 entrepreneurs benefitting from business management trainings * 15 interventions implemented so far in 7 value chains (compared to only 3 interventions in 1 VC last year). * Relative decrease in labour intensive activities (with less than 3,000 beneficiaries by mid-year compared to nearly 4,000 at the same point in 2015) * Increase in the provision of skills trainings (3,400 beneficiaries so far vs. less than 2,000 by mid-2015). * Urgent for the recent pledges & commitments made by donors (notably at the London conference) to materialize in order for the sector to reach its objectives / targets this year.  1. **Steering committee update**   The MoSA sector lead provided a brief update:   * Concerning the composition of Livelihoods SC, in addition to MoSA, official confirmations were received from several Ministries and government institutions, including MoIND, MoL, MoFA, MoET, Ministry of Finance, MoA , PMO and CDR. Donors were also contacted in order to confirm their participation. The first LH SC meeting will take place after the LCRP SC scheduled on July 12. * In parallel, following the last meeting from the crisis cell, temporary identification cards/papers cards will be issued to refugees living in Lebanon by MoSA. The timeline and specific modalities of these cards have not yet been disclosed. Planning process in progress and MOSA is working on the technical level. * Concerning the pledge not to work, there is no official information at this stage - MOIM will communicate the official details.  1. **Update/follow-up on skills training workshop**  * A market based skills training workshop was organized by the LH sector at Radisson Blu Hotel (Beirut) on 23 June 2016. * 40 participants from 30 agencies, including representatives from the GoL, UN Agencies and NGOs. * The following key topics were discussed:   1) Market analysis and identification of skills gaps;  2) Training modalities;  3) Pathway to employment;  4) Link with government systems.   * Positive feedback (general score of 4/5) * Next steps: a significant number of participants indicated that they would like this event to lead to: * The organization of similar events (16/40); * The drafting of national SOPs on skills trainings (22/40); * The creation of a dedicated task force at national level (19/40). * The LH sector coordinator will work closely with core group members and partners in the coming weeks to operationalize the key takeaways and recommendations formulated during the event. 7 organizations have already indicated their interest to be part of the follow up process (UNDP, MOSA, UNHCR, IRC, CESVI, LOST, ACTED). If other partners wish to join these efforts, they should contact the LH sector coordinator. * The minutes of the MBST workshop will be shared with partners in the coming days.  1. **Update/follow-up on Private sector engagement**  * A private sector engagement mapping exercise is being conducted by MoSA to enable the gathering of information on the support provided to MSMEs and value chains by LCRP partners. * Working group members have been invited to fill in a private sector matrix to facilitate the collect and analysis of data. * Only 12 partners provided inputs so far. * Overall, 1,055 engagement of private sector in livelihood programming were reported by partners so far under three main categories (service provision, exchange of information and engagement in design & implementation). * The key objective is to enable the exchange of information between partners, enhance the design & follow up of activities and install recommendations to improve the private sector engagement for more impactful livelihood programing. * The preliminary findings of the private sector mapping exercise were recently shared by MoSA and will be shared for information purposes with WG members. LH partners were invited to share additional information / data with MoSA to allow the ongoing analysis to be more exhaustive and complete.   **Action points:**   * Partners interested to participate in the skills training sub-group to express interest. * Partners who have not provided input to the private sector engagement exercise to do so ASAP. |
| **3** | **Presentation of Early Findings of UNDP Labour Market Needs Assessment in the Construction, Industry and ICT sectors** |
|  | Mr. Fawaz Hamidi on behalf of Headway, provided a general overview of the preliminary findings of the UNDP Labour market needs assessments which was recently conducted in the construction, industry and ICT sectors.  The presentation focused on early findings to collect feedback from partners before the report is finalized. Please see PPT presentation.   * 595 companies contacted from March 26 to April 27, 2016 – 240 filled the questionnaire. * Three types of employees involved (unskilled labor not covered in the study): 1) Management and support (university degrees in business, marketing, IT, finance, etc.), 2) Professional (mostly engineers), 3) Skilled workers. * Gender: 19% of female employees in total (mainly in agro-food & ICT sectors). * Nationality: 27% of foreign employees (mostly in agro-food and construction sectors). * Sectors / fraction of employees: Construction 50%, agro-food 28%, ICT 22%. * Regional distribution: 44% Mt Lebanon, 20% Bekaa, 14% North Lebanon, 12.5% in Beirut and 4% in the South and Nabatieh. * Key challenges identified (which vary depending on the sector): * At managerial/engineer level: issues related to lack of professional, academic, compliance, communication or recruitment skills; * At skilled workers level: sharp shortage of academic and workplace skills; * Overall quantitative (excess of job seeks compared to the number of vacancies)/ qualitative mismatch of the labor force (major differences between job requirements and available skillsets). * Key sectoral gaps identified: in Research and Development, green building (construction)…   Discussion:   * A list of recommendations was shared to address the main gaps and challenges identified in order to better adapt the training offer to the job market requirements while enhancing employees’ capacities to prevent any skills gaps. * Concerning the recommendation related to the need for skills standards and qualifications frameworks to be aligned with international norms, participants were informed that a national occupational classification had been drafted in 2013 at the Council of Ministers based on ILO’s inputs. This document should be reviewed and updated in order to be used at the national level. * Participants enquired about why unskilled labour was not covered. This is because the aim of the survey was to identify gaps in skills of employees, which by definition does not apply to unskilled workers. * The MOSA livelihoods expert emphasized that there are limited vacancy in Lebanon, therefore an entry point for programming aiming at job creation would be more to address the lack of productivity in key sectors which is related to skills mismatch. * Innovation, Research and Development need to be urgently scaled up to allow the development of new economic sectors and the creation of high-quality jobs on the Lebanese market. This implies for GoL and SMEs to allocate sufficient financial resources to R&D while deepening existing ties/partnerships between the main actors & stakeholders involved in each value chain (i.e. research institutes, private sector, chambers of commerce, ministries, partners...). Having a database of research centres and public sector infrastructure to support businesses would be extremely useful in this respect. * A recent World Bank study was conducted in the North and highlighted that the main issues related to private sector development was governance and service centralization. LH partners need therefore to contribute to the creation of structures and committees to ultimately allow the development of PPPs. Government leadership is critical in reaching this objective, not only to facilitate the collect, analysis and tracking of data (related notably to ongoing research) but to ensure the mobilization of financial /technical resources. A mapping of the main stakeholders was conducted in each sector and could serve as a basis for this exercise. * The LH steering committee will provide a platform allowing enhanced coordination between partners on these important issues while strengthening inter-ministerial dialogue. * Partners are welcome to provide additional inputs/feedback on the early findings presented. * The final report will be finalized and shared with sector partners in the coming weeks. |
| **4** | **Presentation of Child Protection Minimum Standards on Child Labour by the CP Coordinator** |
|  | Please see PPT presentation.   * The CP sector coordinator gave a brief overview of CPMS on child labor to LH WG members. * CPMS: defined as a practical, interagency tool improving partners’ programming and accountability. These are agreed universal benchmarks to be achieved. The CPMS have been contextualized the Lebanese context, the final version is pending government approval. * Among the standards for addressing needs, standard n12 concerns more specifically Child Labour. * The key objective is to protect girls and boys from the worst forms of child labour, in particular those related to or made worse by emergency situations. It includes hazardous, exploitative and illicit work. Worst Forms of Child Labour are prohibited under decree 8987. * On the government side, MoL (through its child labour unit) leads the work related to CL while ILO coordinates efforts among partners. A National Steering Committee Against Child Labour was recently created which contributed to the development of a National Action Plan to eliminate the worst forms of Child Labour 2016 – 2017. * Among the Standards concerning the mainstreaming of Child protection in other humanitarian sectors, standard n19 focuses more specifically on economic recovery. The three main objectives are to ensure that: 1) CP concerns are reflected in the assessment, design, monitoring and evaluation of economic recovery programmes; 2) beneficiaries of interventions include children who are particularly at risk of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect; 3) referral mechanisms are well-utilized and enhanced. * The CP coordinator informed participants that he was already working closely with the LH sector coordinator on issues related to child labour and wished to strengthen this fruitful collaboration in the future.   Action point   * Circulate the Minimum Standards related to child labour and economic recovery: <http://cpwg.net/?get=006914|2014/03/CP-Minimum-Standards-English-2013.pdf> * Circulate the Lebanese specific document related to child labour – the relevant decrees, national action plan to eliminate the worst forms of child labour, and its relevant guides as well as FAO Arabic guide on the child labour in Agriculture. |
| **5** | **Presentation of IASC Guidelines for integrating GBV interventions in Humanitarian Actions by the SGBV coordinator** |
|  | Please see PPT presentation.   * The sector coordinator presented an overview of IASC GBV Guidelines issued in September 2015 which are aimed at preventing and mitigating gender-based violence (GBV) across all sectors of the humanitarian response. * Based on 2005 IASC GBV guidelines which were revised by UNICEF+UNFPA under the scope of a two year contextualization exercise aimed at adapting these guidelines to the Lebanese context. * The key objective of these documents is to guide each sector in the implementing of GBV risk mitigation measures, with the support of the GBV FPs. * Next steps include: 1) the adaptation/ contextualization of the Guidelines for the Livelihoods sector in Lebanon, and 2) trainings and guidelines dissemination in collaboration with the gender focal points. If any LH partner need additional support and guidance from GBV FPs, he/she should contact the LH sector coordinator. * The GBV guidelines and training materials are both available in English and Arabic and fully accessible on the following website: [www.gbvguidelines.org](http://www.gbvguidelines.org) – the livelihoods guidelines are available here: <http://gbvguidelines.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/TAG-livelihood-08_26_2015.pdf> * If skills training guidelines are later developed by the LH sector, it would be possible to include the guidelines as an annex, considering that almost 90% of beneficiaries to date are women. |
| **6** | **AOB** |
|  | * The next national livelihoods working group meeting will be held on August 30th 2016 at UNDP CO. |

**Participants list**

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| **Name** | **Organization** |
| Derya Mutlu | ACF |
| Alia FARHAT | Al Majmoua |
| Hagop Karoghlanian | ALEF |
| Hiba Kchour | Amel Association |
| Elisa Piccioni | ARCS |
| Marina Molino Lova | AVSI |
| Bashayer Madi | Balamand University |
| Kim Voogt | Basmeh & Zeitooneh |
| N. Atay | Besme |
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| Pierre Yves Malgorn | Concern Worldwide |
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| Virginie Cossoul | EU |
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| Fawaz Hamidi | Headway |
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| Rose Daher | INTERSOS |
| Nick Bishop | IOM |
| Sabine Farah | MOSA |
| George Abirizk | MOSA |
| Jinane Abou Zeki | Near East Foundation |
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| Rachel Eichholz | Oxfam |
| Ola Sidani | PCM |
| Vincent Rotureau | PU - AMI |
| Ali Dahwich | RDPP |
| Acacia Polatian | RET Liban |
| Rebecca Geay | Recycle Beirut |
| Anne Zandberg | Recycle Beirut |
| Imad Hamze | Solidar |
| Emily Johanson | Search for Common Ground |
| Daniele Gulizia | SIF |
| Marco Tinchelli | TdH Italy |
| Revel Bastien | UNDP |
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| Rola Azour | UNDP |
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| Lorenza Trulli | UNHCR |
| Rayan Koteiche | UNHCR |
| Nithi Sellappu | UNICEF |
| Ygor Scarcia | UNIDO |
| Bashar Al Ali | UNOPS |
| Stephanie Clough | UNRWA |
| Juan Pablo Castro | USAID/OTI |
| Mirvat Bakkour | VNGI |
| Dushlo Ristovski | Welfare Association |
| Alan ROE | WFP |
| Mira Ghaddar | WFP |
| Mirdza Abele | World Vision |
| Fares Samaha | World Vision |