

Working Group on Livelihoods Minutes – 30th January 2018 – Beirut

Meeting			
Name	Working Group on Livelihoods meeting	Meeting Date	30/01/2018
Meeting Location	UNDP-6 th floor	Meeting Time	12:30
Chair person	Tom Thorogood -UNDP	Meeting Duration	1.5 hours
Minutes Prepared by	Gloria De Marchi		

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Updates from the field
3. Presentation on the EIIP by Tomas Stenstrom
4. Presentation on the ESFD work by Patrick Atme
5. LH priorities for 2018
6. AOB

1	Welcome and Introduction
	Tom Thorogood introduced to the Livelihoods partners Gloria De Marchi, new Livelihoods Sector Coordinator-UNDP.
2	Updates from the field (Presentation attached)
	<p>North: 2017 achievements demonstrate that the North is still far below targets for most of the Livelihoods activities. Main achievement: 5 Value Chains were created in the North out of 9 (National achievement), 527 jobs were created/maintained, 4,347 beneficiaries of public work out of 6,529 (National achievement), 927 job seekers were placed into jobs.</p> <p>South: 2017 main achievements: 2 partners provided support to MSMEs both in the South and Nabatieh, while workforce employability was supported by 10 partners (South) and 4 partners (Nabatieh).</p> <p>BML: 35 partners are active in BML. Main Livelihoods interventions in BML fall primarily under “Market based skills trainings” (36%), “Technical & financial support to MSMEs to enable growth and job creation” (30%), and Career guidance, and “job matching and apprentice/internship to job seekers” (25%). There is a slight progress in the “fostering job creation through labor-intensive investments in productive public” (9%). Main gaps recorded in value chains interventions. Advice is requested on how to fill the gap. In terms of distribution of interventions, less activities were registered in Aley, Keserwen and Jbeil.</p> <p>Bekaa: Strong contribution on Value Chains created/updated (4 out of 9-National achievement) and jobs created/maintained (857 out of 2,305 (National achievement). Significant imbalance between training and job creation. More Investment on the demand side needed.</p> <p>The main results of Labour Market Assessment in Akkar were also presented.</p>
3	Presentation on the EIIP by Tomas Stenstrom (Presentation Attached)
	<p>Tomas Stenstrom, Chief Technical Adviser at ILO, presented the Employment Intensive Investment Programmes (EIIP).</p> <p>The strategy of the EIIP envisages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Optimizing employment in infrastructure investments</u> (local resource based technology) through project identification, appropriate engineering designs and work methods, task work, close supervision • <u>Social Safeguards Framework</u>, decent working conditions, adherence to core labour standard and contract compliance, recruitment process, registration and employment contracts, muster roll, piloting

simplified work permits, social safeguards officers

- Involving local contractors orientation and training to contractors to participate in EIIP, training certificate a requirement, introducing appropriate contracting procedures, employment related clauses
- Capacity building for MoL, MoSA and Municipalities, preparation of SOPs, EIIP guidelines

Questions and Answers:

- Work permits
 - ✓ There is a simplified EIIP work permit process, in agreement with the Ministry of Labour (MoL). The cost to apply for the simplified process is 80\$ (as agreed with the ministry of Labour). Currently it applies only for EIIP projects but efforts are being made to extend it to not EIIP projects. (See slide attached)
- Incentives to improve Working Conditions
 - ✓ There are different documents on labour standards outlining the legal aspect of decent work in Lebanon.
- How does ILO enforce the application of these standards?
 - ✓ ILO organizes trainings for the companies to brief them on the labour standards. MoL is in charge to monitor if the standards are implemented/applied by the companies
- Awareness raising sessions for workers
 - ✓ Not in place. Workers can be aware of what their rights are by reading their contracts. (Workers' rights clauses in the contracts)
- Complaint Mechanism
 - ✓ Not yet in place
- Strategy to employ Syrians
 - ✓ It aligns with MoSA Strategy: minimum 50% Syrians 50% Lebanese.
-MoSA is now aiming at 70% Lebanese and 30% Syrians.

4 Presentation on the ESFD work by Patrick Atme (Presentation Attached)

Patrick Atme, Team Leader Business Support, presented the Economic and Social Fund for Development-ESFD, a EU creation in Lebanon that has the mission to (a) reduce poverty and (b) respond to socio-economic shocks. 4 main components for ESFD: (1) Job creation (2) Community Development (3) Infrastructure (4) Reviving Local economies

Job Creation: -Identification of MSMEs - Support to MSMEs

Support to MSMEs. They tackle access to finance for MSMEs that are seen as risky and high costly by the bank system. Operation Risk Sharing: Partnership with 6 banks but ESFD guarantees 50% of the risk.

They also provide business advisory (E.g. Preparation of the application to submit to the bank, action plans, etc) Once they are ready we take the application and submit to one of our bank partner

Target group: uneducated people, enterprises that never approached a bank before or submitted for a loan.

ESFD covers both the formal and informal sector. (Companies can be not registered)

Questions and Answers:

- Funding
 - ✓ 80% of the funds come from the European Union (EU) and the rest from the Lebanese Government. Currently some programs are funded also by the Dutch Government.
- How can Informal companies receive loans from governmental institutions? Are loans given if they create jobs?
 - ✓ Loans are not directly provided by ESFD. ESFD is a facilitator but it is the commercial bank that provides the money. Although we encourage loans that create job opportunities, job creations is not a pre-condition to receive the loans.
- Do you directly implement the projects related to infrastructure?
 - ✓ Yes, they do
- ➔ ESFD is encouraged to enhance coordination and collaboration with LCRP partners that work in infrastructure rehabilitation. (Particularly they are encouraged to report on Activity Info in order to be able to track their results) Additional discussions to follow.
- Guarantee
 - ✓ Rate of default is less than 2 %. Currently a downturn trend was registered and default rate is

	<p>increasing (info can be provided)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal Consultancy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Through our business advisory we can direct contractors where we need to invest. Indeed, we push on loans that create jobs (strategy): through our BDS officer we can identify sectors and areas with greater needs
5.	LH priorities for 2018
	Tom Thorogood advised on the need to focus on the DEMAND side of the Market. Strategic thinking on Trainings provided to better match the demand and supply of the market. Reduce the mismatch between number of people trained and number of people who find a job.
6	AOB
	<p><u>Decent Work Workshop</u></p> <p>Shahrazad from OXFAM talked about the “Decent Work Workshop” that UNDP, Oxfam, ILO with support of different ministries (MoSA, MoET, MoL) are organizing. The workshop will be held in March (date to be defined) The Workshop aims to deepen the understanding of participants on decent working conditions. Three main topics will be discussed: (a) Informality and Decent work conditions (b) Child Labour: sector reporting, monitoring, and prevention (c) Occupational health and safety (OSH). The Concept Note will be shortly shared within the sector partners for feedbacks.</p> <p><u>Mapping of MSMEs</u></p> <p>MoET is working on updating the guide “What’s in Lebanon for MSMEs?” Partners that wants to contribute to the Mapping exercise, to contact Johnny Matta from MoET: jmatta@economy.gov.leb</p> <p>The 3W map tracks MSMEs supported and Value Chains created.</p> <p>WG in the Field: updates are provided about the MSMEs</p> <p>➔ Proposal from Partner: Daniel Dalaty from Care International Proposed informal brainstorming sessions on MSMEs activities, one per month.</p>

Organizations present at the Livelihoods WG meeting: UNDP, Palladium, Trocaire, MoET, Concern Worldwide, Digital Opportunity Trust, LHIF, Youth for Development, TdH Italy, UROA, AVSI, RDPP, ESFD, FAO, Cesvi, UNRWA, ILO, Caritas Germany, Caritas Lebanon, ARCS Lebanon, Oxfam, Al-Majmoua, Amel Association, MoSA, WOL, Unicef, Mercy-USA, IECD, Care, EF, Jica Study Team, Australian Emb. DFAT section, ACF, Positive Planet, Near East Foundation, Mercy Corps, IRC, PU-AMI, HEKS/EPER, World Vision.

