Minutes of NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY MEETING
12 April 2019, 10:00-12:00
UNHCR, S&K building, B1A conference room

Chairperson(s)	Mazen Riachi – MoSA Carol Ann Sparks – UNHCR Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh – UNDP
Agenda of the Meeting	• **Inter-Agency referral monitoring** • **2018 Results of the LCRP** • **Environmental Markers** • **A.O.B**

Summary of Discussions and Action Points

1. **Inter-Agency referral monitoring system –** *Rasha Akil, UNHCR*

   Key Presentation Points:
   - The Protection referrals' monitoring captures delays and gaps in service provision and monitors referrals from the Protection sector to other sectors.
   - 2019 updates to the system:
     - ➢ Title of the system changed from IA referral "tracking" system to IA referral "monitoring" system.
     - ➢ WASH and Livelihood are added and GBV/PSS are separated.
     - ➢ "Pending" changed into "no feedback received" and correction of "No service delivered" definition.
   - On the national level:
     - ➢ 23,692 referrals reported during 2018
     - ➢ Shelter and PSS-GBV are the sectors with the highest % of referrals reported as successfully closed: **42% and 40%.**
     - ➢ Education and Child Protection are among the sectors with the lowest % of referrals reported as successfully closed
   - On the national level, the highest # of referrals is from the legal, Health and Education sectors whereas the lowest # of referrals is from Psycho-social support (PSS), GBV, Child Protection, Basic Assistance and Food Security.
   - Perceived trends:
     - ➢ In Bekaa/ Baalbeck El Hermel: The Shelter sector has the highest number of referrals due to the evictions in Bekaa (Fayda and Zahle) but with a good response rate (58%).
     - ➢ In South/Nabatiye: The number of reporting partners in the South is low + high rate of CP cases especially during the agricultural season.
     - ➢ In the North/Akkar: High number of referrals to Basic Assistance sector particularly in Q3, during the launch of the Grievance Redress Mechanism.

> ➢ In BML: There is a low number of referrals from the Protection to Shelter sectors - reasons might be due to either a reporting issue between agencies which are operating under both sectors or due to the context and specificities of BML area.

Key Discussion Points:
- The WASH sector has been recently added to the Inter-Agency referral system.
- Each quarter, partners are advised to report the cases on the system as the final status of the referrals are most accurate on the third month after the referral is made.
- The 17 organizations that are reporting on the national level are only Protection actors. (Referrals are made from the Protection to the other sectors).
- The Referral Information Management System (RIMS) and the Inter-Agency referral systems are different in various ways in that RIMS is an individual referral system that tracks individual cases. The IA system already in place is meant to be a tool that monitors aggregate referrals from the Protection to other sectors as a way to ensure accountability to beneficiaries, therefore all partners are strongly encouraged to report on it. Joint planning and analysis will be developed using both systems.
- Partners do not recommend to separate the status of referrals as successfully closed or accepted – the system is only meant as an accountability and monitoring tool thereby ensuring required services exist. Regular follow up at field level takes place to ensure cases are closed/handled.

Action Points:
- Update and share Sectors' service mappings at quarterly basis.
- Coordination between Sectors on a systematic feedback system and quarterly IA referral findings.
- Share IA referral monitoring tools and data analysis with the other sectors.
- Keep track of regional variations within sectors for referrals (i.e. in one area referrals go through sector coordinators, in another area referrals go through referral pathway).

2. **2018 Results of the LCRP** – *Jean-Charles Rouge, Inter-Agency*

Key Presentation Points:
- The M&E system of the LCRP captures progress at output, outcome and impact level given the multi-year nature of the response.
- The M&E framework tracks activities delivered through 70+ outputs contributing to 30+ outcomes, reviewed on a yearly basis by sectors, which in turn contribute to 6 impacts at inter-sectoral level.
- The LCRP has 4 strategic objectives, of which, two focus on the humanitarian side of the response and the remaining two on the stabilization component.
- There is a critical data gap concerning the situation of vulnerable Lebanese, PRS and PRL.
- The total 2018 appeal is $2.68billion – 52% of funding available, including received in 2018 and carry over from 2017. Only 40% of the appeal was received in 2018, the rest is carry-over (12%).

- Looking at the breakdown of funding per sector, the same pattern as in 2017 persists: the best funded sector, in terms of cash, is Food Security, followed by Education and Basic Assistance. The least funded sectors are Energy and Shelter.
- When comparing the funding coverage from 2017 to 2018, all sectors have moved positively, except the Food Security, Livelihoods and Shelter sectors, which experienced a notable decrease in sectors' appeal coverage.
- In 2018, 34% of available funding was delivered through cash assistance and 34% of resources for programming was channeled through public institutions in support of service delivery, system strengthening and capacity building.
- 1.6 million People reached (assisted through the response) out of the 2.8 million people targeted.
- **Impact 1:** High protection risk
  - Only 27% of Syrian refugees over 15 hold legal residency
  - Slight improvement in birth registration rate
  - Child labor figures are similar as in 2017
- **Impact 2:** Difficulties to meet basic needs
  - Overall decrease in Syrian HH economic vulnerability, though 69% still live in poverty
  - Increase of Syrians living in non-permanent and non-residential shelters
- **Impact 3:** Public services delivered at scale but require sustained attention
  - Similar results as 2017 for the WASH sector with 87% of Syrian HHs with access to improved sanitation facilities
  - Similar results reported for access to primary health care
- **Impact 4:** Difficult access to income-generating activities
- **Impact 5:** Deteriorating intercommunal relations
  - 9% decrease in proportion of Syrian refugees who perceive Syr-Leb relations as positive, from 51% to 42% with competition over lower-skilled job remaining the most widely reported source of tension.
- **Impact 6:** Negative impact of the crisis on the environment
- Moving forward:
  - Need to strengthen the LCRP evidence base to fill critical data gaps
  - Some upcoming surveys: 1) UNICEF will start the data collection for the MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) in September 2) the Labor Force survey (ILO), is about to be completed 3) the World Bank's Household Budget survey is being planned for 2020 and 4) CAS is planning to produce the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI) using the ILO's dataset (covering the Lebanese, Syrians and Palestine refugees).
- LCRP partners are still focused on delivering humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable + continued advocacy for sustainable solutions and multi-year funding.

3. **Environmental Markers** – *Lamia Mansour, Ministry of Environment (MoE)*

Key Presentation Points:

- Environmental risk coding: an environmental marker code given to each activity, which categorizes the activities under the LCRP according to their potential environmental impact.
  - ➢ A: Neutral or no negative environmental impact. Activity may proceed.
  - ➢ B: Potential for moderate negative environmental impact. Screening is required to determine whether Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Environmental Audit (EA) is needed.
  - ➢ C: Potential for significant negative environmental impact. Screening is required to confirm the scope of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- Environmental risks in the LCRP: Of the total 294 activities across all sectors, most activities (248), coded A, do not have any negative environmental impact. Forty three (43) activities, coded B, potentially have a negative impact and three (3), coded C, have a potential for a significant negative environmental impact. Both the activities coded B (43) and the activities coded C (3) require screening as they potentially pause some risks to the environment.
- Steps in Environmental screening:
  - ➢ An LCRP implementing partner is developing a project proposal
  - ➢ Using the Environment Marker Activities review, the Implementing partner, screens the project to determine whether it is category A, B, or C.
  - ➢ If needed, Implementing partners can consult the "Environmental Marker Guide" or obtain support from the Sector coordinator and/or MoE focal points
  - ➢ Category A projects are not subject to any Environmental Safeguards
  - ➢ Category B or C projects will require completion of Screening Template (Annex 4 of the LCRP Environmental Marker Guide). Submission is done in hard copy: *Registrar; Ministry of Environment; Room 35; Seventh floor; Lazarieh Centre, Beirut Down Town, Lebanon*.
  - ➢ If project requires IEE or EIA, implementing partner follows procedures indicated in annex 4 of the LCRP Environmental Marker Guide (available on Lebanon Information Hub here)
- It is estimated that a project requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) takes a period of 6 months to be fully approved by the MoE.
- Next Steps and way forward in 2019:
  - ➢ Coding of activities in consultation with sectors and Service of Environmental Technologies at MoE
  - ➢ Drafting of Environmental Marker Activity Review
  - ➢ Drafting of Environmental Marker Guide based Lebanon's National Environmental Legislation
  - ➢ Presentation of Environmental Marker at Inter-Sector, Sector WGs, Donors, UN agencies and upon request
  - ➢ End 2019: Collecting experiences, challenges and Way Forward

Key Discussion Points:
- The project owner is responsible for implementing environmental safeguards – either public or private.

- 43 activities under the LCRP **might** require an environmental screening, 3 definitely require an EIA. In total, 46 activities require an annex 4.
- The annexes list the type of activities that require an EIA, IEE or Environmental Management plan, therefore partners already have a guidance as to whether their activities/ projects require an initial screening.
- Some partners raised concerns about potential delays in projects that would require an EIA given that the latter takes around 6 months to be fully completed. However, it was noted that of all the activities mapped under the LCRP, only 3 do require an EIA and that this system has always been there, though not enforced.
- Donors can see the environmental markers of the projects they are funding. It was also suggested to include a marker to indicate whether a project is contributing to promote environmental safeguards/ best practice.
- The timeframe is 6 months only for projects which require an IEA, including initial screening from the MoE.
- The ministry is bound to respond to partners within the indicated timeframe or else the project can be considered approved.
- There is a list of environmental consultants vetted from the CDR – partners can only contract those consultants included on the list. The list is available on the Lebanon Information Hub IM dropbox in the "ETF" folder.

Action Points:
- Share the guidance package that includes links to annexes and the contact information of the focal points within the MoE. (everything, except Environmental Marker Guide which is being finalized, is available on the IM dropbox ETF folder here)

4. **A.O.B**
- Update from MoSA on the Litani river situation:
  - ➢ A pilot project ongoing between MoSA, MoIM in coordination with the field offices to relocate three sites around the Litani river.
  - ➢ An assessment of the sites along the Litani river will be conducted to identify which sites need to be prioritized and what is the best course of action for each site. The WASH Assessment Platform (WAP) will be used during the assessment to integrate the new information into the system.
  - ➢ Issues around Solid Waste Management will also be prioritized, bearing in mind the ongoing development of a national strategic plan for solid waste, led by the Ministry of Environment.
- Partners were kindly asked to complete the Inter-Agency coordination survey accessible here. The deadline to complete the survey is 17 April.
- Partners were reminded to complete the Conflict Sensitivity survey here.
- The deadline for submission of the Q1 2019 funding update is Friday April 12. Partners were asked to make sure their agencies have reported the 2019 Q1 funds on AI.