

Working Group on Livelihoods Minutes – 31st July

Meeting			
Name	National Livelihoods Working Group	Meeting Date	31/07/2018
Meeting Location	UNDP-6 th floor	Meeting Time	12.30
Chair person	Gloria De Marchi-UNDP	Meeting Duration	2 hours
Minutes Prepared by	Gloria De Marchi-UNDP		

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Field Updates -Field sector coordinators UNDP
3. Integration of MHPSS to livelihood training- Antonio Bottone IOM
4. LH National Updates & Referral System – Gloria De Marchi UNDP
5. IM Tools – Hany Imam UNDP
6. IM new Mailing List System- Cyrille Ble UNHCR
7. AOB

1	Welcome and Introduction
	Gloria De Marchi welcomed the participants, presented the agenda and opened the meeting.
2	Field Updates (Presentation attached)
	<p>North: UNDP implementing Value Chains (VCs) on Honey and planning to start 3 VCs on renewable energy (Wind, PV, Biomass). Acted implementing VCs on Honey and Olives. Concern implementing VCs on Dairy products. Expertise France has finalized VCs assessments on Stone Fruit (Apricots and Plums) and Wood Processing, and Avocado and Citrus.</p> <p>So far, none of the planned activities has reached its mid-year target, though reporting in the second half of the year is expected to be higher. A Task Force has been initiated in the North on Identification of Beneficiaries for the LH Sector: guidelines will be developed and shared at National Level. Moreover, a joint SoST-LH-Protection Taskforce has been initiated on Labor Exploitation in Informal settlements and focuses particularly on Shawishes exploitation.</p> <p>South: In Nabatieh: no organizations running Skills Trainings and Labour Intensive interventions. UNDP is starting VCs interventions on Frekeeh and Oregano. In the South: Only WVI working on Labour Intensive Interventions and UNDP on VCs. All other partners are implementing VTs and support to SMEs and cooperatives.</p> <p>BML: 49 partners active in ML. Main interventions on SMEs support and VTs. So far, no jobs created and only 83 people placed into jobs.</p> <p>Bekaa: Number of partners reporting on Activity Info has increased. Referral system will be presented during the next protection WG in the field on 14th of August. Bilateral meetings with</p>

	<p>partners on Livelihoods planned activities for 2018 and 2019 will take place during the coming months.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Integration of MHPSS to livelihood-training (Presentation Attached)</p> <p>Antonio Bottone, Psychosocial Support Program Manager at IOM, presented the Integration of livelihoods support and mental health and psychosocial support</p> <p>IOM, within their partnership with the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, has planned organize a workshop for livelihoods actors (both local and international) on how to mainstream MHPSS considerations in planning and implementation of livelihood activities.</p> <p>Several research studies have revealed how livelihood programs implemented in post conflict areas or with populations subject to high levels of distress, have significantly less chance of succeeding than those implemented in other environments and with other populations. This would occur mainly because the populations living in fragile and conflict-affected settings endure serious hardship, often including witnessing or having direct exposure to violence. These conditions can adversely affect the mind, body and spirit, and diminish the capacity of individuals and communities to take full advantage of economic empowerment opportunities.</p> <p>On the contrary, the experience of a small but growing number of programs, which begun to combine livelihood support with a psychosocial component or attention to the psychological needs of participants, gave promising indications that this combination can act as a significant variable to enhance project outcomes.</p> <p>In many psychosocial support assessments conducted by IOM in different countries (Nigeria, Haiti, Lebanon), responders consistently identified their lack of means to support themselves and their families as a central cause of their distress and of other negative feelings.</p> <p>Livelihoods support can become by itself a PSS intervention with a dual function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce stress by minimizing one of the main stressor - livelihood insecurity - or indirectly act on other related stressors, such as family violence; • Improve wellbeing by providing a medium for coping with negative feelings <p>Although, many actors are engaged in the provision of different forms of livelihood activities, these are still rarely encompassing psychosocial components or considering psychosocial aspects of their target groups. IOM would therefore organize a workshop to mainstream MHPSS considerations in livelihood programs to the benefit of NGOs, service providers and other actors providing livelihoods activities in Lebanon.</p> <p>The objective of the one-day Training is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the integration between mental health and psychosocial support and livelihoods support • Present practices, processes and approaches that could be applied to existing livelihoods program for the benefit of all beneficiaries <p><u>The training will not train livelihood partners on how to implement MHPSS interventions.</u></p> <p>The training will target the staff of national and international actors (government, NGO and civil</p>

	<p>society, agencies) engaged in the livelihoods sector. Participants shall hold positions that allows them to put into operation the gained knowledge or to transmit it to their organization (max 4 people per organization)</p> <p>A training will be organized for each regional area. The first round of inception workshops should be held in the period: 8-11 October 2018. A second round of workshops, could be held in the period: 3-7 December 2018.</p> <p>Questions and Answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any Assessment done in Lebanon that can confirm the statements made? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ An assessment was conducted years ago on Iraqi refugees and it has identified lack of livelihoods as the main stressor. However, no research on PSS have been conducted by IOM in Lebanon. • For assessments, how many of the respondents are female and male? Are they the same for men and women? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ No disaggregation for the moment. However important to note that a lack of livelihoods can negatively impact on the female partner in the house as well. • How does the training sign up work? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Organizations that would like to express their interest in participating in the training have to follow the link below and sign online: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfucGEHbjzvsCbvyF_twWiY-Qf1wnl59qEDszOsV35V8rbmHg/viewform?usp=sf_link • The training is organized just for the livelihoods sector? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Yes, initially at least just for the livelihoods sector.
4	<p>LH National Updates & Referral System (Presentations Attached)</p> <p>Gloria De Marchi, Livelihoods Sector Coordinator, presented the National Updates and the Referral System.</p> <p><u>National Updates</u></p> <p>Mid-year achievements (data collected from January until end of June) have been presented and major gaps were highlighted.</p> <p>Support to MSMEs through cash & in-kind grants: far below the expectations with only 158 MSMEs reached by end of June.</p> <p>Value chains interventions: expected to start in the coming months (See Field Updates-North)</p> <p>Number of beneficiaries engaged in Labor Intensive Programs: 2.025 vs 37.651</p> <p>Market based skills training: risk to exceed the target and end up with a huge number of people trained that are not able to find an employment. (As it happened in 2017: 4,634 beneficiaries found a job out of 36,410 people trained)</p> <p>Donors should focus more on financing (A) Value Chains interventions that are expected to have a long-term impact in terms of numbers of job created and (B) Labor Intensive Programs which, although provide short-term employment opportunities, are likely to reduce negative coping strategies of highly vulnerable families.</p>

Alarming is the number of jobs created/maintained: 55 jobs. The low number may be due to under-reporting (difficulties of partners to follow up with companies) or to the fact that some major interventions have just started and report will be done in the coming months. Need to re-think the indicator for 2019 to better monitor and track results

Questions and Answers

- The ad hoc Value Chains meeting will include WFP partners?
 - ✓ It has not yet been discussed but it is important to involve WFP and FSS partners in the meeting since they are also conducting this sort of work. An official email will be sent out to invite partners to participate in the meeting
- Why is the reporting on job created/maintained so low?
 - ✓ Partners generally are not reporting. Moreover, the process to follow up with the companies is cumbersome. Many partners are working with contractors so following up with contractors in the future could be an option, though this is also going to be difficult and require extra work. Another reason is that some interventions are just about to start and jobs created may be reported later in the year.

Need to further explore the reasons for under-reporting. Additional conversation can take place at Core Group level
- Long term vs short term?
 - ✓ To expect Value Chains to produce jobs within one year. Therefore, a recommendation is to look increasingly at multi-year programming.
- Agricultural VCs are being reported in FSS – this likely needs to be split between the LH and FSS sectors in 2019.
 - ✓ The LH sector is working on this issue with the FSS sector and it has been proposed to create a Joint Dashboard to show common results under both sectors.

Referral System

The Referral System has been finalized. You can access the system through this link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oyn5f7D_m18znxiSbV2AoIHFrMq9WZEpbQS-RGc95nA/edit?usp=sharing

The System will be presented at the Protection WG both at National and Field Level.

Livelihoods Partners are highly encouraged to start using the Google Sheet-Referral System, in order to facilitate proper and efficient Referral.

The System has been particularly discussed with Protection actors, nevertheless it may be used by other sectors 'partners in the future.

Protection and Livelihoods actors will meet in 4/6 months to make an initial results-based

evaluation of the System.

LH actors are requested to:

- Secure a quota for referred beneficiaries in their projects.
- Keep the online Google Sheet up to date to allow proper and efficient referrals.
- Fill one row for each activity they would like to receive referrals.
- Delete the rows for each activity they have reached capacity to accept referrals.
- Give feedback to the Protection organization that has made the referral within maximum ten days

In addition, the Livelihoods Actors have to fill the Google Sheet-Reporting Template to keep track of the total number of cases referred that have been accepted.

Protection actors are requested to:

- Add 6 key socio-economic questions in their Assessment Form (Questions were developed by LH sector and shared with Protection Sector)
- Look at the online Google Sheet-Referral System and identify possible LH actors for referral
- Brief the potential beneficiaries on the benefits/opportunities that may arise from being engaged in LH activities (awareness raising sessions/management of expectations)
- Proceed with the referral: Inter Agency Referral Form to be filled and sent to LH actor (one actor per referral: not to send the same referral to different Lh actors)
- Wait for feedback (to be received within max 10 days)
- Follow up with beneficiaries referred after the completion of the project to see if they benefitted from them, how, how their situation has changed, the sustainability of the referral, etc

Questions and Answers:

- After the assessment is done by Protection Actors, how do they select LH activities?
 - ✓ Protection actors need to include the 6 questions in the Assessment form to ensure that the individual identified for Referral fulfils the vulnerability criteria for eligibility of the LH sector. The Protection sector actor will select interventions based on Location, Requirements etc and will brief potential beneficiaries to be referred about the opportunities that may arise while being engaged in such activities. Potential beneficiaries can choose the activity that best suits their desire.
- What is the Referral Glossary of the Livelihoods Sector for?
 - ✓ The document explains the different services available under the livelihoods sector and aims at ensuring that protection partners have the needed information/background to orient and counsel identified beneficiaries prior of activating the referral mechanism. A section of the Glossary is dedicated to

	<p style="text-align: center;">Criteria for Eligibility of LH beneficiaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are protection actors checking in with beneficiaries before referral? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Yes, they brief the potential beneficiaries on expected outcomes of LH interventions. Nevertheless, the final decision whether to accept the beneficiary referred or not is made by the LH actor. • When can we expect other sectors to be involved? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The System will be tested for 4/6 months and based on efficiency the use of it may be extended to other sectors • Is there a timeline for feedback to Protection partners? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 10 days for feedback. Eligibility does not imply that the beneficiary will be accepted.
6	IM TOOLS
	<p>Follow the below link to access the page:</p> <p>http://data.unhcr.org/lebanon/</p> <p>New Tools presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponge base • Assessment Registry • Factbook <p><u>Sponge Base:</u> It is an interactive map that tracks <u>different sectors' interventions</u> across Lebanon. It is based on Activity Info Reporting Results and tracks ongoing activities. By clicking on a specific location, it is possible to identify which activities are implemented, by whom, under what outcome</p> <p><u>Assessment Registry:</u> Contain all the different assessments available in Lebanon. Livelihoods Sector Coordinator makes sure that all LH assessments received by partners are included in the Registry online. Partners can check the existing knowledgebase by searching keywords.</p> <p><u>Factbook:</u> Contains facts and figures about the Syria Refugee Response in Lebanon. Information are extracted from existing Dashboards, Documents, reports etc and include all sectors.</p>
7	IM new Mailing List System (Presentation attached)
	<p>The IM unit has developed a new Mailing List System. The main purpose is to create a single platform where each sector coordinator can manage its own list of contacts and share it with others.</p>

	<p>Partners that are not yet registered to the Livelihoods sector have to first subscribe to the Contact Hub using the following link: http://contacthub.azurewebsites.net/subscription.aspx</p> <p>They will receive an automated email to complete their applications and add all sectors of interest they would like to register to, both at National and Field Level.</p> <p><u>Partners that are already in the Livelihoods National Mailing list do not need to register again for the National LH sector</u></p>
8	AOB
	<p>Tom Lambert, Social Stability Coordinator has announced that:</p> <p>Conflict sensitivity and do no harm trainings will be conducted in each of the 4 regions in addition to 4 in Beirut directed at middle to senior management. The trainings in the region will be open to all LCRP participants and will be done on a first come first serve basis - online sign in sheet to come. They will be very hands on and there will be an option to conduct them in Arabic.</p> <p>The Beirut level trainings will be directed at four target groups: donors, international NGOs/UN, local NGOs and govt/sector coordinators.</p>

Organizations present at the Livelihoods WG meeting: UNDP, Palladium, Near East Foundation, DFID, WFP, Concern WW, ILO, Forum ZFD, PU-AMI, SCI, UNOPS, ARCS, Caritas Lebanon, FAO, IOM, ACTED, AVSI, Mercy-USA, Relief International, SPARK, HEKS, UNIDO, IECD, Oxfam, LebRelief, Rene Moawad Foundation, HAD, SB Oversease, UN Women, NPA, Faire Trade Lebanon, CESVI, EIIP/ILO, CARE, CONCERN, RDPP, UN-HABITAT, SIF