



Minutes of NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY MEETING

9 December 2019, 10:00-12:00

UNHCR, S&K building, B1A conference room

Chairperson(s)	Robin Saghbini – MoSA Carol Ann Sparks – UNHCR Elina Silen – UNDP
Agenda of the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection Update • LCRP 2020 Update • LCRP workshops on ethical and professional behaviour • Emergency/Extreme weather tools • A.O.B

Summary of Discussions and Action Points

1. Protection update – *Elsa Bousquet, Protection Sector Coordinator*

Key Presentation Points:

- Refugees have reported a sense of instability, despair and risk of re- traumatization, which exacerbate mental health issues.
- Increased restriction of movement.
- Worsening socio-economic conditions, which results in higher debts.
- Concerns with access to services (education, health, WASH, cash), particularly for PWSN.
- Aggravated risks of child labour, child marriage, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation.
- Fraud cases reported in relation to RST/travel abroad and access to cash through ATM.
- Concerns that the consequences of the current environment may manifest in stricter measures against refugees, even if the protests are not directed at refugees.
- Spontaneous self-organized returns triggered by the worsening economic conditions.
- Most regular activities went on hold due to road blocks (closure of public services). Critical services are provided whenever possible.
- Need to expand the support to vulnerable Lebanese and other vulnerable groups.

2. LCRP 2020 Update – *Sector coordinators*

- All chapters have been finalized. The LCRP Steering Committee did not take place this year, however all chapters have been sent to the regional 3RP bureau and will be featured in the global appeal.
- **Planning figures:** there are 3.2 million people in need: 2.3 million people are targeted for protection and direct assistance and 2.16 million people are targeted for service delivery, economic recovery and social stability.
- 112 appealing partners, a decrease from last year (133) – mainly reflecting a decrease in Social Stability sector partners as many were not implementing programmes last year so the 2020 figure is more realistic.
- The budget is US 2.67 billion, up from 2.62 billion last year, resulting from an increase in the budget of Basic Assistance and Livelihoods sectors.



- Enablers to increase impact in 2020:
 - Sector strategies will be regularly reviewed to adapt it to worsening socio-economic conditions.
 - More flexible funding is needed.
 - A more balanced resource allocation between sectors.
 - Strengthen linkages with long-term development partners.

The major gaps, challenges and response strategies for the 2020 LCRP per sector, were presented by sector coordinators – *Presentation is found [here](#).*

Key Discussion Points:

- Although the formation of a new government might be delayed, the LCRP will still be managed and led by the government given the urgency of the current situation and the potential expansion of assistance to vulnerable Lebanese.
- The NPTP data was updated in 2012 based on the CAS results and the household budget survey. However, the NPTP list went through a recertification exercise in 2017-2018 so the data is quite accurate and recent. Discussions are ongoing with relevant partners to look into the potential to expand the number of NPTP beneficiaries. Partners who want to use the NPTP list to implement programmes targeting vulnerable Lebanese would have to reach out to the NPTP team at MoSA.
- The Ministry of Agriculture has developed an emergency plan to distribute 2 billion LBP worth of seeds to farmers, however some issues with credits have been noted and given this is a critical time of the year for planting some types of seeds, swift intervention is needed. At the moment, there are ongoing efforts to assess, along with the lead agencies of the Food Security and Agriculture sector, where the needs are and if some emergency funds can be redirected to support small farmers.

3. LCRP workshops on ethical and professional behaviour – Mignon Van der Liet-Senders, UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Unit

- The first ethics workshop was organized at national level in June, followed by a series of similar workshops at field level in September/October.
- The main objective was to improve the collective understanding of ethical and professional values to be fostered and how these can be better achieved within the LCRP response.
- Topics discussed included principles and standards of ethical and professional behaviour, prevention of fraud and corruption, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, accountability and feedback.
- Both **international and local** partners attended the workshops.
- More than 100 LCRP partners participated at management level in the national-level workshops, while more than 100 partners (with different functional profiles) also participated in the field workshops.
- Facilitation of the field workshops was done in an **inter-agency manner**, by UNHCR and UNDP jointly, together with facilitators from different organizations in each workshop for the session on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Concrete outcomes of the workshops:



- All participants have been asked to share with the IA team, any code of conduct/ethics or similar documents that they may have within their organizations
- Name a focal point for ethical matters for every organization, to serve as “Ambassadors of ethical and professional behaviour” who would promote ethical and professional values within their respective organization, be able to provide input/feedback, and support in spreading awareness.
- The IA team will keep partners informed of future developments, to obtain inputs on proposals or other feedback, and to spread awareness within their respective organizations.
- Overall, the workshops were positively rated and perceived as interesting and useful. Most participants would recommend organizing ethics workshops again in the future.
- In terms of next steps, the IA team is reviewing the format and organization of future workshops based on feedback received and lessons learnt. Furthermore, a list of ethics focal points has been established. It is an IA priority to strengthen **accountability and feedback mechanisms**, and ethics focal point will be involved in this.
- Suggestion to share with partners the online resources available.

Presentation is found [here](#).

4. Emergency/ Extreme weather tools – Jad Ghosn, Head of IM

- Similar response cycle to last year (winter 2019) with updated tools for more efficiency based on lessons learnt.
- The RNA is triggered by emergency focal points in close coordination with the national inter-sector team, after which the trained RNA partners in every region conduct the RNA (multi-sector assessment). The data collected is then captured and reported on an online dashboard for the identification of needs.
- There are emergency focal points for every region (BML, Bekaa, North and South), who are responsible of:
 - Initiating the extreme weather response
 - Establishing the RNA geosplit
 - Ensuring all RNA partners are trained and familiar with the emergency tools
 - Communicating prioritization process to RNA and response partners
 - Monitoring the ongoing response and ensure gaps are identified
 - Monitoring accuracy of data collected
 - Reporting back to the national level Inter-Agency team
- The RNA partners would conduct the RNA in the area, ensure the data collected is accurate and inform emergency focal points when the sites have been assessed.
- Response partners would use the collected data to initiate the response by coordinating closely with sector leads who are the sector coordinators on the field.
- The RNA is not only meant for informal settlements or displaced Syrians, it would be used for both Lebanese and Syrians in all types of housing – wherever needed.
- If a certain site has been referred, it is possible to see on the online dashboard if the response has been initiated.

Presentation is found [here](#).



DRM unit at the Prime Minister's Office:

- The unit supports four pillars of a disaster: prevention, preparedness, response and recovery for both natural and man-made hazards. The unit sends early warning messages and prevention measures in the form of brochures and infographics.
- The early warning messages are disseminated through social media platforms and WhatsApp groups.
- At both the national and governorate levels there are committees composed of concerned ministries and agencies. The LCRP coordination will soon have a seat in the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) committees in the governorates to increase efficiency of the response at the local level and prevent duplication.

5. A.O.B

- The Inter-Agency coordination team has been working with the sectors to identify knowledge gaps that are crucial for programming. Therefore, a list of specific research questions is now published online through the Lebanon Information Hub at <http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/research/>. The questions are meant to capture these knowledge gaps at sector and inter-sector levels. Partners are strongly encouraged to help the LCRP team and the wider Inter-Agency to fill these gaps. An email with further details will be sent to all partners.
- Mandatory trainings on the new version of ActivityInfo will take place throughout January 2020. The new version has significant changes, particularly on data entry. All partners who are currently entering data on AI are encouraged to participate in the trainings.
- The end-year funding update will be launched soon, an email will be sent through the Inter-Agency before the end of the year. Only NGOs who have received direct funding from donors are required to submit the funding received.
- The MoPH has launched a measles vaccination campaign to respond to the outbreak. A mapping at the national level is currently underway to identify partners interested in participating in the campaign.
- WFP is launching the call for proposals for the Food Assistance for training programme and the deadline is at the end of this month.
- The Inter-Agency is working to produce an online mapping of services, which would have a standardized format for the types of information collected across sectors and the process will begin in January.
- Currently, under the LCRP, the focus has been on preparedness measures both at field and national levels. A set of indicators, with baselines, are being monitored as well and communicated regularly with partners through a situation update that is meant to inform contingency planning.