

Minutes of Northern Lebanon Inter - Agency Meeting

12 September 2019, 10:00 – 12:00

UNHCR Qobayat Office

Chairperson(s)	Mohammed Ghafour on the behalf of Anne Dolan (UNHCR) Alain Chatry (UNDP) Khaled Osman (MoSA)
Agenda of the Meeting	Sector Updates AoB

Sector updates: (PowerPoint presentation with all sector leads inputs was prepared and presented)

- An assessment in North Lebanon was conducted by UNICEF partners to map out the refugee settlements that are in proximity of water bank and rivers to avoid possible pollution. The assessment will be shared by Unicef with the IA partners for their programing under the environmental interventions.
- As the WASH sector lead, Unicef has developed a draft guideline on response and management of structures near water banks, the plan has been submitted to the Ministry of Water and Energy for endorsement. Unicef will share the draft with the IA.
 - o It was recommended by the IA to add the scenario within the guideline proposed to the Water and Energy Ministry of refugees having constructed latrines and the resources or work needed to support this type of structure.
- UNHCR Health unit conducts regularly monitoring visits to hospitals. Those identified with issues in meeting the health needs of refugees as well as mistreatment are removed from the network of contracted hospitals. Currently a network revision is underway and results will be communicated with the IA once finalized.
- Due to insufficient number of students, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE) issued a directive to close 35 public schools country wide, including 15 in the North. Eight schools among the affected 15 in the North are providing second-shift schooling to the refugee children. The MEHE is planning to enroll the affected students in other nearby schools. Unicef is advocating with MEHE for some selective schools to still remain functional particularly the ones rehabilitated by Unicef (6 out of the 35).
- The Education Sector conducted an analytical study to look at the quality of education in the first shift schools compared to the second-shifts. The results showed that both programs operate similarly, yet, it was highlighted that the second-shift students face challenges when they have to pass the enrolment programs.
- The Education Sector provided recommendations on the need to increase home support activities to refugee students.
- UNICEF Education sector lead has initiated an online Education Sector specific online referral platform/pathway. Given that there is a unified Inter-Sectorial referral contact list/pathway, Unicef was encouraged to avoid parallel referral pathways to avoid duplication and confusion. **This issue can be addressed once the current referral**

contact list document has become online and made available for the sector leads to be able to access and update it.

- Unicef has announced Call for Expression of Interest under the CP and WASH sectors. The one for the Education Sector will be coming out soon. Interested partners were encouraged to directly reach out to Unicef for more details.
- The tension taskforce for both the North & Akkar has met on 20 & 23 August respectively. Accordingly the tension scoring levels for the different communities were revised and the tension map will be updated soon.
- UNDSS is closely monitoring the increased tensions between Lebanon and its Southern neighboring country following a number of recent security incidents. Any changes in the security guidelines will be communicated to the agencies through the ASMT.
- MoIM advised the agencies to verify and cross-check any information related to the local authorities and municipalities' practices. According to the MoIM, often times reported incidents by the humanitarian actors are exaggerated which can cause frustration by the government counter parts. MoIM and MOSA are willing to collaborate with the agencies if they have any inquiry related to this subject matter.

AoB:

- The Inter – Agency is organizing an Ethics workshop at UNHCR Tripoli Office on the 24th of September 2019 to all partners appealing for 2020 LCRP.
- A reminder to all sector leads to provide feedback on the North referral focal persons' drafted template which was shared through the IA mailing list. If the agencies do not provide feedback, the template will be considered as a final version and will be made available online to the sector leads to update it on a regular basis.