

Minutes of Livelihoods Working Group Meeting, Beirut 2022



**Inter-Agency
Coordination
Lebanon**

Meeting Location	Virtual – Teams	Date and Meeting time	9 June 2022 10 am – 12 pm
Chairpersons	Yousra Taleb (UNDP) Afaf Khalil (MoSA)	Meeting Duration	2 hours
Minutes by	Yousra Taleb, Afaf Khalil		
Represented Agencies	IRC, COOPI, PRM, GIZ, UNDP, AVSI, Right to Play, UNHCR, ACF, IOM, SIF, WHH, NRC, Mission East, DRC, LebRelief, JRS, UNICEF, arche noVa, LUPD, ILO, EDPU Oxfam, Civil Council Against Addiction, OXFAM, Concern Worldwide, Humanity & Inclusion, World Vision, Arcenciel, Swiss Cooperation Office, AIMjamoua (LHDF), Save the Children, Development and Cooperation Association (DCA), Caritas Lebanon, HI, ACF, KFW, EU delegation, UN Women, PUI, CESVI, Mada, NPAAid, Basmeh w Zaitouneh, Mercy Corps, GVC, Help Age, LU task force, Caritas Switzerland,		
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening and Agenda 2. ILO tracer study publication 3. DRC Innovative Programme 4. HelpAge presentation on Campaign on Social Pension for Older People in Lebanon 5. Older people and Persons with disabilities in Livelihoods 6. AoB 		

1. Opening and Agenda

UNDP and MoSA Sector coordinators opened the meeting and presented the Livelihoods meeting agenda.

2. ILO Tracer study publication

You can find attached the PDF full presentation

Presented by Rania Hokayem – National TVET program coordinator

The study conducted in 2020 – 2021 relates to graduates of a vocational training program funded by the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development. It aimed to check the outcome of these trainings in terms of employment status and characteristics, and income two years after the graduation. It also looked at how the skills attained from the vocational training were relevant and what were the other factors which influenced their status.

The sample was 500 of both genders (56% females and 44% males) and nationalities (70% Lebanese and 30% Syrian) out of a total 1436 beneficiaries.

Main recommendations:

- For VT programmes' design:
 - o Allow time for thorough, locally held market assessments

- Enhance compatibility of VT certificates with the Lebanese education system
- For VT programmes' organizational set-up:
 - Strengthen opportunities raised by the partnership between Lebanese training providers and International NGOs
- For participants' selection:
 - Follow specific processes for pre-selection of trainees to ensure that interest and need for the training are aligned
- For training delivery:
 - Look into ways of triggering motivation and minimizing discouragement.
 - Counseling services during the course
 - Post-training support to assist graduates in finding employment
 - Contribute to work improvements and conditions for workers taking into consideration the availability of workers to attend trainings (such as evening classes_
 - Improve exposure to work through orientation sessions from experts in related fields, visits to work sites and job shadowing
 - For internships, advance agreements with employers on training plans stipulating specific competence and learning outcomes.
- After the training:
 - Allow time for post-training support services such as employment counselling, job matching and placement, and business development support.
 - Include more coaching to empower students in deconstructing preconceived ideas about the labour market.
 - Plan for additional support to supporting women's economic participation.
 - Include awareness raising towards trainees, and potentially towards employers, on what decent work means and employees' rights.

Discussions:

The report showed people with disabilities faced difficulties in finding employment mainly due to 1) the setting of the workplace (accessibility), 2) the perception of the PwD that they cannot do the job and that they will not be accepted.

Further questions that need answers: how we can make sure that people with disabilities are able to access jobs and employment, what kind of social support can be provided to them as well as logistical support that might be provided to the employers. Finally, how can we ensure that the motivation of participants is not related to any incentives they might be receiving.

3. DRC's innovation programme on Advancing Economic Empowerment of GBV Survivors in Humanitarian Settings through Evidence and Localized Action for Gender Transformative Change

You can find attached the PDF full presentation

Presented by Mariam Abu Samra – Protection specialist

The project is funded by PRM and implemented in partnership with the Women Refugee Council. It is a three-year research focused program that will cover Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria, and Uganda. In Lebanon, it will specifically cover the North and Bekaa governorates. The main goal is to generate evidence on GBV and economic recovery integrated programming which aims to address structural gender inequality as an

underlying root cause of gender-based violence and women's economic marginalization in forced displacement.

Discussion:

Every year there is a specific goal and objective. The first year, which is approaching the end, will result in conducting the local and global research and establishing the local active groups; the second year will cover the inception of the theory of change based on the results of the research as well as developing MEAL tools which will be piloted and then adjusted accordingly. The third year will strictly be dedicated to advocacy with donors and other stakeholders.

Partners who are interested in being part of the local active group can reach out to Mariam Abu Samra, Mariam.Abusamra@drc.ngo / 76183296

4. HelpAge presentation on Campaign on Social Pension for Older People in Lebanon

You can find attached the PDF full presentation

Presented by Chandranshu - portfolio development and quality manager

The assessment was conducted in February 2022 in partnership with Expertise France to identify the needs of older people in Lebanon.

Main findings:

- 47% of older people reported denial of resources, services, and opportunities
- 51% reported lack of money as the main barrier to accessing health services
- 38% reported that they do not have access to sufficient food
- For older Lebanese, the main sources of income were savings (25%), humanitarian assistance (24%), remittances (19%), and work/employment (19%).
- For older Syrians, the top sources are humanitarian assistance (65%) and work/employment (27%).

Ways forward:

- Grassroot level actions
 - o Mobilizing older people and establishing older people institutions
 - o Awareness campaign
- Intermediate actions
 - o Involve academia, universities, develop think tanks to generate high quality evidence
 - o Continue the engagement with local actors, older people (including women), network members, and CSOs
 - o Capacity building and advocacy initiatives
 - o Stay prepared with policy inputs and strategic plans
- National level actions
 - o Creating a positive narrative, effectiveness in countering extreme poverty
 - o Advocating for systems' reforms – basic standards of living and human rights
 - o Technical support, feasibility study with pathways to a sustainable social pension mechanism
 - o Engage and collaborate with diverse stakeholders including government and parliamentarians

5. Older people and Persons with disabilities in Livelihoods

As part of the Inter-Agency initiatives to produce quarterly in-focus document on specific thematic areas, this quarter the work is on the needs, available services, gaps, and recommendations to improve the response for older people and people with disabilities.

Under the Livelihoods sector the information we have is:

- The 2021 VaSYR shows that %5 of the responding Syrian refugees stated that they are not able to get employed or are unemployed because they are caregivers of elderly people.
- The multi-sector needs assessment conducted by OCHA shows that 7% of the respondents could not access job opportunities and employment because they have a disability.
- The current Livelihoods sector indicators do not allow the tracking of services provided to elders or to people with disabilities.

Discussions and recommendations

- Adding indicators that captures the services provided to the people with disabilities and older people.
- When discussing this topic, there needs to be a clear distinguishment and separation between older people and people with disabilities.
- Older people might not be interested or physically able to engage in Livelihoods activities such as labor-intensive programs or vocational training and business management training. In the former activity special considerations should be taken such as engaging in less physical work and providing special insurance coverage.
- Older people are mostly in need of protection more than livelihoods as most of them have been working their whole lives and suddenly found that all their savings or pensions lost their value.
- For people with disabilities, there are several organizations in Lebanon who support them through different interventions such as vocational training on soap production.
- A question should be asked whether the aim is to increase their employability which might require specific trainings or to integrate them in existing programmes. Integrating would necessitate those programs are adapted to cater to their specific needs, while there is a chance to support specialized organizations who are ready to provide specialized services.
- Opportunity to engage older people in the establishment of small businesses.
- Using targeted outreach to people with disabilities.
- A challenge to expect if working with older people in vocational training is the acceptance of employers who would prefer younger employees. As such, it would be better to select topics that can support self-employment.
- The sector strategy should clearly talk about the support to be provided to people with disabilities and older people.
- Accessibility to training centers and workplaces should be considered at the planning phase.
- There should be a tailored and specialized assessment to identify the correct type of training for each beneficiary.

6. AoB

- A reminder on the Activity Info reporting of May activities by the 15th of June.
- The World Rehabilitation Fund (WRF) Project titled "Filling Assistance Gaps in Basic Rehabilitation Services for Refugees from Syria with Disabilities and Their Peers in Host Communities in Lebanon" is implemented within the framework of a Cooperative Agreement awarded by the United States Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM). The

Project provides direct person-specific assistance to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) among refugees from Syria and their peers in host communities in Lebanon.

In this context, the project provides the following assistance services (also detailed in the attached project announcements):

- Mobility aids and rehabilitation accessories and home/self-care supplies
- Physical and occupational therapy
- Professionally fitted prosthetic and/or orthotic devices, and supplies to persons with amputations, deformities, and other mobility impairments.
- Visual aids (professionally fitted eyeglasses, walking canes, magnifiers...) to persons with visual impairments.
- Professionally fitted hearing aids and as needed parental guidance, and initiation to speech therapy sessions to persons with hearing impairments.
- Basic home/car accessibility alterations.
- Architectural alterations to community services entities to reduce physical barriers to accessibility.

For any information about the project and/or referral of needy persons with disabilities kindly note that you can make contact as per details noted in the attachments and/or by contacting WRF/Lebanon Office through the following email: info@wrf.org.lb