



South Lebanon Social Stability Sector Working Group Meeting - Minutes

MEETING			
Name	Social Stability WG	Meeting date	July 20, 2022
Meeting location	UNDP South	Meeting time	10:00 a.m.
Chairperson	Yousra Taleb / UNDP Elie Chaaya / UNHCR	Meeting duration	1 hr
Minutes prepared by	UNDP		
Participants	Nashet, UNHCR, WVI, MoIM, MoSA, Mercy Corps, ICRC, UNIFIL, NRC, UNICEF, WFP, Anera, Amel, IECD, ISWA		
Meeting Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and introduction. 2. National Level updates: SWM 3. Partners updates 4. AoB 		

Summary of Discussion Points

1.	<p>Welcome & Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP welcomed the participants on behalf of the co-chairs • The agenda was briefly presented and validated by partners.
	<p>Deviation from original agenda None</p>
2.	<p>National Level updates: SWM the waste generation size in 2018 was almost 2.7 million tons/year with the highest in Mount Lebanon, followed by the North, Bekaa and the South. We currently do not have an updated figure of generated waste size but expect that it has decreased due to the pandemic and the economic crisis. But this remains a burden on the shoulders of the municipalities, the infrastructure, and the partners because of the limited resources. In terms of the municipalities' capacities, 75% of municipalities do not have a funding source for solid waste management as they rely solely on the independent municipal fund which hasn't been dispersed for the years 2020 and 2021. Even if dispersed, it will have lost its value given the current increasing costs of services and the exchange rates. This is affecting the payment of salaries, contracts for service providers (collection, transportation, and treatment), management of facilities and dumpsites. This situation has negative impacts as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in random dumping and burning of waste. - Increasing excavation activities where children are engaged in waste collection exposing them to dropping out from school or to being exploited and violently treated by those buying the waste from them. - Tensions are starting to surface again due to the accumulation of waste - Environmental and health hazards. - Air pollution from burning waste - Possible clogging of rainwater canals which will lead to flooding in the winter season - Increasing pressure on partners to intervene and support.

	<p><u>Discussions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Municipalities are requesting for support from partners in terms of fuel, fixing and rehabilitation of garbage trucks, payment of salaries for waste collectors and solar energy for the sorting facilities where applicable. - Some municipalities are linking the solid waste issue with the presence of refugees even indicating that host communities are refusing that the municipality collects the waste of the refugees while they are paying and supporting the municipality with the cost of fuel. Other municipalities have started imposing fees for waste collection on both local and refugee communities. - The social stability sector is preparing a thematic brief on solid waste management which will be shared with the partners and key actors, including key messages for donors, authorities, and partners. The sector is also mapping out initiatives to enhance the referral mechanisms so that partners with possible capacities can be requested to support. - The sector will also recommend creating a localized emergency funds or a mechanism to prioritize localized emergency funds to respond to the municipalities priorities such as water, solid waste, solar energy, wastewater etc. this might also be reflected in the sector strategy for the coming year where a new indicator related to localized emergency response or prioritization to respond to the changing needs of the municipalities. - The current situation is moving the partners back to the emergency response status.
<p>3.</p>	<p>Partners updates</p>
	<p><u>UNIFIL:</u> several projects some of which are closing. With Jabal Amel UoM solar energy for Qabrikha SWM facility and a new electric cell for the main water station in Taibe which falls under the management of the SLWE waiting the approval of EDL. Support the municipality of Al Qantara to purchase a generator for the artesian well noting that the fuel will be procured through donations and funds from the locals. Solar system for the municipal building in Kfar Chouba which will also provide electricity to the MoSA dispensary in the village and a fuel tank for extra storage or backup. Completed solar system for one of the water pumps in Chebaa. The ongoing mediation training for women in sector East is coming to an end next month. Solar panels for Aita Chaab school for children with special needs. A request was received from the Ministry of Public Health doctor of Qaza for support with providing PCR tests for the most vulnerable.</p> <p><i>Discussion:</i> it is recommended to have partners jointly supporting main water pumps for the water establishment to cover the needs of a larger number of villages instead of going in separate small-scale projects.</p> <p><u>NRC:</u> planning for area-based approach projects. Meeting with several municipalities (Ain Baal, Berj Shemali, Kharayeb, Chebaa and Kfar Roumane) where the common issue was electricity and fuel and how it is affecting everything including solid waste management and water. Meetings with popular committees and UNRWA and the Tyr deputy head of UoM also had the same concerns related to water as a priority and then solid waste management. Solid waste was seen as manageable, even if in negative processes such as burning with increasing needs for fuel and running costs. Refugees' presence is seen as increasing the burden (solid waste, infrastructure, electricity...). In Kfar Roumane for example, the municipality claimed that the village residents are sorting from source except for the refugees who are throwing them randomly and without using bags which were provided for them (yet no tension was sensed). To this end, the mayor of Kfar Roumane asked for support with at least more awareness sessions on sorting. Water is becoming more important for municipalities than solid waste management (solar energy) which neither the municipalities nor the SLWE have the capacities to solve. This redirected attention might lead to negative results in terms of solid waste issues. For the support to water, it is not feasible to support all boreholes with solar energy as it will require increased funding and might also be challenging in finding the needed material in the local market given the increased demand.</p>

	<p>Action point: share the results of the assessments done with municipalities when ready.</p> <p><u>UNHCR</u>: Bissarieh neighborhood improvement (shelter, lighting, road maintenance...). But this is only for a small specific neighborhood and will not necessarily have an effect across the village. CSPs are moving towards support to water through solar energy, no areas identified yet (AP: UNHCR to talk with NRC to see possible needs and support).</p> <p><u>ANERA</u>: life skills and youth led initiatives in the South. Support to health centers (solar energy) and mapping with municipalities the needs for solar systems (in the pipeline). Chronic disease medicines in South and Nabatieh as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Saida: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ahmad Sawi Dispensary (Al Temeer ein el helweh) • Al Hussein Medical Center (haret Saida) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tofahta: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tofahta Medical Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tyre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caritas Tyre <p>Centers in the Nabatieh Area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nabatieh el Tahta: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Kayan Medical Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chebaa: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Al Rahma Medical Center
4.	AoB
	<p><i>Findings from partners' field visits:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR: Bissarieh linked solid waste with increasing tensions. The mayor requested support from the diaspora and other locals who objected using the fuel bought by their money to collect the waste of the refugees. Noting that collecting the Lebanese residents' wastes would require two days whereas adding the refugees waste would need 3 additional rounds. He requested support with fuel. This is starting to be clearly linked with tensions. - NRC: the current situation requires emergency funding to support the municipalities and the local communities with the needed fuel to ensure access to water and fuel to ensure solid waste collection as well as to support local civil defense. <p><i>Municipalities are requesting solar panels to support the water wells. Some are being able to get funds from residents or diaspora.</i></p> <p><i>In 2021, the logistics cluster (under ERP) led by WFP, OCHA and UNICEF supported more than 600 public institutes (municipality, hospital...) with fuel. The project is concluded but if there are information to rising needs this can be raised to the national level to plan for another round of projects to aid.</i></p> <p><i>A SWM facility between Kfour and Charqieh was established several years ago. It is not operational yet reportedly because it has the capacity to treat 100 tons but the available is only 70 tons. MoSA and MoIM can visit the Governor of Nabatieh to collect information and get a better understanding of the facility's status. This might hold a potential long-term solution for the solid waste issue in the area.</i></p>