



## South Lebanon Social Stability Sector Working Group Meeting - Minutes

<b>MEETING</b>			
<b>Name</b>	Social Stability WG	<b>Meeting date</b>	May 24, 2022
<b>Meeting location</b>	UNDP South	<b>Meeting time</b>	10:00 a.m.
<b>Chairperson</b>	Yousra Taleb / UNDP	<b>Meeting duration</b>	1 hr
<b>Minutes prepared by</b>	UNDP		
<b>Participants</b>	CESVI, UNDP Palestinian Programme, UNIFIL, AFC, UNICEF, MoIM, ICRC, UNDP Peacebuilding project, DPNA, ISWA, MoSA, SHEILD, AlBurouj		
<b>Meeting Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Welcome and introduction.</b></li> <li><b>2. Elections consequences on the operations</b></li> <li><b>3. Solid-waste management task force meeting – discussions</b></li> <li><b>4. National level updates:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Q1 results</b></li> <li><b>b. Youth Empowerment challenges and opportunities</b></li> </ol> </li> <li><b>5. AoB</b></li> </ol>		

### Summary of Discussion Points

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDP welcomed the participants on behalf of the co-chairs</li> <li>• The agenda was briefly presented and validated by partners.</li> </ul>
	<b>Deviation from original agenda</b> None
<b>2.</b>	<b>Elections consequences on the operations</b>
	<p>No additional measures post-elections. All measures were taken pre and during elections (starting Saturday until Monday morning – curfews).</p> <p>In these three days, measures such as closure of camps, Syrians were not allowed to move within or between villages and were instructed to stay home unless if for necessary issues. Palestinian popular committees spread the word among camp residents to restrain for movement for their safety.</p> <p>UNIFIL tried to reduce footprint prior and immediately after the elections, avoiding areas in the vicinity of electoral posts. Reduced or no CIMIC activities to avoid sensitivities.</p> <p>Following the circular issued by Nabatieh Governorate, several municipalities issued follow-up circulars. South Governorate did not issue a similar decision, but some municipalities did. The measures were only for short period and MoIM tried to the extent possible to limit its effects on Syrian refugees.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Solid-waste management task force meeting – discussions (see presentation)</b>

	<p>An ad-hoc solid waste management task force meeting was held on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, where the National Solid waste management coordinator at the Ministry of Environment presented the ministry's strategy. The strategy consists of 7 directives that reflect the vision and plan of the MoE. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decentralize and provide fiscal power to local authorities</li> <li>- Adopt the concepts of the circular economy (3Rs) and regulate specific waste streams</li> <li>- Upgrade and operate district/city level secondary sorting &amp; composting facilities</li> <li>- Regulate the production of refuse derived fuels (RDF)</li> <li>- Upgrade current sanitary landfills and build new ones</li> <li>- Rehabilitate open dumpsites and close them</li> <li>- Strengthen the regulatory and oversight role of MoE</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<b>National level updates</b>
	<p><b><u>Q1 Results</u></b></p> <p>The results of the reporting on activity info for the first quarter of the year (January, February, and March 2022) shows that only 13 projects have been implemented under basic services and Community support projects which means there is a critical gap under these types of interventions, despite the increasing needs of municipalities for similar types of activities. It is important to look at ways forward to move faster with these activities. Regarding the solid waste management only 14 projects have been implemented in the in the first quarter and regarding the support to municipal police, 35 municipalities have been supported, which is a good achievement. Regarding the conflict integration mechanisms or social stability mechanisms, 22 municipalities have benefited from the establishment of new mechanisms for social stability that aim at reducing conflicts and tension. And regarding the youth empowerment initiatives, we had 104 initiatives which is a good number, these included youth led initiatives and trainings to youth and engaged around 5500 youth.</p> <p>With the support to media where training of journalists and media focal points on positive and neutral reporting to mitigate tensions from a misinterpretation of reporting specifically on social media, 18 initiatives have been implemented including covering 74 media focal points. As for conflict sensitivity 150 staff members from different organizations were trained under the sector.</p> <p>The key challenges the sector partners faced in all the areas were related to pressure from municipalities, specifically the shortage of resources, financial and human resources, admin supplies and their impact on the operations space. This has delayed our activities because municipalities can't engage.</p> <p>Another challenge was the delays in issuance of legal permits that are needed for projects, such as registration of vehicles or construction permits, which is mainly due to the strike of public administration staff.</p> <p>The increase of tension and security incidents is another challenge which is due to the multi compounded crisis as well as specifically the competition over resources and on jobs and the lack of the municipal resources, specifically the police, to control the security situation.</p> <p>The increase of pressure and tension from local authorities on partners was also reported with increasing requests that go beyond the partners' abilities and capacities to respond. This inability to respond is sometimes leading to tensions or eviction threats where refugees are always scapegoated and instrumentalized in such cases.</p> <p>The last identified challenge is the access to raw material and fuel prices, which is also delaying implementation.</p> <p>The main ways forward are the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prioritize municipalities needs, but realistically taking into consideration the internal selection processes and donors' requirements.</li> <li>- Investing in lower sustainability cost interventions to mitigate the sustainability and operation management burdens on municipalities</li> <li>- To better use resources partners are trying to integrate livelihoods components (such as cash for</li> </ul>

	<p>work) in their social stability interventions and specifically basic services or community support projects to cover basic needs and to ensure access to cash and livelihoods opportunities during the current economic crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Partners are also encouraged to capacitate municipalities through trainings and follow up to better manage their services and operations during crisis and notably their financial revenues, which will reflect on their financial ability to manage and operate services and projects.</li> <li>- Using the geographic clustering approach is encouraged which will ensure a better coverage and more cost-efficient interventions through targeting different neighboring geographic areas under one intervention.</li> </ul> <p>A good lesson learnt comes from the North where the inter-sector secretariat including UNDP, UNHCR, MoSA and MoIM are meeting whenever there are requests from authorities to study these requests and then refer what can be referred to relevant agencies under different sectors. The keep open communication with authorities to mitigate any further backlashes and allows a unified position towards pressure from authorities.</p> <p><b><u>Youth Empowerment challenges and opportunities</u></b></p> <p>The sector is focusing on studying and analyzing youth empowerment support specifically under the social stability sector. This includes youth empowerment initiatives which has two major types. The first one, is training youth on life skills or healthy lifestyle skills or conflict resolution skills. The second is the youth led initiatives which aim to counter youth marginalization and ensure their empowerment through engaging them in sports, recreational activities, artistic activities, peace building clubs, media clubs or also active citizenship which engage youth from all communities. These initiatives focus also on social stability and acceptance of others and tolerance and conflict resolution.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>AoB</b></p>
	<p>The number of Social Stability partners reporting their activities on Activity Info is only 6 as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- South: ACTED, CESVI, UNDP, SFCG and AMEL</li> <li>- Nabatieh: ACTED</li> </ul> <p>This might be the result of decreasing funds for social stability activities in the area and the shifting of attention towards livelihoods activities. Partners are reminded to report activities in a timely manner.</p>