LEBANON Response Plan

Meeting Notes
Ad-Hoc Inter-Sector Coordination Group Meeting

Tuesday, 8 October 2024, 1:00 - 3:00
ESCWA/Online via MS Teams

The ad-hoc Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) meeting was held to provide updates on the Displacement Impact Rapid Needs Assessment (DIRNA), discuss conflict sensitivity in the emergency response, hear from the National Mental Health program (NMHP) on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) response, and highlight access issues. Key highlights and action points from the meeting, are noted here:

Key Highlights:

Introduction

- The ISCG's coordination role in light of the L3 activation for system-wide emergency scale-up was highlighted.
- This activation, intended to enhance response effectiveness, will span six months and will be reviewed after 3 months. The activation aims to mobilize capacities and resources for humanitarian operations for the coming period in light of the escalation of the ongoing conflict. New colleagues deployed to Lebanon (including those from OCHA and UNHCR on surge) were introduced during the meeting and will support coordination and emergency response efforts. This will also be communicated in writing.
- The importance of aligning efforts with the Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) was noted while adapting the response to new operational structures, such as Site Management.
- Action points were reviewed and are available on slide 5 of the presentation here.

Update from the AAWG on the DIRNA

- The Displacement Impact Rapid Needs Assessment (DIRNA) is a crucial tool designed with REACH to provide snapshots of the situation for displaced populations outside of collective shelters.
- The tool will gather data at the cadaster level, with an emphasis on understanding displacement patterns, impacts on service provision, and the top three priority needs in affected areas. It will primarily focus on high-arrival zones such as Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML) but will expand to cover other areas as needed.
- Feedback from technical core group, including key stakeholders from IOM, WFP, UNICEF, and UNHCR, was integrated into the tool. The package of related documents was also shared by email with Sector coordination teams for review and comment.
- Deployment of the DIRNA is planned by mid-October 2024, with a dashboard summarizing findings expected by October 18, 2024.
- The DIRNA will be regularly updated every seven days to reflect changing displacement trends and needs, with a first dashboard expected by October 18, 2024.

Conflict Sensitivity in Emergency Response

- Based on UNDP's Tensions Monitoring System (TMS) data, tensions are growing risks within and around collective shelters. These tensions are primarily driven by competition over limited resources (shelter, food, cash assistance), inter-communal friction between displaced populations and host communities, and increasing misinformation and fake news.

- Reports of privacy breaches, such as taking photographs of beneficiaries without consent, and inappropriate or culturally insensitive distributions (e.g., unsuitable clothing) were identified as risks that can exacerbate tensions.
- Misinformation, particularly online, is contributing to a rise in tensions, and has the potential to spill over into physical confrontations in communities. Additionally, concerns over favoritism or corruption in aid distribution have created frustration among beneficiaries.
- Recommendations include applying a conflict-sensitive approach across all sectors, focusing on minimizing harm, enhancing transparency about selection criteria, ensuring equitable distribution of assistance, and improving cultural sensitivity in aid efforts.
- The TMS is actively monitoring tensions and will provide ongoing guidance to mitigate risks.
- Rumour management and social media listening are also being done.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Response

- Mental health concerns are growing among displaced populations, with increased levels of stress, trauma, and poor living conditions.
- The NMHP is scaling up MHPSS services to ensure that mental health is fully integrated into broader emergency operations for both frontline workers and beneficiaries, particularly in high-need areas.
- Challenges were noted in terms of capacity and access, with ongoing efforts to strengthen partnerships with NGOs and international organizations to address the growing need for MHPSS interventions.
- Coordination with partners will help address capacity challenges and improve access to mental health services in critical areas.
- Mental Health Services are detailed in slides 17 to 35 of the presentation here.

Access Update

- Through sectors, partners were being encouraged to report access constraints in the Access Monitoring Reporting Framework (AMRF) tool for troubleshooting.
- The Access WG will aim to produce regular analysis, snapshots and maps of areas where access is possible to reach people in need.
- Through the CMCoord Cell, humanitarian notification is being done (although for now limited to SLR area) to inform parties to the conflict about movements of jointly-organized humanitarian convoys to ensure delivery of assistance. Currently, a few convoys have been able to move from Beirut to South Lebanon (e.g., Tyre, and Rmeish) in the past week. More convoys will be planned in the coming days and will continue to be coordinated among agencies and key sectors including Logistics.
- Transportation of displaced people to other locations is being led by the government and LAF. This is being discussed by the HC with government counterparts, and where necessary humanitarian partners can offer support while notifications are done through the CMCoord Cell.

AoB

- **Reporting:** To align with the bi-weekly Flash Updates and potential requests from the government, it was agreed by most sectors to aim for daily activity/program reporting (where applicable) for activities outside collective shelters as being done for reporting for activities in collective shelters. Sectors recommended having a simple form with a selection of a few key indicators that could be reported on for activities outside collective shelters.

- **Data collection in Collective Shelters**: Multiple assessment and data collection exercises in collective shelters should be avoided as it create assessment fatigue, duplication, etc. It was agreed that the preference is to have a single site monitoring tool (which was developed previously in consultation with sectors) for site managers to collect the needed data, which could inform sector response activities or decisions on whether more detailed sector assessments are required. It was also noted that this decision/proposal for a harmonized approach should be communicated to the HCT for the record.

Action Points:

1. AAWG to roll out the DIRNA tool by mid-October and the dashboard by 18 October 2024. Sectors are encouraged to provide feedback during the initial rollout phase to ensure the tool meets operational requirements.
2. UNDP TMS to provide ISCG brief presentations on conflict analysis data from ongoing data gathering. Sectors to integrate conflict sensitivity into their planning and response efforts, particularly in areas where tensions are high due to competition over resources.
3. Site Coordination sector to send an email on the site monitoring tool to be used, providing other details (how data will be collected, who will analyze the data, etc.).