

Meeting Notes

Ad-Hoc Inter-Sector Coordination Group Meeting

Tuesday, 25 October 2024, 2:00 - 4:00
ESCWA/Online via MS Teams

The ad-hoc Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) meeting was held to provide updates and present an overview of winter preparedness and response, including sub-national interventions. The meeting also highlighted critical activities and funding gap analysis. Moreover, the ISCG work plan was discussed and useful resources were shared. Key highlights and action points from the meeting are noted below:

Key Highlights:

Opening Remarks & Updates

- **Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC):**
 - The IASC System-wide Scale Up Activation for Lebanon Benchmarks Table has been reviewed by sector coordinators.
 - The IASC Emergency Directors Group Mission is tentatively scheduled for 13 to 15 November, with participation still to be confirmed. Mission planning will begin as soon as possible, ensuring alignment with operational priorities and objectives.
- **Paris Conference:**
 - The International Conference in Support of Lebanon's People and Sovereignty was held in Paris on 24 October 2024.
 - French President Emmanuel Macron opened by the conference, emphasizing the importance of an immediate ceasefire – recalling the joint initiative of France and the United States, as well as continued French support for Lebanon.
 - Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati welcomed support from the countries in attendance, highlighting the urgent needs facing the country for which both emergency aid and support to national institutions responsible for basic services such as water, telecommunications and waste management.
 - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres (in a pre-recorded message) and the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator in Lebanon Imran Riza addressed the conference, warning of the catastrophic humanitarian situation, calling for an immediate ceasefire, unhindered access to humanitarian assistance, and heightened attention to the protection needs of civilians as well as additional funding for action in the immediate and medium term, as winter approaches.
 - At the end of the conference, the French Government announced an estimated \$800 million in pledges made by participating governments toward humanitarian assistance.
 - For more details, please see the latest Flash Update #38 available [here](#).
- **Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) Submission:**
 - The GHO provides top-level figures in terms of financial requirements and population, which will be consolidated at a global event to support fundraising efforts.
 - Discussions with the Assessment and Analysis Working Group were held to determine Lebanon's 2025 figures, using prior data sources, including the Lebanon Essential Needs Assessment (LENA) and the Displacement Impact and Rapid Needs Assessment (DIRNA). Given the absence of new assessments for People in Need, it was proposed to submit top-line figures similar to the LRP 2024 as a placeholder, with narrative inputs derived from existing reports to minimize additional requests to sector leads. Narrative will

clearly mention that these numbers are a placeholder and that they will be revised considering the evolving context.

- The LRP 2025 will present a unified plan incorporating the emergency response and flash appeal, adapting to contextual shifts, conflict dynamics, and newly displaced populations.
- **Sectoral Reporting:**
 - An at-a-glance one-page summary will replace the Q3 narrative dashboard for this quarter.
 - A decline in regular Activity Info reporting from key partners has been observed, making it difficult to capture activities, and affecting sector dashboards and advocacy efforts. Sector coordinators are urged to follow-up with their partners and reiterate the importance of timely reporting.

Winter Preparedness & Response

- The winter response will encompass a regular package addressing household and site-level needs, emphasizing key preparedness measures such as cash assistance, core relief items, and shelter support, including weatherproofing and necessary relocations. Infrastructure improvements at community sites will focus on energy solutions and municipal support.
- Shelter kits and floor-raising kits will continue to be provided to affected families, with an expanded scope and geographical reach that includes new areas hosting IDPs and collective sites, particularly schools. Priority will be given to high-altitude regions where winter conditions are more severe, especially for IDPs living above 500 meters, as well as areas prone to flooding, municipalities with capacity gaps, and locations lacking solid waste management.
- The total funding request for the LRP is \$83 million, with \$17 million identified as urgently needed and not previously budgeted under the LRP or Flash Appeal. Currently, contingency stock consists of \$13 million worth of core relief items, with an urgent need for an additional \$15 million to replenish supplies. This includes 1,700 kits for new arrivals and 29,000 repair kits, which require \$8 million for restocking.
- The main sectors involved in the winter response include Basic Assistance, Shelter, Site Monitoring, WASH, and Social Stability. Cross-cutting activities will also engage sectors such as Protection and Education, underscoring the holistic nature of this response. Tailored interventions are implemented across North and Akkar, Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel, Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML), and South and Nabatieh to address unique challenges of winter conditions, recent hostilities, and increased displacement.

The floor was open for sub-national co-chairs to address the following question: “What operational considerations must be addressed in your specific region this year, across the full scope of the response, including both regular programming and expansions in light of the escalation of hostilities and displacement?”

Responses were as follows:

- **North and Akkar:**
 - Flooding remains a primary concern, particularly in areas around the Al Kabir and El Oustouwan rivers, where overflow risks are heightened due to limited local authority capacity.
 - Efforts are focused on cleaning river channels to prevent blockages and mitigate flood risks in villages and informal settlements.
 - Challenges include limited municipal resources affect the ability to conduct consistent preventive maintenance on drainage systems and roads.

- Ongoing coordination with non-LRP partners aims to enhance local response capacity and support cleaning operations.
- Winterization activities for informal settlements are prioritized, with updates to the Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) tool facilitating improved partner response capabilities.
- **Bekaa and Baalbek-El Hermel:**
 - Severe winter conditions, such as heavy snowfall and icy roads, are expected to hinder accessibility in the region.
 - Partners are advised to preposition supplies and complete early distributions, especially in high-elevation areas and flood-prone zones.
 - Ongoing conflict, particularly north of Zahle, complicates access, prompting coordination with OCHA to secure convoy routes.
 - Substandard shelters and collective sites are prioritized, as limited partner capacity affects coverage, especially in remote northern Bekaa.
 - The region faces notable shortages in heating fuel, stoves, and sufficient electricity for collective shelters, as identified by shelter managers.
- **Beirut and Mount Lebanon (BML):**
 - The winterization response is complicated by shelter shortages and anticipated displacement pressures in BML.
 - Some shelters, including privately owned schools, are at risk of eviction, limiting secure spaces for displaced families.
 - Efforts focus on ensuring that existing shelters are equipped with heaters, winter-proofing, and water heaters for showers.
 - Rising electricity costs for collective shelters exacerbate the challenges, as increased heater use burdens limited resources.
 - Strategic prioritization of areas based on elevation and shelter conditions aims to streamline coordination among sector partners to manage electricity and heating needs effectively.
- **South and Nabatieh:**
 - Ongoing hostilities significantly impact local resources and affect partners' ability to access high-risk areas, particularly near the Blue Line.
 - General infrastructure damage and fuel shortages in remote, high-altitude areas like Marjayoun compound the challenges of winter preparedness.
 - Local authorities in these districts face critical capacity constraints, limiting their ability to address infrastructure issues such as waste management, stormwater control, and snow removal.
 - The response strategy focuses on supporting local authorities with equipment for waste and stormwater management, as well as diesel provisions to meet heating demands in hard-to-reach areas.
 - Additional efforts are underway to ensure that collective shelters in conflict zones are adequately supplied with solar heaters, blankets, and winter clothing to support the well-being of displaced families.

Critical Activities & Funding Gaps Analysis

- Planning around priorities is important, especially given the current financial constraints.
- A collaborative approach to managing sector priorities was highlighted, noting that decisions in one sector can impact others. Therefore, collaboration is essential to ensure that cross-sectoral priorities are identified and enabled.
- Challenges related to funding shortages were discussed, with a focus on understanding the implications of not meeting priority activities, highlighting that both long-term and short-term consequences must be considered in planning efforts.

- Clarification was sought regarding whether the funding reported in this exercise would encompass operational costs in addition to item costs, and it was noted that a comprehensive approach is necessary for accurate budgeting.
- Funding is not the only limitation that may impact planning and implementation, operational constraints, such as due to access, were also acknowledged.
- Importantly, sectors were asked to highlight their requirements and enabling factors for expanded operational reach and scale up.
- A matrix to facilitate the analysis of critical activities and funding gaps, as well as implications of inaction and enable factors, will be shared with sector coordinators for feedback. Sectors are encouraged to involve core group members and broader partner groups in discussions to ensure comprehensive decision-making.

ISCG Workplan

- The ISCG work plan draft was previously shared, reviewed, and made available for comments. It has now been reformatted into an Excel sheet for easier updates and monitoring.
- Feedback highlighted the need for clarity on the roles within the ISCG team, specifically around focal points for each activity. To address this, a column was added to indicate focal points by sector or working group.
- Emphasis was placed on collaborative effort across sectors. Each activity within the work plan now includes a designated focal point to facilitate accountability and follow-ups.
- Support functions are identified where multiple groups assist in certain tasks, ensuring shared responsibility.
- The work plan covers activities until the end of February 2025. Key activities are organized by the following categories: Contingency Planning, Strategic Decision Making, Planning and Strategy Development, Monitoring and Reporting, Humanitarian-Development Nexus, Localization, and Mainstreaming.
- Progress tracking includes categories for completion status, with updates expected monthly or upon completion.
- Review sessions will be conducted to reassess focal points, timelines, and activity feasibility, especially for mainstreaming.
- The work plan will be circulated as a live document, subject to updates based on evolving needs and focal point adjustments.
- A proposal was agreed upon to align the six-month progress review with a March scale-up review period.
- Updates and a revised work plan are anticipated by the end of the year, allowing for further assessment of progress and necessary adjustments.

AoB: Useful Links

- ISCG Contact Details: [LINK](#)
- How to Subscribe: [LINK](#)
You have the option to choose which specific sector and which field office you would like to subscribe to.
- Flash Appeal (AR & EN): [LINK](#)
- Flash Update #37 (as of 21 Oct): [LINK](#)
- At a Glance #37 (as of 21 Oct): [LINK](#)
- Mobility Snapshot Round 55 (IOM DTM): [LINK](#)

Action Points:

1. Sector Coordinators to submit a one-page summary (“**At a Glance**”) for ISCG Co-Chairs to review. Deadline: **Monday, 28 October 2024, COB.**
2. Winter Preparedness & Response 2024-2025 Overview:

- a. Inter-Sector to draft Overview Winter Preparedness & Response 2024-2025 based on inputs collected so far and to share with ISCG for final revision. Deadline: Monday, 28 October 2024.
 - b. Sub-national Inter-Sector co-chairs, relevant sector coordinators, and mainstreaming focal points to review the paper and provide any additional inputs. Deadline: Wednesday, 30 October 2024.
 - c. Inter-Sector co-chairs to share the paper with the HCT ahead of the HCT meeting on Thursday, 31 October 2024.
3. Sector coordinators are to consult with their Core Groups and fill the attached prioritization matrix in excel format and share their inputs with Paulina Odame at paulina.odame@un.org and Stephanie Laba at labas@unhcr.org, while copying the ISCG co-chairs. Deadline: **Friday, 1 November 2024 COB.**