

## Minutes of Meeting

### 2nd Livelihoods Working Group Meeting

October 9, 2013

UNDP-Beirut office, 3:00 pm - 4:10 pm

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	Actor	Deadline
<p><b>Review of achievements, gaps and challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the last meeting ( Main activities, gaps and challenges)</li> <li>• Review of the livelihoods map: FAO is working on the 5W matrix/casa</li> <li>• Members noted that the livelihood activities were nascent and not necessarily leading to increased employment opportunities for local and refugee communities. Life-skills and vocational training, cash for work and livelihood centers (employment services) were mentioned as main achievements to be strengthened and built upon. The group recorded that gaps existed in relation to market assessments, market-oriented training schemes, and employment services. Gaps in information sharing, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of livelihood programmes were also noted. Much of the vocational training activities taking place were more psycho-social in impact than job securing.</li> <li>• The members noted that restrictive government policies and limited local market opportunities as the major challenges. The government, represented at the meeting by MOSA (Makram Malaeb), again stated the position that livelihood projects should target the Lebanese and that the government is against any vocational training for refugees. After the meeting, NGOs approached us expressing their fear of losing their license to operate in Lebanon. Fortunately, nothing exists in writing.</li> </ul>		-
<p><b>Components of a livelihoods strategic plan, identification of geographical areas and prioritization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The suggested livelihoods strategy is based on the findings of the recent World Bank assessment, EMMA assessments, lessons-learned and expertise of agencies, as well as UNDP focus group discussions with host communities. The overall recommendation was to adopt active labor market policies to create more jobs and capitalize on the existing potential among refugees (businesses, skills, etc). The assessment also emphasized on reducing unemployment among vulnerable categories in Lebanon who have been the most affected.</li> <li>• The components of the active labor market policies include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employment services (livelihood/job centers)</li> <li>- Training schemes (vocational training, apprentice ship)</li> <li>- Employment subsidies (cash for work/job creation)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Therefore strategy is to improve self-reliance and livelihoods all over Lebanon with priority for geographical areas in which tensions are economic in nature, where work opportunities are limited and/or child labor is widespread. All this is based on the principles of building capacities of local organizations (investing in local services, NGOs, etc),promoting</li> </ul>		

social cohesion and giving priority attention to women, youth and persons with specific needs (disabled).

Vis-à-vis the authorities, the justification for livelihood activities is that:

- 1) Both refugees and poor affected Lebanese will benefit from livelihood projects (50/50);
- 2) Focus will be innovation - on 2 to 3 value chains (market/business creation) not constituting competition to local markets like handicraft, Syrian sweets etc;
- 3) New markets will be explored based on analysis of opportunities in import substitution, procurement for the emergency and new exports;
- 4) Working with Lebanese and Lebanese businesses: Identification of Lebanese business enterprises (SME) willing to hire Syrians, setting up groups/cooperatives of Lebanese and Syrian producers, bringing in Lebanese designers to lead Syrian/Lebanese cooperation in handicraft production etc.

**What types of livelihood activities?**

Based on the above, the following two strategic interventions were agreed :

- 1) Self-reliance and livelihoods improved - increasing livelihood assets
- 2) Income-generation, employment and market opportunities increased - increasing employment

