

Livelihoods Working Group Bekaa Meeting - Minutes

Name	Livelihood Working Group Bekaa Meeting	Meeting Date	January 7, 2014
Meeting Location	UNHCR Zahle	Meeting Time	2:30 pm
Chair person	Terra MacKinnon – UNHCR	Meeting Duration	1 Hours
Purpose of Meeting	Monthly meeting		

Summary of discussions and action points

1. Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR/UNDP Updates (registration and RRP6) • Partner Updates • 2014 Strategic Direction and Coordination • AOB
2. Agency updates:	<p><u>IOM</u>: supporting Lebanese returnees with business development funding. Open to referrals from other organizations. Contact Meghrie Djeridian mdjeridian@iom.int and Alexander Sultan-Khan asultankhan@iom.int</p> <p><u>Al Majmoua</u>: livelihoods centre in Furzol. Open to all for walk in service and do mobile outreach as well. Training activities and job links. Child and youth activities.</p> <p><u>LOST</u>: Hairdressing training in Baalbek (under DRC). Mobile phone repair training for youth (under SCI); laying hen income generating support for 200 families (resulting in measurable \$100 month household income increase). Upcoming programme for youth who will identify and undertake community support projects. LOST is looking for partners in micro-credit. LOST programmes are open to referrals from other organizations. Contact Ramy Lakis at rlakkis@lostlb.com or 03.638.215</p> <p><u>WVI</u>: life skills and literacy programmes; municipality support (capacity building and awareness raising); EU funded WASH and solid waste projects. Emphasis on bringing public goods to areas where WVI already works and reducing any burden caused by their programmes.</p>
3. Discussion key points	<p>Strategic focus for livelihoods and CSPs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key sectors to support in the Bekaa were agreed as <u>agriculture</u>, <u>dairy</u>, <u>small and medium enterprises (SME)</u> and <u>public services</u>. (Note: I would like to suggest revising SME as MSME, i.e. <i>micro</i>, small and medium enterprises, taking into consideration that many producers in the agricultural sector in Lebanon are actually considered micro enterprises, not small). • Key strategies for livelihoods and community support discussed were <u>value chain development</u>, <u>unskilled labour absorption</u> and <u>capacity building/life skills development</u>.

<p>Mechanisms for identifying community support projects (CSPs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP has been using municipality <u>working groups</u> to identify and prioritize projects. This system will be augmented in 2014 with the addition of ‘<u>focus groups</u>’ representing sectors (rather than municipalities) that will bring different interests into consideration. • WVI highlighted that they will use CSPs to <u>reduce burdens</u> created by the presence of their own programmes in their areas of operation, in addition to designing <u>more sustainable solutions</u> that address the real needs of municipalities. The aims are to gain/maintain municipality goodwill and address real needs. • It was generally agreed to choose CSP locations by <u>high current level of tension</u> as a priority and areas where CSP would be preventive of social tension as second priority. • It was agreed that <u>assessment</u> must be an integral part of CSP identification in 2014. Last year municipalities presented shopping lists of desired projects. This year a more solid evidence base is needed to justify projects and illustrate needs. <p>Coordination and information sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was again agreed that a centralized <u>list of completed assessments</u> is needed so that gaps can be identified and agencies can share the burden of conducting assessments and avoid duplication. (Previously created by UNHCR. List as updated thus far will be shared with the minutes). • It was again agreed that a <u>list of municipalities that have received support</u> should be created and managed. (UNHCR had created a previous list, but partner input was limited. A new list will be shared with the minutes). • It was agreed to collectively map livelihoods programmes and activities for 2014 through a <u>5Ws matrix</u> (Note: the advent of <u>Activity Info</u> derailed this initiative. The 5Ws was suspended and recording of partner livelihoods activities was done through Activity Info instead after training. However, upon seeing the input into Activity Info, and the limitations of the platform, I would like to suggest that the LWG completes a 5Ws in addition to Activity Info. In effect, the 5Ws is the sum totally of what is planned for 2014 and Activity info is the log of accomplishments against that master plan.)
<p>4. Action points</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Info training February 3 at UNHCR Zahle Registration Centre. • List of completed assessments to be shared by UNHCR, additional input provided by partners. • List of supported municipalities to be shared by UNHCR, additional input provided by partners. • Activity Info updating, to be completed by individual partners. • 5Ws matrix (new suggestion by UNHCR as complimentary tool to Activity Info) by all agencies. • Comparison list of livelihoods and social cohesion indicators (Activity Info, RRP6 and UNHCR results-based framework) to be compiled and shared by UNHCR. • Mapping of most vulnerable areas of Lebanon (development indicators and refugee population concentration) to be shared by UNHCR, again.