



Minutes of INTER-SECTORAL MEETING Beirut, 6 May 2016

Meeting Location	MoSA 7 th floor conference room	Meeting Time	10:00 A.M
Chair person	Aimee Karam- MoSA	Meeting Duration	2 h
Co-Chair person	Kerstin Karlstrom Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator		
Minutes Prepared by	Lara Techekirian – Inter-agency Coordination Associate		
Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ VASyR▪ Info-gap analysis▪ Multi-sectoral Cash Coordination▪ Winterization summary▪ AOB		

Summary of discussions and action points

1	VASyR (WFP-UNHCR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR) is a multi-sectoral assessment used to provide a general overview of the vulnerability situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon▪ The VASyR 2016 aims to provide an updated overview of the living conditions of Syrian refugees one year on from the VASyR 2015▪ VASyR 2016 has the same objectives and the same method of data

collecting of VASyR 2015

- The questionnaire has been updated. Inputs were requested from sector coordinators in order to better specify and rephrase some questions and the options available under each question. The Arabic translation of the questionnaire has also been reviewed
- For 2016, 2 additional districts in Beirut and Akkar have been added to the Sample Frame. Since Akkar and Beirut are at the same time Governorates and districts, sample size in those two Governorates/districts are increased to allow comparability with other Governorates and districts
- Data will be collected from the 23rd of May to the 3rd of June by visiting 4,950 HH. (HH are randomly selected and identified by location)
- Additional data will be collected by UNICEF and will be used to evaluate the nutrition situation of Syrians refugees. UNICEF will be collecting the Weight and height of children under 5 years old as indicators for malnutrition
- 3 rounds of trainings of enumerators will be conducted in 4 regions one week before the start of the data collection. The aim of the trainings is to explain the enumerators to interpret the questionnaire and to fill it properly
- Before conducting interviews enumerators have to present the revised consent of declaration
- Additional analysis specific for sectors' need can be conducted using the VASyR findings and will be presented on separate factsheets
- UN-Habitat shelter sector coordinator recalled the importance of VASyR analysis for the shelter sector and reaffirmed the sector's commitment in supporting in the technical issues during the analysis of data. He also highlighted the importance to reconcile the method of data analysis between VASyR and the shelter sector (E.g. in 2014 and 2015 the average of the cost for rent were not analyzed in the same way by VASyR and the shelter sector)
- A separate meeting will be held next week to discuss the analysis plan.

	<p>Coordinators were requested to collect feedbacks from the core group members before the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Considering that VASyR is not a referral process, in case of extreme protection cases; supervisors can flag protection issues that emerged during the interviews ▪ A standard information package is distributed by the enumerators during the HHs visits. (The informative brochures are provided to the enumerators directly from the field officers) ▪ VASyR questionnaire will be tested on Monday, 9th of May. <p><u>Action Point:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A separate meeting will be held next week to discuss the analysis plan. Coordinators are requested to collect feedbacks from their core group members on the best way to organize the analysis plan, before the meeting.
<p>2.</p>	<p>Info-gap analysis (Inter-Agency)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each sector presented their needs assessment information gaps. The purpose of this exercise was to get an overview of the essential information needs for programming by sector, whether the information is available or is a current gap ▪ Action Point: ▪ Coordinators were requested to revise the Info-gap analysis by this week in order to finalize it ▪ Coordinators were advised to engage in inter-sectoral discussions in order to agree on how to cover the gaps and learn how each sector can contribute to compensate for other sectors' gaps.
<p>3.</p>	<p>Multi-sectoral Cash Coordination (UNHCR)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Basic assistance (BA) sector coordinator presented existing cash modalities

used by other sectors

- The Food Security sector distributes food e-vouchers of 27\$/individual/month. New vouchers for farmers may also be established soon.
- Cash for Shelter varies between \$80-100/ on a monthly basis and it's distributed at HHs level. So far, <1% of the targeted population were reached. The cash transfers are usually given directly to landlords hosting refugees to ensure security of tenure
- Protection sector initiated recently two assistance packages, where emergency cash covers cases with urgent protection needs up to a period of 3 months, and cash for protection help other cases in need for a longer term support. amounts range from \$200 up to \$300
- Municipal support (previously cash for work) is a form of cash transfer programme which aims at increasing self-reliance of refugees. The average cash transfer for a day worked is 20\$ on individual basis. Transfers are effected to beneficiaries through municipalities.
- Multi-Purpose Cash assistance (MPC) is a 175\$ per HHs transfer distributed on a monthly basis. The transfer helps refugee families meeting their basic needs. During seasons (winter mainly), specific cash grants (cash for winter) are designed to help those families cover the additional winter expenses they face to stay warm. in 2015/2016 winter response, two assistance packages were distributed: \$100 for poor families living above 500m and \$147 for those living above 500m
- For the next Inter-sectoral meeting the mapping of Cash intervention has to be finalized. Considering the increasing questions posed by donors on the complementarity/overlapping of activities, the urgency to have a clear explanation on how the coordinators decide to prioritize activities has been reaffirmed
- The Cash Assistance targets only the severely vulnerable refugees.

Nevertheless other groups may have different problems leading to survival difficulties. The need to clarify the process of Cash distribution has to be recalled as well as the importance not to empower a particular group of refugees against all the others

- The Cash Assistance Programme represents the analysis on which BA sector is basing its activities
- The total Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) corresponds to \$435 for a family of 5 per month. This benchmark was introduced in 2014 in an attempt to estimate what a refugee family needs in order to survive in Lebanon. The needs mapped in the basket include food, hygiene products, shelter, transportation and communication, in addition to debt repayment. Assistance provided by the basic assistance and food security sectors through food and multi-purpose cash assistance is supposed to cover up to \$325 of the basket and refugee families are supposed to generate the additional \$110. Currently, assistance provided by both sectors covers \$310 only
- While the focus has always to remain on what the refugees need, a clear distinction has to be main between a programmatic intervention and an assistance modality. In that sense, and taking the example of the basic assistance sector, the programmatic intervention focus on enabling refugees access basic goods and services essential to their survival. To achieve that, cash has been selected as the best modality for assistance / implementation.
- Coordinators have to take into consideration that duplication of programs doesn't mean duplication of Cash
- The existing S/MEB model does not take into consideration the cost of living differences' across the different governorates of Lebanon – or in other terms, it fails to capture in expenditure means the difference between rural and urban survival and minimum needs of refugees. The current discussions

	<p>and consultations made with coordinators and stakeholders are looking at ways to capture this. The feasibility of introducing a regional S/MEB component versus including a sectoral / regional weight in the national basket computation is being analyzed. The current basket sums up the average costs of different components, commodities, and services at the national level.</p>
4.	Winterization summary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Due to time constraints, this agenda item was postponed to the next IA meeting (13 May 2016).
5.	AOB
	<p>1. LCRP 2017-2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Planning process for LCRP 2017-2020 is ongoing. It has been agreed on a 4 years strategic plan with the possibility of a yearly appeal. It is also possible to appeal on a four -years basis ▪ Different steps have been taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The LCRP Steering Committee will meet mid-June ○ Workshops with the different partners involved (sectors, NGOs) will be organized in order to identify the major points and priorities for the planning process. <p>2. Mapping of referral mechanisms within the sectors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNHCR Senior IA coordinator reaffirmed that discussions with the sector coordinators are needed in order to define the referral mechanisms ▪ Reflect on the importance of referral mechanisms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ During the next Inter-sectoral meeting coordinators are required to document and prepare a briefing on the referral mechanisms and pathways within their sectors. ○ A brainstorming session will follow in order to set some priorities

(e.g. what coordinators need and what they are able to do).

3. Engagement of private sector

- In the next Inter-sectoral meeting, coordinators will be asked to brief on the engagement with the private sector into each sectors’ activities. A brainstorming session will follow and further discussions will be organized
- A collection exercise of partners’ experiences in engaging the private sector will be conducted. This will serve as a baseline to further develop the way in which LCRP partners engage the private sector.
- The scope would include not only corporate social responsibility/charity from the private sector, but also, and especially engagement and targeting of private sector entities in partners programmes.

4. Trainings on Refugee Law

- Different trainings will be organized (UNHCR lead) on Refugee Law and the nexus with coordination. Invitations for the trainings will be circulated soon. (one- day long training to be conducted in May 30 and repeated in May 31 (limited to 20 individuals per day)
- A one-day Workshop on early recovery will be organized by UNDP. All national and field coordinators are invited to attend the workshop. Agencies can express an interest and nominate staff .Dates are fixed: 14/15/16 of June. (one day in Beirut/ Bekaa and Tripoli).

Attachments

Document	Location
IS Presentation	http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=11039