



## Minutes of INTER-SECTOR UN MEETING- Beirut, 15 February 2018

<b>Meeting Location</b>	The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor - Beirut.	<b>Meeting Time</b>	12:30 P.M.
<b>Chairperson(s)</b>	Mario Abou Zaid - MoSA Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh – UNDP	<b>Meeting Duration</b>	2 Hrs.
<b>Minutes Prepared by</b>	Kareem Khalil – Senior Protection Assistant (Inter-Agency Coordination) - UNHCR		
<b>Agenda of the Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Introduction</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Protection Mainstreaming</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Participatory Assessments (UNHCR) and KAP Results (UNICEF)</b> - Followed By Discussion on Implications for Communication With Communities (CwC) for Inter-Sector (IS).</li> <li>▪ <b>Neighborhood Profiling by UN-Habitat &amp; UNICEF</b> - Followed By Discussion on Relevance for IS And Guidelines For Neighborhood Approach.</li> <li>▪ <b>A.O.B.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) 2018 First Standard Allocation.</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

### Summary of Discussions and Action Points

#### 1. Introductions:

- Introduction of agenda points and participants.
- Sector Coordinators were reminded to update all information relevant to their working groups (WGs) on the Lebanon Data Portal: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122>

#### 2. Protection Mainstreaming (PM):

##### Key Presentation Points:

- The following presentation will provide an overview on **the Light-Touch Capacity Assessment**. The presentation is on behalf of the Protection Sector, and specifically the Protection Mainstreaming Thematic Group.
- The Protection Working Group (PWG) work plan for 2017 and sector partners prioritized support for protection mainstreaming with key non-protection sectors: Basic Assistance, Education, Health, and Livelihoods.
- **To understand protection-mainstreaming needs/challenges/gaps across the targeted sectors, a light-touch capacity assessment was conducted** for these sectors' partners. Additionally, agencies from other sectors (Child Protection, Shelter, and Water) completed the assessment.
- Overall, **38 representatives from different sectors and agencies participated. 11 out of 38 participants indicated that either their agency does not work in Protection or they were unsure whether or not their agency works in Protection.**
- The assessment was structured to gather key pieces of information towards the metrics related to **the four pillars of Protection Mainstreaming: 1) Safety, Dignity and Do No Harm, 2) Meaningful Access & Non-Discrimination, 3) Accountability, and 4) Participation & Empowerment.**
- For further information, kindly contact Jocelyn Knight [jocelyn.knight@rescue.org](mailto:jocelyn.knight@rescue.org)
- The PPT presentation is attached to the MoMs.



**Key Discussion Points:**

- **The Basic Assistance (BA) Sector** indicated its interest to engage in discussion relating to PM. At the moment, the sector some elements of PM included in the targeting criteria but this could be strengthened. The BA sector asked if other PM components could be further integrated.
- The BA Sector also highlighted the absence of impact evaluations programmes regarding cash assistance. Different agencies implementing multi-cash programming expressed a strong interest to see how they can evaluate/trace/derive protection related outcomes at the impact level.
- The assessment provided space for agencies to provide qualitative feedback and expand on their answers in order to highlight challenges they face; these inputs could be provided to participants upon request.
- **MoSA and UNHCR are working on an initiative regarding data collection and information gathering on the level of the social development centers (SDCs).** At the moment, all the necessary equipment is being procured to link all SDCs. This information will positively contribute to the Protection Sector as SDCs will be linked together in a centralized system. The initiative stems from the need for centralized data for Syrian refugees having specific protections needs in Lebanon, and whom might require similar follow-up if they were to return to Syria. **MoSA will update Protection and other sectors with any new developments.**

**Action Point:**

- Sector Coordinators asked to contact Protection Sector to provide similar presentation or have sector specific discussion on the results of the Protection Mainstreaming Survey; particularly how to address flagged issues.
- The Health Sector asked to recirculate the link to the assessment to have further input from sectors partners.

**3. Participatory Assessments by UNHCR and KAP Results by UNICEF - Followed by Discussion on Implications for CwC for Inter-Sector:**

**Participatory Assessments (UNHCR), Key Presentation Points:**

- The Participatory Assessments (PAs) are an inter-agency and multi-functional exercise, which started 13 years ago in Lebanon.
- Using an Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) mainstreaming policy and multi-functional approach, this exercise engages and consults refugees and different profiles in the community to identify and understand what their protection concerns are, the causes, urgent priority issues, and suggestions to solve these issues.
- The findings of the PAs will be incorporated in the UNHCR Lebanon 2019 planning.
- **The timeframe for data collection** was October – December 2017 using focus group discussions (FGDs) and site visits.
- **21 agencies, including two ministries,** took part in this exercise and **consulted 1,279 refugees and stateless persons (53% females).**
- **Themes for 2018 PAs:** safety/security, access to services and information
- **For further information, kindly contact Carol El Sayed [elsayed@unhcr.org](mailto:elsayed@unhcr.org)**
- **The PPT presentation is attached**

**Key Discussion Points:**

- Themes chosen based on priorities decided at national level regarding main protection issues observed, or on topics requiring further information (gaps, challenges, etc.).



**Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) Survey Results (UNICEF), Key Presentation Points:**

- The preliminary KAP Survey results were presented to the IS participants.
- **The full report to be published and shared on UNICEF Lebanon's website once finalized.**
- **The survey has been completed in partnership with the following ministries:** Ministry of Education and Higher Education (MEHE), Ministry of Energy and Water, MoSA, and Ministry of Public Health (MoPH); the results of the survey were validated by all the former mentioned.
- **The purpose of the survey is to:** 1) guide communications for development interventions, 2) to have a baseline survey for UNICEF's Country Programme document.

**Discussion on Implications for CwC for Inter-Sector:**

- Four years ago, UNHCR attempted to establish a national communication's working group. At the time, it was faced with several challenges: lack of focal points, protection concerns, etc.
- **The Bekaa and North governorates have each established a Communication with Communities Working Group (CwCWG).** Having been operational for over a year and a half, **these WGs could provide information on** what activities should be prioritized and what engagement at the field level can be produced.
- **Lessons Learned:**
  - Identify/map (who, does, what, where) partners and establish coordination mechanisms.
  - Invest on capacity building and empowerment of front liners.
  - Specific groups with vulnerabilities and who cannot be reached easily, such as persons with disabilities (PwDs), illiterate people, and other groups, need to be targeted verbally.
  - Harmonize referral/mechanisms and update information.
- **Priority need identified is to create a common centralized referral system** whereby the needs and/or action taken for refugees reaching any partners would be recorded and easily accessed – without mentioning specific case details. **MoSA explained that steps are already in progress with IS (particularly Information Management focal points) to address this gap.**
- **While communication is a cross cutting topic between all sectors,** it is however difficult and challenging to mainstream it on a sector level. Communication should be central to all sectors at an early stage of their planning.
- **Information sharing is not confined to pamphlets and awareness session,** it is imperative to take into consideration the education level of refugees and cultural differences prior to disseminating this information through hard copies.
- **This information should be produced orally/verbally and accompanied with information/awareness individuals or group sessions.**
- It was noted that there is a lack of knowledge regarding what information is being communicated to refugees on an Inter-Agency level.

**Action Points:**

- MoSA requested to develop action plan on establishing referral and coordination mechanisms. To be discussed prior to next Inter-Sector meeting.
- Share lessons learned from Bekaa CwCWG to begin discussions on way forward.
- Map what is already being done by agencies
- Work to improve alignment of messaging from LCRP stakeholders to the different audiences
- Address challenges and barriers where there is clear information and/or knowledge gaps.



#### 4. Neighborhood Profiling by UN-Habitat & UNICEF - Followed By Discussion on Relevance for IS and Guidelines for Neighborhood Approach:

##### Key Presentation Points:

- **Neighborhood profiling uses an area-based approach** to crisis/development response.
- **Background:**
  - UN-Habitat Urban profiling ongoing at city & neighbourhood scales (2015);
  - Temporary Technical Committee on Neighbourhood Approach (January 2016);
  - Urban Crisis Response Conference under patronage of MoSA (October 2016).
- **Recently, UN-Habitat teamed up with UNICEF in terms of funding and technical input** to enhance the methodology of the neighborhood profiles. UN-Habitat is to undertake 30 profiling exercise.

##### Discussion on Relevance for IS And Guidelines for Neighborhood Approach:

- **MoSA advised agencies** not to undertake any duplicating activities nor any create parallel systems.
- **Based on positive past experiences and practices, MoSA reiterated the importance of adopting a systematic and inclusive approach by communicating with MoSA and IS Regional Coordinators in the early stages of any upcoming exercise or planning.**
- **To facilitate the process, the Shelter Sector** asked that any upcoming workshops related to neighborhood profiling be coordinated in advance with IS Coordinators to make sure the process is inclusive as possible.
- Given the absence of input on national and/or field level on how to frame this process under the Inter-Sector umbrella, **the IS Coordinators clarified** that at the moment, this exercise is a UN-Habitat and UNICEF initiative. **In 2016, a presentation on the “Technical Guidelines for Neighbourhood Approach” was presented in in the IS. These guidelines were then circulated for sector coordinator’s inputs however, no further follow-up was taken.**
- **The Shelter Sector explained** that when the profiling is completed the activities should be reported under the shelter sector log frame, the reporting has to adhere to the minimum requirements/standards for profiling to be reported under the sector. **As the latter standards are not finalized, a meeting was suggested** between shelter coordinators and UN-Habitat to review the guidelines.
- **MoSA explained that the aim is to have an inclusive process where the result is an endorsed Inter-Agency guideline, standard operating procedures (SoPs), or any other guidance documents.** As such, this would allow for an initial profiling, and subsequent programmatic components to have the legitimacy of an endorsed guideline on the implementation level, in addition to facilitating the work on an inter-ministerial level.
- **The Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) requested to be included in the process given the role of municipalities in the profiling.**
- Noteworthy that in the North, several agencies are implementing neighborhood profiling activities in accordance with the existing 2016 guidelines.

##### **Action Points:**



- Following review of the Neighbourhood Approach guidelines by the Shelter Sector Coordinators and relevant stakeholders, document to be circulated to sector coordinators for comments.
- UNICEF to share methodology of the profiling with sector coordinators.

**5. A.O.B.**

**Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) 2018 First Standard Allocation:**

- **The 2018 Standard Allocation is due to launch in March 2018, it will address priority needs identified by the LCRP coordination partners.**
- **The allocation envelope is USD \$6 million, with no funding ceiling per sector or threshold by project.**
- **The deadline to submit the sector-specific priorities/gaps, using the orientations in the concept note (previously circulated to sector coordinators via e-mail) is Wednesday February 21st.**
- **Sectors were kindly asked to submit their inputs in a timely manner** to avoid any delay throughout the on-going process.
- For further information, please contact Yendi Ghossein Choueifati [ghossein@un.org](mailto:ghossein@un.org)