



## Minutes of NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY MEETING

12 February 2021, 10:00-12:00

Remotely on WebEx

<b>Chairperson(s)</b>	Assem Abi Ali – LCRP General Supervisor, MoSA Elina Faber Silen – Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNDP) Carol Ann Sparks – Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNHCR)
<b>Agenda of the Meeting</b>	1. Opening 2. LCRP 2021 – Sector Strategies and Inter-Sector Priorities 3. LCRP 2020 Funding Update 4. Update on tensions 5. Presentation: Neighborhood profiling AOB

### Proceedings

#### 1. **Opening** – *Assem Abi Ali – LCRP General Supervisor, Ministry of Social Affairs*

- Lebanese host communities and refugees are suffering from a series of devastating effects and challenges (including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut Blast) in addition to currency and banking crisis, increasing unemployment, and inflation.
- MoSA, UNDP and UNHCR through their functions of chair and co-chair of the Inter-Sector response management will work to ensure that LCRP priorities in 2021 are based on a thorough consultative process with sector leads and partners at national and field level. This will include priorities around and protection and conflict sensitivity.
- The work of LCRP partners would not have been possible without the very generous donor support and the collaboration with partners which secured the success of the implementation.
- LCRP created a platform for a successful collaboration with the Lebanese government, local and international partners, and other stakeholders to secure, as many achievements have been recorded on the field in terms of water sanitation, food security, education, health etc.
- There are many challenges going forward into 2021, accordingly we need to use our resources efficiently to assist as many vulnerable individuals as needed.

#### 2. **LCRP 2021 – Sector Strategies and Inter-Sector Priorities** – *Elina Silen, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator & Camilla Jelbart, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer*. The presentation included an update on LCRP 2021 – Sector Strategies and Inter-Sector Priorities, including outcomes, targets, and budget (See Annex 1: *LCRP 2021 PPT*).

##### **[ACTION POINTS] – on Key deliverables for 2021**

- Finalize an Inter-Sector joint priorities Workplan
- Schedule discussions on localization (February) and AAP (February), Reporting (February) and NGO co-leadership
- Assign mainstreaming focal points and hold discussions
- Next LCRP Situation Update: March
- Next In-focus: Nutrition (February)
- Activity Info training – ongoing
- Ensure all AWP's are online (February)

#### 3. **LCRP 2020 Funding Update** – *Jad Ghosn, Information Management Officer, Inter-Agency, UNHCR*



The presentation included an overview on the funding figures received in 2020 in comparison with the partners' appeal, while indicating detailed figures on the distribution of the fund across the different agencies and programs. Preliminary funding results are based on partner reporting and are pending verification with donor disbursement reports. They show that the plan is 2020 was 63% funded with \$1.69 billion USD available (\$1.45 billion received in 2020 and \$246 million was carry over from 2019). This year the funds received were higher than any year before. The LCRP funding reporting is confirmed through collaboration with the RCO office, which cross-checks figures shared by donors against the figures submitted by partners.

Participants asked regarding risks on duplication (reporting and implementation) with several plans and response frameworks. To this end, it was clarified that this is indeed a challenge. At the same time, under the Beirut Blast, in terms of the programs and funding, there is a separate system for reporting. When it comes to the operational level, a lot of the Beirut Blast activities were short-term so they are not considered as a duplication as they were a on-off emergency intervention such as emergency cash for shelter.

**4. Presentation: Update on tensions – Fadel Saleh, Conflict Analysis and Reporting Officer Inter-Agency, UNDP.** The presentation included an overview on the most current tensions trends as well as the process of collecting and analyzing data. The data collection under the Tensions Monitoring System is a mix of quantitative and qualitative data.

- The main source of inter-communal tensions is access to jobs but the priority in terms of access to public service is health. There is also a heightened need for electricity and jobs that have witnessed a decrease and remain a high cause of tensions. Prioritized Services: Electricity, Medical Care, Jobs, and Shelter.
- Key findings of impact of socio-economic situation on refugees:
  - ✓ 84% difficulties to buy food due to lack of money (83% 4th Quarter)
  - ✓ 78% inability to pay rent (77% 4th Quarter)
  - ✓ 56% Loss of employment and/or livelihood (54% 4th Quarter)
  - ✓ 32% reduced access to health care due to lack of money (31% 4th Quarter)
- The Key findings from UNHCR Protection Monitoring - December 2020 included 2,064 households that were consulted (98% Syrian and 2% other nationalities).
- Perceptions of municipalities witnessed an increase and remain a trusted institution - NGOs have witnessed a decrease in trust but remain widely trusted. However, the perception that municipal authorities improved life witnessed a downfall between July and August 2020 throughout the whole country, given the increased criticism on the role of municipalities in the aftermath of the Blast.
- The most alarming message out of all the mentioned sensitivities would be the current volatile situation and the increasing community insecurity coupled with the socio-economic drivers which are the main drivers of tensions.
- Area based approaches, Conflict Sensitivity mainstreaming, and enhanced communications are three key priorities to mitigate tensions.
- Tensions due to cash assistance are being looked at. Key risks have been mapped out and mitigation measures suggested. The Team has been engaging closely with the Cash Force previously and is also providing inputs to higher-level processes on understanding impact of dollarization.
- **[ACTION POINTS]** – partners are encouraged to join further discussions around tensions on conflict sensitivity in the Social Stability sector working group.

**5. Presentation: Neighborhood profiling – Nanor Karageozian, Head of Urban Analysis and Policy Unit, UN-Habitat & Lama Ghanem, Research and Evaluation Officer, UNICEF**



The presentation included an overview on the online portal of neighborhood profiles, selected findings, and the main issues

- The presented profiles are not going to be updated. Usually, similar updates occur every 5 or 10 years. However, in Lebanon, the changes are rapid, and they happen on a large scale. The developed portal for profiling allows the implementation of an update to the current profiling, but there is no set plan for this now.
- There is no potential of expanding in terms of research as it requires a lot of time and financial investment. In terms of accurate vulnerability figures, even though Lebanon's situation is in a constant change, the current data provide a base line that can be worked with. The priority now is to promote planning and programming with the available data on the 28 neighborhoods.
- This is a conversation that we should be carrying forward, this was an inter-sectoral priority in 2021, and we can organize a cross-sectoral thematic group and have a deeper discussion around it.
- **[ACTION POINTS]**
  - Disseminate the tool across the response.  
Set up a thematic discussion with the Inter-Sector to be led by UN-Habitat and UNICEF to see how the tool can be better used across the response.

## 6. AOB

- Activity Info: *Jad Ghosn, Information Management Officer, Inter-Agency, UNHCR*
  - 13 Activity Info training sessions were conducted for LCRP partners so far during 2021.
  - Additional training sessions in February and March will take place, and there are sectors planning to conduct a second training session with their partners.
  - Under the Lebanon Information Hub, there is section on reporting which outlines reporting deadlines, the Information Management focal points, and all information related to reporting.
  - When reporting for 2021, the partners need to make sure that they have created the projects for 2021 or adjusted the dates, if the projects have been extended, as previously partners have reported on projects that have ended.
  - So far, 395 NGO staff have been trained during the Activity Info sessions.
- LCRP Briefing Sessions: *Hiba Ramadan, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Assistant*
  - LCRP Briefing Sessions will be conducted on a monthly or bimonthly basis to support new staff to learn about the LCRP and how they can best engage in the response mechanism.
  - The sessions will be conducted based in on demand.
  - The target audience are new staff (UN, NGOs, donors, Government).
- Update on the Emergency Social Safety Net (ESSN) – as per *Assem Abi Ali – LCRP General Supervisor, Ministry of Social Affairs*:
  - The ESSN's intention is to create a safety net for the vulnerable Lebanese, as through the LCRP we have created a safety net for the vulnerable Syrian refugees. Programmes should complement each other through working on the same vision to create this safety net that serves the target of achieving social protection. This approach will take into consideration Conflict Sensitivity (CS) through implementing a balanced response that will mitigate the rising tensions and enhance social stability. One million Lebanese people in total will be covered from the ESSN NTPT program. The loan is for a total of 246 million dollars. The NSSP is in action where the army is handing 400,00 LBP for 250,000 households, and the amount might increase in the future.



- Camilla Jelbart will be the new Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer for UNCHR, as Carol Ann Sparks will be leaving her position at the end of February.