**Minutes of Meeting**

Date: April 28, 2021 11-12:30 pm

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| ChairCo-Chair: | Jesse Garana, ERWG |
| Participating agencies | 18 organizations: ACTED, Armenian Red Cross, Consultant, IFRC, IOM, PIN, Republic of Armenia Government, Save the Children, UN RCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNIDO, WB, WFP | Action Required |
| Matters arising from last meeting: | None - |  |
| Agenda item and Action points:1. **ERWG General Updates**
2. **Update from CSG**
3. **Special Presentation:**

**UNIDO****ASBA****Government Mid-term Recovery Plan**1. **AOB**
2. **Adjournment**
 | The meeting started at 11 am.Jess Garana (ERWG Coordinator)This section consolidates ERWG reports and feedback from partners:1. For the month of April, 3,131 individuals and 108 families out of 2,913 individuals and 108 families targeted, respectively were reached. 117 children were reached, out of 247 children targeted.
2. ERWG active partners and operational presence decreased significantly in April compared to the previous months, with only 2 partners (UNDP and UNIDO) in April (refer to Annex).
3. Activities covered are mainly COVID-19 response and livelihoods (refer to partners update section below).
4. There is apparent drive to support food production, that require focus on supporting the rural economy for agri-based, business, and non-farm livelihoods, with which the role of the private sector is increasingly look up to. Partners are increasingly looked toward supporting the rural economy through food production such as farming and agri-based marketing and more actively engage the private sector.
5. Compared with previous months, there has been an overall decrease in food insecurity, however there is 1% of severely food insecure and about 15% of moderately food insecure that may deteriorate into a severe situation, based on March-April 2021 Vulnerability Assessment Monitoring report of WFP. This highlights the need to respond to immediate food needs but also to continue investing on long term solutions.
6. Partners saw the need to engage the government at the regional level and to scale up good practices of local partnership.
7. Capacity and Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) is ongoing, led by UNDP. The CVA will set baseline and planning for further ER work. UNDP will provide regular updates on the progress of the CVA.

Frédéric Cussigh (Senior Emergency Preparedness Coordinator):1. There are 66,000 refugee-like populations, with 41,000 able to return based on IMWG triangulated data.
2. UNHCR is closely monitoring the returns and issues reports and guidance notes to partners from time to time.
3. Fred expressed concern for the decrease in ERWG activities, “when needs have actually increased,” but recognized that level of needs may vary between vulnerable communities and locations. Suggested partners to carry out a “surgical” approach to targeting.
4. NK’s absorptive capacity for returns is limited, an estimated five more years is required to restore public service capacities to normalcy.
5. Need to increasingly focus toward implementing developmental-oriented activities (in Armenia) than direct assistance.

Anahit Simonyan, UNIDO Country Rep and team:1. UNIDO’s aims to support communities beyond trainings to employment and business development with financial support to replenish revolving funds for asset acquisition.
2. Emphasized coordination of activities among groups/partners and within the broader ER planning framework.
3. Conducted skill-based trainings—32 completed, 17 participants started business or found employment with the private sector, others are being assisted to find job.
4. A training center was established in partnership with the Russian Federation. The training center hosts textile, leather and garment training.
5. Emphasized the need for psychosocial support.
6. With support of MSC Trust Fund, supported activity development activities for producer groups in Tavuz and Northern Shirak benefitting both displaced and host communities.
7. Ongoing MPTF-funded Accelerated Women Empowerment project supporting women develop business and investment for production and processing targeting 30 women’s business ideas.
8. Announced new (displaced) arrivals in Tavush region—needs assessment is necessary.
9. Requested partners to conduct a joint needs assessment and resource sharing for 5 new families that arrived in Abovian (Yerevan).

Ara Nazinyan, Executive Director, ASBA Foundation- presentation and reactions.* Presented findings of ASBA recent housing assessment in Hadrut, NK (for further information, please follow the detailed presentation on Mr. Nazinyan shared earlier).
	+ Housing is a priority for families who relocated from Hadrut region and Hadrut town, dispersed in Yerevan and other large communities of Armenia. Most of them live in rental apartments relying on pensions and social allowances and savings.
	+ Majority of dispalced families wish to return to either Hadrut (if security conditions are provided) or to NK and needs subsidized social rental housing for temporary stay in Armenia.
	+ Social rental housing can support social status of the families, providing opportunities for saving and using saved money for other social needs, such as health and education.
	+ Social rental housing stock, owned and managed by either local communities or housing organizations, can become a source for sustainable development in communities.
	+ The assessment recommends providing social rental housing initiatives outside Yerevan. Possible communities may include Abovian, Goris, Hrazdan, Masis and other places, where the families are living currently.
	+ Affordable social rental housing can provide long-term solution for addressing needs of relocated people from Hadrut.

Reactions:1. With the increased need for housing, UNHCR is updating the Terms of Reference of the Housing Consortium it has founded established in 2016. The Consortium will be dedicated to coordinate the housing sector.

Ms Mane Adamyan, Consultant, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, GoA:1. Following COVID-19 rupture, RA Government began to develop a Mid-term Recovery strategy to bridge the current response with more strategic solutions that feeds into other government programs, strategies and frameworks.
2. The NK crisis stopped the development of the Plan to allow a better understanding of needs. The Mid-term Recovery Plan was being developed, as a bridging document, but stopped due to the NK crisis.
3. The extent of disruption of supply chain and the unfolding enormity of humanitarian needs required a revision of the draft plan to now include 5 main sectors: health care, social support, economic and business, macro financing and fiscal component, and cross-cutting elements such as gender, environment, climate, etc.
4. At best, the Plan is a work in progress. Will be shared to UN partners through channels.

Additional Points:1. People arriving and losing home. Their needs must be attended, but equally important to regulate, coordinate, complement support until sustainable solutions is found. Emphasized the need to coordinate with state institutions that have the facility for reaching out communities.
2. Psychological support is necessary and should be integrated in every (future) project.
3. Complemented UNIDO efforts. Emphasized the need to continue to support employment opportunity, provide jobs, and identifying projects that can be scaled up. Flagged interest to discuss further with partners.
4. Reacting to Ara’s presentation on Housing Solutions: the findings of the Hadrut assessment that communities did not receive support from the government is not true. Mentioned that RA Government provided AMD 300,00 lumpsum to all families there.

n/aMeeting adjourned at 12:30 pmEnd of Minutes - | Update needed during the next ERWG meetingUpdate needed during the next ERWG meeting. |

For clarification and additional information, please contact:

Jess, Garana, ERWG Coordinator, jessie.garana@undp.org

**List of Participants**

(Based on online registration)

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Name | Email | Organization |
| 1 | Maria Harutyunyan | yerevan.po@acted.org | ACTED |
| 2 | Hasmik Khachatryan | arcs-pm@redcross.am | Armenian Red Cross |
| 3 | Karine Minasyan | karine.a.minasyan@gmail.com | Consultant |
| 4 | Ara Nazinyan | ara.nazinyan@gmail.com | Consultant |
| 5 | Olga Dzhumaeva | olga.dzhumaeva@ifrc.org | IFRC |
| 6 | Hicham Diab | hicham.diab@ifrc.org | IFRC |
| 7 | Karine Khojayan | kkhojayan@iom.int | IOM |
| 8 | Jeff Mills | jeffrey.mills@peopleinneed.cz | PIN |
| 9 | Mane Adamyan | mane.adamyan@gov.am | RA Gov |
| 10 | Guram Matiashvili | guram.matiashvili@savethechildren.org | Save the Children |
| 11 | Mane Tadevosyan | mane.tadevosyan@un.org | UN RCO |
| 12 | Hasmik Soghomonyan | hasmik.soghomonyan@undp.org | UNDP |
| 13 | Zhanna Harutyunyan | zhanna.harutyunyan@yahoo.com | UNDP |
| 14 | Karine Simonyan | karine.simonyan@undp.org | UNDP |
| 15 | Hovhannes Ghazaryan | hovhannes.ghazaryan@undp.org | UNDP |
| 16 | Charles Huff | cvhuff@gmail.com | UNDP |
| 17 | Arman Valesyan | valesyana@gmail.com | UNDP |
| 18 | Garik Khachikyan | garik.khachikyan@undp.org | UNDP |
| 19 | Anna Gyurjyan | anna.gyurjyan@undp.org | UNDP |
| 20 | Jess Garana | jessie.garana@undp.org | UNDP |
| 21 | Dianna Areyan | dianna.areyan@undp.org | UNDP |
| 22 | Lusine Sargsyan | sargsyan@unfpa.org | UNFPA |
| 23 | fred cussigh | cussigh@unhcr.org | UNHCR |
| 24 | Milindi Illangasinghe | ILLANGAS@unhcr.org | UNHCR |
| 25 | Anahit SIMONYAN | a.simonyan@unido.org | UNIDO |
| 26 | Sergey Matevosyan | s.matevosyan@unido.org | UNIDO |
| 27 | Arshak Hovhannisyan | arshakhovhannisyan1974@gmail.com | UNIDO |
| 28 | Irina Tevosyan  | itevosyan@worldbank.org | WB |
| 29 | Ivory Hackett evans | Ivory.Hackett-evans@wfp.org | WFP |