



Minutes of the NATIONAL INTER-SECTOR WORKING GROUP (ISWG) MEETING
Friday 4 February 2022, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 Remotely on Zoom

Chairperson(s)	Ola Boutros – LCRP General Supervisor (MoSA) Elina Faber Silen – Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator (UNDP)
Participants	See Annex 1 on page 9
Minutes prepared by	Hiba Ramadan – Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Assistant
Agenda of the Meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding update for 2021 2. Conflict sensitivity in 2022 (latest tensions data and trends and planned steps for 2022) 3. Inter-Sector Joint Workplan - feedback from workshop and next steps 4. AOB

Summary of Proceedings and Action Points

1. Opening Remarks (as presented by Ola Boutros, LCRP General Supervisor, MoSA)

- MoSA updated colleagues that the 2022 LCRP final document will be published next week. At the same time, MoSA is awaiting confirmation from the Prime Minister’s Office on a date for a formal launch event - slated for March.
- Outlined the agenda and presenters.

2. Status on Inter-Sector Action Points (as presented by Hiba Ramadan, Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Assistant, UNHCR)

Action Points	Action Taken	Follow-up
Circulate a Concept Note ahead of the Inter-Sector Workshop	Inter-Sector Workshop was implemented	Done
Sharing updated ToRs and updated EoY Dashboard and Annual Workplan templates	Inter-Sector to finalize and share ToRs	Ongoing
Sectors to submit Annual Work Plans (AWPs) by 31 January	Received: BA, Health, SoST, LH, Shelter Pending: Education, Energy, FS&A, PRT, Water Sectors that have not submitted yet shall submit by 11 February.	Ongoing
Sectors to submit EoY Dashboard by 31 January	Received: BA, Health, LH, SoST, PRT Pending: Education, Energy, FS&A, Shelter, Water Sectors that have not submitted yet shall submit by 11 February.	Ongoing
National and regional meeting schedules to be submitted by 31 January	Pending: Water, CP, SGBV and Regional Offices IS and IA meetings (North, Beqaa and BML) Sectors that have not submitted yet shall submit by 11 February.	Ongoing



3. LCRP 2021 Funding Update (as presented by Jad Ghosn, Information Management (IM) Officer, UNHCR)

- 2021 was lowest funded year with 43% of the appeal funded (not including carry-over). Noted that some partners still have not reported so absolute total may be higher than indicated.
- Worth flagging that 2020 was the highest funded year, aligns with Beirut Blast and COVID, which saw additional contributions.
- US is the donor with the highest contribution with a stable level of annual contributions since 2019, followed by Germany. EU is third highest donor, with a decrease in total funding observed since 2019. UK funding levels also indicate decreasing support. Canada, Netherlands and Norway have been increasing.
- 2021 LCRP funding results:
 - a. Funds received between Jan and Dec 2021: \$1.19 B (43% of appeal)
 - b. Funds received in 2020 for 2021 projects + carry over: \$344.8 M (13% of appeal).
 - c. Available funds (a+b): \$1.53 M (56% of appeal)
 - d. Estimated carry-over for 2022: \$327.7 M
- Least funded sectors in 2021: Energy (4%) and FSS (33%)
- Highest funded: Water (92%), Protection (85%) and Health (83%)

Discussion:

- *Health Sector WHO co-lead* flagged that WHO will likely report several funding agreements in Q1 of 2022 that were confirmed at the end of December. *IM Officer* referenced the Lebanon Aid Tracking SOPs, which indicate that funding received during the 2021 calendar year should be reported; therefore, WHO should report anything received 1 January – 31 December in 2021 and indicate the amount that will be spent/carried over in 2022.
- *Education IM Focal Point* asked whether partners are still reporting or whether the presentation includes the final figures for 2021. *IM Officer* confirmed that the figures are final; however, partners who have missed the reporting deadline have been asked to add their data, but this will not affect the sector funding percentages presented.
- *MoIM* asked whether carry-over funding has been added to what has been received. *IM Officer* clarified that the 13% carry-over figure represents funding that has been received in 2020 but allocated and used in 2021. Also highlighted that for the 56% of 'available funds' (part c), it is anticipated that some of this will be carried over into 2022.

4. Conflict Sensitivity (latest tensions data and trends and planned steps for 2022) (as presented by Fadel Saleh, Conflict Analyst & Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Officer)

- Highlighted key contextual developments:
 - Deteriorating community insecurity with increasing incidents reported – over 10,000 incidents reported since January 2021, majority in Akkar, the North, Mount Lebanon and the South.
 - Majority of reported incidents are roadblocks and demonstrations, followed by theft and armed clashes. Main drivers of incidents are community insecurity, political discontent and economic deterioration.



- Observed some shrinkage of protection space and increasing pressure on NGOs/UN to provide support amid growing needs, with some access constraints. Trend is expected to increase as elections approach.
 - Perceptions of inter-communal relationships have reached all-time low, with 38% reporting relationships as negative. Access to jobs is the main driver since 2017.
 - Growing economic vulnerability, distrust of national and local institutions, and polarization between those who are optimistic for the future and those who are not.
 - UN and NGO partners are relatively trusted by respondents, with trust increasing between January and December.
 - Municipalities also relatively trusted; however, trust levels have declined somewhat over the course of the year.
 - Majority of respondents indicate that subsidy removal is a main source of worry about quality of life. Related concerns include whether they will be able to continue to access medicine and fuel, as well as food and water.
 - Surge in hate speech on social media (both intra-Lebanese and inter-communal), expected to increase as elections dates approach.
 - High reactivity of social media in Lebanon, magnifying current social tensions. Trends mirror what is being observed by offline monitoring.
 - Risk of instigation of violence and escalation of the spread of misinformation. Frequent topics include economy, refugees, the government and smuggling, with increased polarization of opinions.
 - Noted that all posts on Facebook related to violence against women were 'negative'.
 - Upward trajectory of sectarian and political rifts. Intra-communal relations are highly reactive and linked to political rifts, with notable increase in respondents citing negative perceptions since August from 33% to 51% by December.
- Proposed conflict sensitivity mainstreaming priorities and actions for 2022:
 - Publication and dissemination of 3 Conflict Sensitivity Guidance Notes;
 - Inter-Sector Conflict sensitivity training planning for March;
 - Training of 300 partner staff (65 organizations);
 - Develop 3 cross-sectoral conflict sensitivity checklists (topics to include: Engagement with authorities; Communication; and Cash and in-kind assistance);
 - Quarterly sector-specific tensions analysis presentations in Working Groups;
 - Technical support and advisory to sector coordinators to support capacity to deliver sector-specific conflict sensitivity priorities; and
 - Other actions: Continued monitoring and analysis; increased advocacy and messaging; reference group for the SoST Core Group to support integration of risk monitoring findings within the LCRP BCP.

Discussion: From a sector perspective, how do the trends affect sector priorities and planning?

- *Interim LCRP Protection Sector Coordinator* highlighted that they have observed beneficiaries using social media in positive ways to identify community-based solutions, including as platforms to mobilize resources and support individuals in their communities. Asked how the 'positive' indicator in the monitoring is calculated and suggested a closer look at the positive relationships that are picked up in the monitoring. Issue was also raised by the MOSA Livelihoods and Protection Sectors Co-Lead.
- *Conflict Analyst & Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Officer* clarified that an AI system determines what is negative, positive or neutral through a series of tags using keywords and analyzes online dialogue in Arabic and English and mixed Arabic-English messaging.



- *SoST Sector Coordinator* confirmed prioritization of specific thematic subjects, including discussions on ways forward to address increased pressure on communities and partners by authorities and municipalities. The sector will also look to use tensions lens to inform prioritization of areas for intervention.
- *Interim FSS Sector Coordinator* confirmed that the sector is identifying ways to integrate KPIs related to conflict sensitivity and the impacts of programming/scale-up of assistance on these trends. Suggested that FSS works with Fadel and the SoST Sector on this. *Conflict Analyst & Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Officer* agreed and emphasized importance of capacity building of FSS partners and willingness to do cross-sectoral collaboration.
- *UNDP BML Coordinator* commented that will need to make sure that priorities identified reflect the real needs of both vulnerable Lebanese and Syrians and that plans reflect the 'voices' of local authorities and communities through a shared analysis.

Discussion: Is there anything missing or needs to be changed from the proposed priorities/actions?

- *LHIF Coordinator* suggested that regional focal points and I/NGO sector co-leads be included, and that training include two-way dialogue so that participants' reflections can inform broader programme design. *Conflict Analyst & Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Officer* confirmed that regional LHIF focal points and I/NGO co-leads will be included in the training. Agreed that the development of the cross-sectoral checklists will reflect consultation with sectors and participants to ensure priorities are reflected.
- *Interim FSS Coordinator* inquired as to whether additional consultation with the field is needed before moving forward on the trainings. *Conflict Analyst & Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Officer* confirmed that consultations have been done, including via regional, national and cross-sectoral discussions with partners around the BCP and via feedback from the recent joint Inter-Sector planning workshop. Emphasized that the main priority now is to ensure that relevant stakeholders for each thematic issue are engaged moving forward.
- Based on feedback from several colleagues, the *Conflict Analyst & Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Officer* confirmed the following:
 - o Training and guidance notes will include guidelines on entry points to local communities to minimize tensions around access.
 - o Current monitoring includes a question on respondents' perception of the role of the government on well-being.

5. Inter-Sector Joint Workplan - feedback from workshop and next steps (as presented by *Elina Silen, UNDP Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator*)

- The annual Inter-Sector Planning Workshop was held on 26 January and provided an opportunity for the national and field coordination mechanisms to come together to agree on joint inter-sector priorities for 2022 and respective contributions to priority delivery.
- Additional thematic meetings on inter-sector priorities will be organized to plan for the year ahead, including on emergency preparedness and response, mainstreaming, inter-agency referrals, programmatic prioritization and communications. A follow-up meeting will also be organized with key stakeholders outside the ISWG to discuss cross-framework priorities, including UNSF and 3RF pillar leads, OCHA and ERP sector leads and RCO.
- Feedback from joint priority discussions:



1. Monitoring & evaluation (as presented by Marius Birsan, Monitoring & Evaluation [M&E] Officer, UNDP)
 - Key deliverables include: i) strengthening capacity of inter-sector, sectors and partners on internal impact assessments; ii) encouraging independent external assessments to be led and funded by UN agencies, as recommended by the Strategic Review.
 - o *UNDP Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator* suggested that point on 'including more outcome-impact reporting and analysis' should be added as deliverable, and that capacity building point be made more concrete. Agreed on need for more concrete actions and suggested amending work plan to include: training on current M&E functions and support to partners for sharing assessment findings externally.
 - o *Health Sector WHO co-lead* asked whether there will be additional review of sector indicators to further reduce and link to SDGs. *M&E Officer* confirmed that each sector logframe has already been closely reviewed in detail and current indicators are deemed essential at this time.
2. Reporting (as presented by Jad Ghosn, IM Officer, UNHCR)
 - Key deliverables include: i) review of reporting products via survey administered to target audience for each product; ii) adapt products based on feedback from surveys as needed; and iii) partner refresher sessions in English and Arabic on quarterly and biannual basis at sector working group level on value of/how to use the reporting tools and products.
 - Other issues flagged in the workshop: Dashboards need to be revised to better reflect sector targets and implementation results; and more coordination is needed with ministries on project implementation.
 - Participants also flagged that different reporting mechanisms/logframe frameworks for the ERP and LCRP is very challenging for partners – very time consuming and these urgently need to be harmonized into a single platform that hosts reporting for both responses. Needs to be flagged at the highest level.
 - Additional suggestions from ISWG meeting participants:
 - o MOSA support is needed this year to push lead ministries to ensure sector dashboards and other products are published, as some sectors are unable to publish due to lack of lead ministry support.
 - o Development of a joint situation narrative that can be used across all dashboards to standardize the situation narratives across all sectors. Some sectors expressed concern that agreement on the joint narrative could delay dashboard finalization even further. Was agreed that joint narrative would be tried for the Q1 dashboards and sectors can feedback to the Inter-Sector on whether it works and whether to keep it for the rest of the year.
3. Inter-Sector analysis
 - In-Focus (*Simona Pari, Gender Specialist, UNDP*): Group agreed to prioritize the following In-Focus topics in 2022: elderly people; municipalities; job/economic opportunities; and cash-based interventions. Other topics to explore: adolescent girls; child labour; AAP and education.
 - Situation Analysis (*Elina Silen, UNDP Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator*): Feedback received is that current product is not focused and there is lack of clarity on audience and purpose/use.
 - o Agreed to separate into 2 separate products: i) quarterly bottom-up workshops presenting data to partners and collecting feedback from partners on what's



- missing and use this to update sector situation analysis to update/adapt planning; and ii) published product focusing on key funding gaps and challenges sectors are facing each quarter.
- Research questions (*Marius Bisan, M&E Officer, UNDP*): Agreed that more focus on outreach is needed to help questions be picked up by research bodies, including the development of an outreach strategy to identify key partners/targets who may be interested/have capacity to pursue certain questions, call for proposal plan, etc. Follow-up mechanism also needs to be established to know what research has been done.
 - o *Economist* recommended allocating LCRP funding into a research 'pot' that can be used to support calls for proposal. *LHIF Coordinator* flagged that there are also regional pots of funding available, and that I/NGOs have access to platforms with funding pits that can also be used towards research.
4. Coordination modalities:
- o Donors (*Collette Hogg, Protection Mainstreaming Lead*): Participants agreed on need for more bilateral engagement to support buy-in prior to planning process and ahead of key meetings, including regular two-way communication flow ahead of major processes but also regularly throughout the year. Sectors need more info on donor priorities and funding strategies to help them have more strategic discussions around needs/plans.
 - o Agreed deliverables: i) quarterly LCRP donor meetings; ii) consolidation of donor list with donor priorities for sectors to use to invite to briefings and thematic discussions – this will require Inter-Sector support; and iii) prioritizing bilateral donor follow-up on key advocacy and technical issues.
 - o Government (*Ola Boutros, MOSA LCRP General Supervisor*): Agreed to deliverables include: i) improve field-level participation of government counterparts in national meetings and working groups to ensure situation analyses reflects their insights; ii) capacity building for MOSA staff once per week for 2 months, with MOIM coordinator to join; iii) improve communication/collaboration between different ministries at field and national levels; and iv) more active engagement of government counterparts at the sector level.
 - o NGOs (*Soman Moodley, LHIF Coordinator*): Participants emphasized need for a harmonized TOR for NGO co-leads across sectors. More local NGO engagement is needed, cautioning that entry/access to LCRP coordination framework can be challenging for local NGOs and some INGOs.
 - o Agreed deliverables include: i) organize and facilitate regular meetings for sector NGO coordinators to discuss challenges and exchange best practices/lessons learned; ii) support bi-annual review of sector co-lead experience; iii) ensure balanced representation between local and national NGO sector co-coordinators; iv) highlight importance of having NGO sector co-leads with all stakeholders (including donors) to ensure funding support is there to sustain these positions; and v) support sector info-sharing for improved consultation and engagement of collective NGO community in evidence-based advocacy – agreed more clarity on this one is needed.
- Next steps for other priority areas:
 - Emergency response: Mid-season review of lessons learned. Strategy for next year to be developed and presented to Steering Committee in Q1.
 - Mainstreaming: Dedicated meeting planned for Q1 to present mainstreaming priorities and available support. Review of Sector AWP to ensure inclusion of



- concrete mainstreaming actions. Finalized IA training on gender and humanitarian action last week – there are now 7 trainers from MOSA, UN and NGOs who are ready to rollout gender training to other partners. Planning to engage with sectors to plan practical training series with all sectors at national and regional levels.
- Communications: Launch of LCRP 2022 is awaiting confirmation from PMO. Strategic Review has recommended that a Communications Strategy to be presented to the Steering Committee. Consultant is on board and working closely with MOSA communications focal point. Will be discussed and shared with the Inter-Sector and JTF ahead of finalization with the Steering Committee.
 - Next steps for programmatic prioritization:
 - Cross-sectoral prioritization – A write up is needed on priority areas and areas for improved targeting, which will be based on what the Inter-Sector has shared. Suggested to discuss in the next Inter-Sector meeting how to move forward on this.
 - Case management across PRT/CP/SGBV and referral to others – Joint planning session is planned for 21 February.
 - MPHSS – Following release of In Focus, Health and Protection sector will be tasked to hold a joint meeting to discuss taking forward recommendations.
 - Value Chains and Cooperatives – No feedback. Will circulate to colleagues for inputs in writing to get feedback on next steps.

6. AOB

- Sectors urged to share AWP as soon as possible – Marius is available for support.
- Sectors urged to submit draft EoY Dashboards. This is flagged as time sensitive as will into the regional report and country-level UN report.
- Update of BCP: Meeting will be organized with field Inter-Sector leads next week to determine what is needed to implement a bottom-up process for the updates.
- Note: IA meetings will shift to monthly 1 hour format delivered in both Arabic and English. Next IA meeting is on 11 February, with agenda to include tensions analysis and mental health In-Focus findings. Colleagues are encouraged to reach out to Hiba Ramadan if there additional topics they wish to present.
 - All sectors are requested to make sure at least 1 representative is present in case there are sector-related questions. If sector colleagues are unable to do this, please flag with Hiba as soon as possible.

Action Points

- Sectors to share AWP by 11 February.
- Sectors to submit draft EoY Dashboards ASAP.
- FSS and Conflict Sensitivity Focal Point to revisit partner capacity building initiatives.
- Draft Joint Inter-Sector Work Plan and Inter-Sector Planning Workshop to be shared with ISWG for comments before being finalized.
- Next steps on cross-sectoral prioritization write up to be discussed at the next ISWG meeting in March.
- Health and Protection sectors to hold a joint meeting to discuss taking forward recommendations from In Focus on Mental Health and IA Meeting discussion (11 February).
- Colleagues responsible for 'Value Chains and Cooperatives' components of joint programmatic priorities to advise on next steps in writing.
- Field Inter-Sector leads meeting to be organized next week to develop BCP Update plan.
- Sector Coordinators to ensure at least one representative is present in monthly IA meetings.





Annex I – Attendance List

Note: Colleagues highlighted in light grey were absent from the meeting.

Sector	Title/Organization	Name	Represented
Inter-Sector	LCRP General Supervisor	Ola Boutros	
	Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR)	Camilla Jelbart Mosse	
	Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNDP)	Elina Silen	
	Inter-Agency M&E Specialist	Marius Birsan	
	Inter-Agency Gender Specialist	Simona Perri	
	Protection Officer	Collette Hogg	
	Interim Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR)	Corina Iovescu	
	Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR)	Lindsey America-Simms	
	Economist	Rosa Vidarte	
	UNRWA Field Programme Support Officer	Aoife Keniry	by Max Perry-Wilson
	IOM Emergency and Stabilization Coordinator	Duncan Sullivan	
	WFP Head of Program	Michelle Iseminger	
	UNICEF Humanitarian Affairs Manager	Naoko Akiyama	
	UNICEF Humanitarian Affairs Manager 2	Rawia Al Taweel	
	Lebanon Humanitarian and Development NGO Forum (LHDF)	Dima Abo Abdo	
	Lebanon Humanitarian International NGO Forum (LHIF)	Soman Moodley	
	OCHA Humanitarian Affairs Officer for Strategic Planning	David White	by Efram Dzitrie
	Environmental Focal Point	Nour Masri	with Monia Hamdan
Regional Inter-Sector Coordinators	North (UNHCR)	Anne Dolan	
	North (UNDP)	Alain Chatry	
	North (MoSA)	Khaled Osman	
	North (MoIM)	Nada Mawlawi	
	Akkar(MoIM)	Issa Sarkis	
	Bekaa (UNHCR)	Gwendoline Mensah	
	Bekaa (UNDP)	Garo Haroutounian	
	Bekaa (MoSA)	Hussein Salem	
	Bekaa (MoIM)	Manal Ramadan	
	South (UNHCR)	Frances Teoh	
	South (UNDP)	Jinan Chinder	
	South (MoSA)	Hussein Zaarour	
	South (MoIM)	Hassan Fahs	
	Beirut-Mount Lebanon (UNHCR)	Frederic Cussigh	
	Beirut-Mount Lebanon (UNDP)	Mouna Ramadan	
	Beirut - Mount Lebanon (MoSA)	Amir Mounif	
	Beirut - Mount Lebanon (MoIM)	Farah Doughan Omar	



Information Management	Co-Lead (MoSA)	Abdel Rahim Ayoubi	
	Co-Lead (UNHCR)	Jad Ghosn	
Basic Assistance	Sector Lead (MoSA)	Hadi Haddad	
	Sector Coordinator (UNHCR)	Ruba Cheaib	
	NGO Co-Lead (Relief International)	Wael Khaled	
	IM Focal Point (UNHCR)	Raffi Kouzoudjian	
Education	Sector Lead (MEHE)	Iman Assi	
	Sector Coordinator (UNICEF)	Talin Sahakian	
	IM Focal Point (UNICEF)	Vicken Ashkarian	
Energy	Sector Lead (MoEW)	Suzy Hoayek	
	Sector Coordinator (UNDP)	Noritaka Hara	
Food Security	Sector Lead (MoA)	Houssein Nasrallah	
	Sector Lead (MoA)	Amal Salibi	
	Interim Sector Coordinator (FAO)	Sarah El Jeitani	
	Sector Co-Lead (WFP)	Leila Meliouh	
	Sector Co-Lead (FAO)	Elie Choueiri	
	IM Focal Point (WFP)	Kazem El Seblani	
Health	Sector Lead (MoPH)	Randa Hmeide	
	Sector Co-Lead (WHO)	Alissar Rady	
	Sector Co-Lead (WHO)	Myriam Sassine	
	Sector Co-Lead (UNHCR)	Solara Sinno	
	Sector Coordinator (UNHCR)	Stephanie Laba	
	IM Focal Point (UNHCR)	Maroun Sader	
Livelihoods	Sector Lead (MoSA)	Afaf Khalil	
	Sector Co-Lead (MoET)	Rayane Dandache	
	Interim Sector Coordinator (UNDP)	Yousra Taleb	
	IM Focal Point (UNDP)	Bachar El Mokdad	
Protection	Sector Coordinator (UNHCR)	Elsa Bousquet	
Child Protection	Interim Child Protection Coordinator (UNICEF)	Joud Munwar	
	SGBV Task Force Co-Lead (UNFPA)	Erica Talentino	
	Protection Focal Point (MoSA)	Afaf Khalil	
	IM Focal Point (UNHCR)		
Shelter	Sector Lead (MoSA)	Mazen Riachi	
	Sector Coordinator (UNHCR)	Abdulrahman Adelghani	
	IM Focal Point (UNHCR)	Faisal Alfakeeh	
Social Stability	Sector Lead (MoIM)	Randa Hobeich	
	Social Stability Focal Point (MoSA)	Afaf Khalil	
	Associate Protection Officer (UNHCR)	Rasha Akil	
	Sector Coordinator (UNDP)	William Barakat (a.i.)	
	IM Focal Point (UNDP)	Mohamad Nasser	
	Conflict Analysis and Reporting Officer (UNDP)	Fadel Saleh	
Water	Sector Coordinator (UNICEF)	Rania Abdallah	



	IM Focal Point (UNICEF)	Mahdi Wehbi	
	NGO Co-Lead (Leb Relief)	Michele Citton	
	Sector Lead (MoEW)	Suzy Hoayek	