



South Lebanon Livelihoods Sector Working Group Meeting - Minutes

MEETING			
Name	Livelihoods WG	Meeting date	July 20, 2022
Meeting location	Teams	Meeting time	11:00 am
Chairperson	Yousra Taleb / UNDP	Meeting duration	45 min
Minutes prepared by	UNDP		
Participants	Nashet, UNHCR, WVI, MoIM, MoSA, Mercy Corps, ICRC, UNIFIL, NRC, UNICEF, WFP, Anera, Amel, IECD, ISWA		
Meeting Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and introduction 2. National level updates: Support to MSMEs and Cooperatives dashboard 3. Partners updates 4. AoB 		

Summary of Discussion Points

A.	Deviations from original agenda None
1.	Welcome & Introduction
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNDP welcomed the participants on behalf of the co-chairs The agenda was briefly presented and validated by partners.
2.	National level updates: support to MSMEs and Cooperatives interactive dashboard
	<p>This initiative is led by both the Livelihoods and the Food Security and Agriculture sectors, and it aims to ensure coordination between the partners of both sectors where the activity of supporting MSMEs and cooperatives is common. The mapping is to be done quarterly however the last wave was collected for Q3 and Q4 of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022. A total of 1,238 interventions were reported divided as follows: 795 Livelihoods, 305 common between Livelihoods and FSAS, and 138 FSAS. These can be viewed by Governorate, partner, service provided and the sector of the MSME and cooperative business. This is important for the planning and selection of beneficiaries' phases where this tool allows the partners to see which MSME or cooperative received support and what kind of support. As such partners can decide to either refrain from supporting an MSME or Cooperative that has already benefited or to plan complementary support. The dashboard can be accessed through this LINK.</p> <p>Reporting: by the end of June 2022, only 13 partners have reported their activities in the South and Nabatieh: ACF Spain, ACTED, Al Majmoua, AVSI, CESVI, IECD, ILO, ISWA, LRI, Mercy Corps, Near East Foundation, Right to Play and RMF. Achievements of partners who are not reporting their activities will not appear in the sector's dashboard and as such the real progress towards the targets will not be precise.</p>

3.	Partners updates
	<p><u>IECD</u>: the organization is working in Saida and provide short term vocational training and recently opened a center in Tyre and in the process of identifying a center in Nabatieh. However, the main activities are in Saida. The target group is vulnerable individuals between the age of 18 and 35 from all nationalities with no education. The topics vary from electricity, AC maintenance, nail care, elderly help, and care, sewing in addition to the latest training on PV installation. The trainings range between 100 hours to 240 hours (1.5 months to 3 or 4 months). The criteria are mainly: uneducated and not in school, unemployed, all nationalities noting that most beneficiaries in Saida are Palestinian refugees given the proximity of the center to the camp while outreach and recruitment of Lebanese is challenging. In Tyre, the new center (next to Jawad restaurant) the organization is currently in the outreach phase as such, partners are encouraged to refer beneficiaries (https://www.facebook.com/iecdlb, 70471308, 03850729). Another small-scale program is the support to MSMEs in Saida (one or two trainings). All opportunities are available on the Inter-Agency Service mapping.</p> <p><u>Nashet-Zuwedetna</u> project: currently planning a fund-raising campaign until the end of the year, which will be followed by a training on cooking traditional Palestinian food, standards of cooking, and food safety to 15 women (Palestinian and Syrian refugees) 60% of which will be employed within the organization but on a rotational basis (for example 5 every month to work and implement the skills they have learned in the courses). The food is sold (individual sales and catering services) and the revenue is used to sustain activities as such the organization is doing fund-raising. However, self-sufficiency is becoming challenging with the increased competition. Another project is the green rooftops where women are trained on planting vegetables and fruits on their rooftops with the aim of self-sufficiency in these products. Partners are encouraged to use the services of the organization to support them. Rawan Al Sayyed – Sales, 81034574. Services can be provided in Saida, Sour, Nabatieh and Beirut.</p> <p><u>World Vision</u>: finished demo plot consultancies for three producers' groups: open field, olive, and milk. A consultant was providing good practices sessions so that the producers could enhance the quality of the products, reduce production costs, and increase income. Farmers and producers also received tools to help them apply the new learnings. A total of 60 producers were supported.</p> <p><u>AMEL</u>: working in Sour, Bazourieh and Khiam. Targeting youth between 15 and 29 with linguistic sessions (English and French) and computer sessions. Vocational training sessions on home appliances maintenance and natural products where Amel is also supporting the beneficiaries in selling them (soaps, shampoo, candles...). First cycle ends in July and the new cycle (4 months) starts in September the project ends in 2023. The selection of the topics was based on a value chain assessment which was conducted in the area. Currently considering new topics for vocational training such as sewing in Khiam and photography in the three areas. Partners are welcomed to refer beneficiaries especially in Sour (flyer shared with minutes). The opportunities are added into the Inter-Agency service mapping.</p> <p><u>Anera</u>: Short term and medium term (250 hours CBT and 50 hours employability, career guidance and life skills) certified vocational training courses home care and elderly care in Saida (AlMouasat) and Tyre (Imam Sadr Foundation). Also working on education and early intervention with students with special needs in terms of training fresh graduated teachers, in coordination with the schools, to prepare them for the coming scholastic year. This comes in response to the decrease in the number of teachers where many opted to stop working given the current economic situation. In agrifood and agriculture, a course in assistant chef was conducted in addition to targeting fresh agriculture engineers through provision of training</p>

within an agriculture company (internship). Construction courses in Saida and Sour in partnership with CSF (solar system). Then the top 11 trainees will be supported to have a paid 40-day apprenticeships in companies (thus companies will also benefit from the working hand). All trainings are followed with apprenticeships and employability. In 2021 60% of the beneficiaries were able to find temporary or permanent employment. Within the YFS (youth functional skills) which focuses on financial literacy, English and IT, a curriculum was designed to fit the needs of the different groups, i.e., university or school students, to increase their skills in these areas. This also led to employment among the beneficiaries. YBLN courses with dropouts and marginalized students which helps them in either joining vocational training or finding employment. Life skills is also an additional component of work (includes civic engagement curriculum and adolescence life skills). Currently starting a pilot project in Rashidieh camp, rooftop gardening.

ISWA: currently preparing to implement two new projects:

1- Supporting a honey production startup: providing cash assistance to 1 or 2 honey producers in Saida

2- Tuk-Tuk project: providing 10 right-holders with tuk-tuks. 5 of them will be in Saida and the other 5 will be in Aarsal. The program will be open to all nationalities. The right-holders will be able to use the tuk-tuks to generate their own income.

Also currently implementing a training program for teachers in the private and public schools regarding blended and distance learning. The program targets 350 teachers in Saida who will be provided also with stationery kits and cash support. Finally, the education department, Vision Academy is in the process of launching a computer lab that will offer training in the tech sector.

Mercy Corps: two active programs, one covering Nabatieh and Saida (PV) and one covering Saida and Sour. The programs provide vocational trainings for age groups 18-34, all nationalities and unemployed or not currently studying. 80 to 200 hours as per topic which is identified based on market needs. Some graduates are provided with toolkits at the end of the training and those not interested in self-employment are being referred to work based learning opportunities in matching entities for 60 days where transportation and refreshments are covered by Mercy Corps. MSME support is coming to an end (solar pumps and solar PV).

UNIFIL: continuous vet support in Arkoub by the Indian Battalion (vaccines, medication, and check-ups). Women Cooperative Exhibition in Naqoura was held to which several organizations were invited to see and shop from the products of the local cooperatives. Similar markets (once per month) are held in some locations across the sector where local producers are invited to showcase and sell their products within the camps. A wheat harvesting machine to A'adshit AlQusair. Two programs which were put on hold for the past two years due to COVID are planned to resume in the next month where experts from Spain (vets and agriculture experts specialized in olive) will visit the South (Marjeyoun) and provide technical recommendations and awareness on new methods of planting, pruning, harvesting and pest control. This is conducted in collaboration with the MoAg (South office). As in previous years, collaboration will also be initiated with the Lebanese University to include the veterinary students in these visits as a field training for them. This, however, might be challenged with the transportation and accommodation costs. In Aaitaroun, an outreach activity with Youth and Children to do painting training. Soil tests for agricultural lands in Ramia

NRC: currently looking into opportunities to intervene in Livelihoods sector in the South. As such, several communication and consultations with the partners will be taking place in the coming period as part of the desk research.

	<p><u>UNICEF</u>: in addition to the activities mentioned by Anera (which are funded by UNICEF), there is another partnership which is currently under consideration for renewal with AVSI working on organic agriculture in the South.</p> <p><u>URDA</u>: income generation project (vocational training) in Saida on dairy processing, handicrafts, and food drying. This project mainly targets Palestinian refugees.</p> <p><u>WFP</u>: climate change and agricultural livelihoods in Lebanon study with AUB to analyze the resilience is finally published. It is a two-year study that highlight the areas included in the mapping and areas to be prioritized. Solar panels are being provided to cooperatives and industries within the project in partnership with BeryTech as well as to ruminants under the project with ESDU.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During UNIFIL's interaction with the public schools in the past period, a lot of requests related to fuel and electricity were made in addition to requests related to stationery and equipment. UNICEF will raise this point with the education officer to get a better understanding of the plans with the Ministry of Education in terms of support to public schools. AP: UNIFIL to share the list of schools with UNICEF.
4.	AoB
	None