Meeting Notes
Inter-Sector Coordination Group Meeting (UN+NGOs)

Friday, 15 October 2024, 10:00 - 12:00
ESCWA/Online via MS Teams

The Inter-Sector Coordination Group (ISCG) (UN+NGOs) meeting was held to provide updates on convoy management, the Emergency Directors Group (EDG) mission, as well as critical activities and funding analysis. The meeting also highlighted operational priorities including an Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) registration, response to people outside of collective shelters, and the strategic note on 'People without Shelter' by the Protection and Shelter sectors. Moreover, an overview of the 2025 Lebanon Response Plan (LRP) planning was shared. Key highlights and action points from the meeting are noted below:

Key Highlights:

Updates by ISCG Co-Chairs

- **Convoy Management**
  - Eight convoys have been successfully facilitated to date, including cargo movements from Amman to Syria.
  - Coordination involves a notification and prioritization system managed at the sub-national level to identify key areas and sectoral needs. This ensures that national planning aligns with field realities.
  - Sub-national groups are expected to provide priorities two weeks in advance to facilitate timely preparation of cargo and documents.

- **Emergency Directors Group (EDG) Mission**
  - Amid the devastating developments across the Middle East, the first-ever regional EDG mission is planned for November 27–29, 2024, and will involve representatives from OCHA, WHO, UNHCR, NRC, and WVI.
  - The mission will consist of a series of simultaneous small interagency visits to Beirut and Damascus, preceded by a group visit to Cairo and followed by a group visit to Amman.
  - It will assess and agree on next steps that should be taken by the EDG and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals to strengthen response efforts and capacities at country level, while ensuring coherence across the region.
  - The mission will also support efforts for increased evidence-based advocacy on the protection of civilians, principled access, duty of care for humanitarian actors, and risk-sharing with local and national actors (including on duty of care issues, follow-up visits, joint briefings to Member States and the media, IASC statements).

- **Critical Activities and Funding Gap Analysis**
  - Identified 82 critical activities at risk due to a $478 million funding gap across the $3.2 billion appeal.
  - Urgent needs include:
    - Support for 2.5 million people, including 125,000 Syrian refugees, at risk of unmet basic needs.
    - Secondary health services at risk for 73,000 individuals.
    - Safe water and sanitation access for 150,000 IDPs.
    - Casualty and trauma care for at least 4,000 people.
  - Recommendations include:
    - Enhancing inter-sector collaboration and leadership.

- Strengthening assessments, community engagement, and local partnerships.
- Focusing on enabling factors to optimize resource use and donor advocacy.

Operational Priorities

- **Update on IDP Registration**
  - Self-registration of IDPs inside and outside shelters: implemented by the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities (MoIM) in collaboration with the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM).
  - Concerns have been raised about security issues and verification of actual displacement (not adopted by all Governorates).
  - Access to data from different stakeholders requires coordination through the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA).
  - Registration of IDPs inside and outside shelters to be conducted by enumerators (MoSA in collaboration with UNICEF and WFP).
  - The aim of the registration process extends beyond cash and assistance distribution and focuses on active displacement monitoring to better address needs and inform response efforts.
  - IDP Registration Phase 1:
    - LRC and DRM are tasked with compiling data from multiple sources, including municipalities, self-registration initiatives, and other stakeholders.
    - The unified dataset will be hosted by the Government of Lebanon and shared with humanitarian partners based on their response capacity.
  - IDP Registration Phase 2:
    - A full registration process led by MoSA will begin next week, with an estimated duration of 40 days. Enumerators will collect data for 175,000 households outside shelters (prioritized) and 75,000 inside shelters.
    - The focus includes cash assistance, displacement monitoring, and planning for broader interventions.
  - Key Considerations:
    - Enumerators will wear identifiable uniforms and IDs.
    - Municipalities and law enforcement will support the exercise.
    - Media campaigns and TV ads are under discussion to raise awareness.
    - Registration is voluntary, with data confidentiality guaranteed.

- **Response to People Outside of Collective Shelters**
  - 800,000 IDPs outside shelters to receive blanket food assistance by the end of December.
  - Distribution plans rely on coordination with DRM, MoSA, and partners.
  - Services are delivered through PHCs, outreach teams, and a national infant and young child feeding (IYCF) hotline.
  - Key interventions include managing malnutrition and providing preventive nutrition supplies.
  - Cash for shelter interventions are ongoing, using self-registration data from DRM.
  - Expanding emergency shelter options remains a priority, including repurposing public buildings and exploring new collective sites.
  - Analysis on people reached (Flash Appeal/GHO reporting – Oct 2024) is available on slide 15 of the presentation here.

- **People without Shelter: Protection & Shelter Strategic Note**
  - The purpose of the Protection & Shelter Strategic Note is to adopt an Inter-Agency approach to address lack of shelter as a result of the recent escalation.

- Objectives include protecting and supporting people without shelter and providing quality appropriate shelter for homeless IDPs.
- Vulnerabilities to be addressed, especially among non-Lebanese, including the affected refugees and migrants.
- The approach is holistic and protection-sensitive, emphasizing coordinated and collaborative efforts among stakeholders to ensure an inclusive and effective response. It prioritizes urgency in addressing immediate needs, utilizes a geo-split/area-based strategy for localized solutions, and promotes participation while being sensitive to age, gender, and diversity (AGD) considerations. Additionally, it focuses on expanding shelter options through policy changes and employs data-driven planning to guide decision-making and optimize resource allocation.
- Key Interventions include the following (see slide 19 here for more details):
  - Establish drop-in hubs offering safe spaces, basic needs, WASH facilities, counseling, referrals, and emergency services for women and children.
  - Repair public buildings, expand informal settlements, and implement cash-for-shelter programs.
  - Pilot approaches in selected areas for scalable impact.

LRP Planning 2025

- **November Workshops:**
  - Themes include socio-economic challenges, protection concerns, and cross-cutting issues like gender and environment.
  - Data and baseline analysis sessions will establish people-in-need (PiN) methodologies.
- **December–January Timeline:**
  - Consolidate national and sub-national inputs.
  - Develop scenarios to inform comprehensive response planning for 2025.
- Full timeline available on slides 22 to 25 here.

Action Points:

1. ISCG Co-Chairs to share the EDG Mission Programme and Terms of Reference (ToR) with Sector Coordinators at National and Subnational Level (UN+NGOs). Deadline: 21 November 2024.
2. Sector Coordinators to review, validate, and reflect any modifications in track changes on the "Overview of Critical Activities and Funding Gap Analysis" HERE. Deadline: Friday, 29 November 2024.