

INTER AGENCY MEETING - Minutes – 25 January 2013 – Beirut

Meeting			
Name	Inter-Agency meeting	Meeting Date	25/01/2013
Meeting Location	ESCWA	Meeting Time	10 a.m.
Chair person	Felipe Camargo, UNHCR Assistant Representative - Interagency Coordinator	Meeting Duration	1:30 hrs
Minutes Prepared by	Remo Fambri and Hiba Jardali		
Purpose of Meeting	To provide updated information on the situation of refugees in Lebanon, discuss priority needs and response		

Summary of discussions and action points

1.	UNHCR Presentation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ninette Kelley, UNHCR Representative, opened the meeting thanking Richard Acland for his work during his emergency deployment – noting in particular his dedication to the supervision of UNHCR field office in addition to his inter-agency coordination efforts. She noted that Richard, due to his extensive experience, is a valued UNHCR emergency manager which takes him to many different field locations according to need. • She also introduced additions to UNHCR management team including Kamel Deriche, who is the new Assistant Representative –Operations; Veronique Robert, Assistant Representative – Protection and Felipe Camargo- Assistant Representative Inter-Agency Coordination. • Mr Camargo then provided an outline of the meeting – and • Richard Acland presented a brief update on statistics of registered and on-registered refugees and an update on the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) implemented by UNHCR in agriculture and livelihoods for Syrian refugees and host communities. • Kamel Deriche updated the situation of the contingency planning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stocks are deployed in North and Bekaa (25,000 individuals each area) ○ Contingency reserve stocks for 50,000 in pipeline ○ Challenge: Some suppliers back out of Frame Agreements ○ Contingency Plan is currently with Ministry of Social Affairs and will be soon available on the web portal for access (with password only).
2.	General Update
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Christina Blunt from OCHA made a brief summary of the mission of the UN Emergency Directors to Syria and Lebanon. The mission had the opportunity to observe first-hand the extremely difficult situation in Syria and the highly politicized situation that makes difficult to predict further humanitarian impact. The mission was composed of WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNRWA, ION, FAO and

	<p>WHO. They visited Damascus, Rif Damscus, Deraa, overnigheted in Homs and on the way back they visited refugee locations in Bekaa valley in Lebanon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In regards to the CERF she announced that 1,000,000 USD had been allocated for CERF funding for assistance to Lebanese host communities and Lebanese returnees for the UN agencies. Those are UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, WFP, ION, and FAO. This follows another funding of 1,000,000 USD that was allocated for UNRWA last December for assistance for Palestinian refugees from Syria.
3.	UNRWA Updates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current situation needs better Information Management (IM) in order to improve the mapping of the gaps and duplications in the response to Palestinians. Multi-partner meetings help better coordination and understanding. <p><i>Next Steps</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next multi-partner meeting is to be held on Thursday 31/01/2013 in UNRWA office
4.	Sectors Updates - Protection
	<p>Mrs. Veronique Robert, UNHCR Senior Protection Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is an increase of arrivals but it is currently not steady as in other countries (e.g. Jordan) Border monitoring is ongoing with remote monitoring through Implementing Partner DRC Increasing tensions are present in the North Lebanon between North communities and refugees, this needs immediate intervention from municipalities. Update on northern crossing: 3 official and 5 unofficial border crossing points. Fines are being asked on the Syrian side. <p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child Protection Assessment is currently ongoing throughout Lebanon. The report will be presented by the end of February 2013. <p><i>Next Steps</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizations are invited to implement peace-building projects as soon as possible this year.
5.	Sectors Update - Health
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numbers for primary and Secondary Health Care Centers are doubling in December and January The covering of emergencies is difficult to control because of the steady increase in numbers Emergency health care is nearly 100% covered for vulnerable cases including unregistered refugees. <p><i>Next Steps</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All partners to update (IMC) Health data. All health partners to review the criteria for health interventions particularly secondary and tertiary assistance.
6.	Sectors Update – WASH

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matrix to be Updated WASH assessment to start in Bekaa <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Findings and updates will be shared during next meeting. Next sector meeting to be held on 31 January in Tripoli.
7.	Sectors Update – Shelter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locations are currently being assessed for putting in place two transitional camps in coordination with the government and municipalities. The camps will host 10,000 refugees. Shelter experts are currently searching for buildings to rent and/or renovate for new arrivals Procurement is in place in case of high influx <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate establishment of transit centres and ensure that contingency plan is made available.
8.	WFP Update on e-vouchers
	<p>Elena Bertola from WFP updated on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After an assessment of the various options available, WFP decided to implement bank pre-paid systems with pre-selected shops. Refugees will receive pre-paid electronic cards instead of paper vouchers. WFP is currently working with Mastercard to identify banks. WFP opened an expression of interest for Lebanese banks The project will start in April <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option for future inclusion of other partners or other sectors (e.g. NFIs and Cash Assistance) – to be followed up in a Distribution Sectoral meeting. Tighter coordination to avoid multiplication of cards for refugees Cash assistance working group for North to meet Thursday 31/01/2013 (WFP to participate with expertise) Cash assistance versus women beneficiaries, risks to be discussed (by whom?) WFP to share the list of banks currently interested
9.	WFP Update on Food Distribution
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 150,000 food parcels distributed monthly and 160,000 food vouchers are planned to be distributed monthly. ERC: First Sub Working group in Bekka on Tuesday 29/01/2013
10.	NFI'S Update

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR announced that new senior coordinator for distribution will be deployed. This person will coordinate all distribution efforts for person of concern. A particular emphasis will be given to criteria for contents and distribution of NFIs to vulnerable new arrivals and unregistered refugees. <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracking excel sheet to be shared with all partners involved to map existing distributions and gaps for all persons of concern. NFI distribution meeting prior to next IA meeting
11.	<p>SGBV Presentation (UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF) (Presentation Attached)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A SGBV task force has been created between UNFPA, UNHCR and UNICEF. The task force is available for updates and insights in sectors meetings and implementation of projects. <p>Contact Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emily Page (UNHCR) - Anthony McDonald (UNICEF) - Reema Masoud (UNFPA) <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGBV is included also in the child assessment. SGVB task force to study the impact of cash approach on SGBV. Sectors to invite SGBV task force to coordination and technical meetings as required.
12.	<p>Coordination</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination structure presented by Felipe Camargo National level structure needs to be adapted at local level. The coordination structure is intended for the assistance to registered and unregistered refugees and other persons of concern. A coordination tool kit is being prepared for all sectors. <p>Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracks for gaps mapping to be developed Organizations to send feedback on the coordination structure
13.	<p>Action Plan</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sectoral notes are requested to be submitted every two weeks from now on, on Thursday morning prior to IA meeting.
14.	<p>Other issues</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current Channeling of funding? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Bilateral to Government and multilateral through the UN/NGOs. Some donors prefer to start through the UN and then move to the government in future.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The two plans (Government and RRP4) are being consolidated on time for the Donors pledge in Kuwait • The next IA meeting will be confirmed as soon as possible with theme and date.
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Attachments

Document	Location
Attendance sheet	http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=1448 Password protected document – please contact minuto@unhcr.org
SGBV presentation	http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=1449
Coordination Structure and responsible chairs and co-chairs	http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=1415