



**Inter-Agency
Coordination**
Lebanon

Minutes of INTER-AGENCY MEETING Beirut, 13 May 2016

Meeting Location	UNHCR 1st floor conference room	Meeting Time	10:00 A.M
Chair person	Aimee Karam- MoSA	Meeting Duration	2 h
Co-Chair person	Kerstin Karlstrom Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator		
Minutes Prepared by	Lara Techekirian – Inter-Agency Coordination Associate		
Purpose of Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Winter assistance and complementary cash approaches▪ Mercy Corps presentation on Syrian teenagers motivated to build a better future▪ Overview of available information and information gaps across sectors▪ MoPH presentation on the national mental health and substance use strategy▪ AOB		

Summary of discussions and action points

1	Winter assistance and complementary cash approaches (UNHCR)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Basic Assistance sector coordinator presented the summary achievements of the 2015/16 Interagency Winter Support Plan. Those achievements included but were not limited to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 182.364 HHs received cash for winter

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10.000 received fuel for vouchers ○ 70.000 HHs received Core Relief Items (CRIs) ○ 165.000 of children stayed warm at school <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An Interagency winter support lessons learned workshop was held on the 25th of April to review the achievements of the winter support plan and inform next year's response. ▪ Discussions and recommendations focused on how to better identify, target, and assist vulnerable families (refugee and host communities). Cash was highlighted to be the best assistance modality. Further, a harmonized feedback mechanism that could include a call center, Q&As, and key messages on targeting and assistance to beneficiaries were recommended to enable partners staff better respond to refugees inquiries. ▪ Lessons learned also stressed the importance of including and consulting with refugees and people of concern early in the programme design stage, to ensure assistance is needs based. ▪ Outreach to other sectors and coordination mechanisms such as the Protection, Shelter and Energy and Water sectors, in addition to the Collective Site Management Committee (CSMC) task force was also recommended to ensure different needs are captured and programme design informs interventions accordingly. ▪ Next year's intervention is recommended to start in the beginning of October and finish end February to help vulnerable families better prepare themselves and weatherproof their shelters. ▪ Based on the data of 150,000 Syrian refugees receiving cash for winter assistance, a case study traced the different needs people have on a regular basis and during seasons, mainly winter, such as food, shelter, water, clothing, fuel, etc. ▪ 150,000 households' recipients of cash for winter were grouped by the
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	<p>type cash assistance received at the same time (cash for winter, food e-vouchers, multi-purpose cash, and the \$40/child one-off cash top up¹). The different types of assistance complement each other ensuring that poor families can access basic goods and services of their choice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seasonal assistance is a top up to existing assistance schemes that aim to cover additional or increasing costs refugees need. Regular assistance (MPC) coverage has to be expanded further: all poor families eligible for cash and food should receive assistance. Otherwise, families will be further exposed to economic hardship and risk falling deeper into poverty. ▪ From this exercise, Unconditional / non-restricted cash is inter-sectoral in nature and therefore requires consultation across different sectors that might have some cash based interventions in place. ▪ Next step: Define complementarity between programmes and how refugee needs are met or can be met ▪ The Livelihoods expert at MOSA raised a question on the possibility of calculating the total sum of the cash assistance received, BA sector coordinator noted that the sector is working on that exercise. ▪ A suggestion was made by MoSA Chair to have a short presentation on the PDMs' results at the next IA meeting (to be held at the 10th of June).
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¹ Cash for winter: \$100/month/poor family below 500m & \$147/month/poor family above 500m; food e-vouchers: \$27/month/capita; multi-purpose cash assistance: \$175/month/poor family; one off \$40/child for poor families living in ISs with children below 15

2.	Presentation on Syrian teenagers motivated to build a better future (Mercy Corps)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Media and Communications Coordinator at Mercy Corps (MC) presented the report “Age of Unrest: Syrian Refugee Youth at the Crossroads”. ▪ The report is based on in-depth interviews with 15 young Syrian refugees living in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. ▪ The main key message that was concluded based on the findings is the need to separate adolescents and youth. According to MC adolescents are young people between 10 and 19 years old, they are prone to protection violations. Adolescence is a critical time in a young person’s development, young Syrian refugees are torn from their homes by a savage war, scarred by violence and loss, despite that they are still hopeful and ambitious. ▪ The report identifies 3 main challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Building emotional well-being and resilience at a time of turbulence and violence ○ Continuing their education and gaining necessary technical knowledge ○ Getting decent jobs in which they are treated fairly and legally, and not exploited ▪ Key recommendations made in the report included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Make young people partners in change by involving them in deciding the shape and focus of aid programs that seek to help them ○ Reinforce community based mechanism and programs to ensure protection of youth and promote their well-being and resilience ○ Boost the ability of young people to get a good education and decent jobs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Invest in industries that will be vital for post-war reconstruction in Syria ▪ A question was raised by NRC focal person on concrete actions that MC has taken to implement the above recommendations and how to help young people facing violence in communities. MC focal person noted that the organization implements programmes for adolescents to enhance skills that are appropriate to their development (e.g. Recreational/ community development programs provided in 4 different centers). Psychologist/Youth leaders work with adolescents, also peer to peer support groups are organized to help youth see alternatives that give them a sense of purpose and status without turning to violence.
3.	Overview of available information and information gaps across sectors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sector coordinators and partners reviewed the consolidated information gaps by sector. The purpose of this exercise was to get a comprehensive overview of the information needs ahead of 2017 planning by sector.
4.	MoPH presentation on the national mental health and substance use strategy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dr. Rabih Chammay, Head of the National Mental Health Programme (NMHP) at the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) gave a presentation on the National Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy (2015-2020) as well as the Mental Health and Psycho-social (MHPSS) taskforce Action plan for 2016. Context: ▪ Mental health has been an increasing public health concern. Latest evidence dating from 2008 shows that approximately 4.6% of the Lebanese population had experienced a severe mental disorder (including depression and anxiety). Very few individuals who experienced

	<p>any type of mental disorder had ever received any professional treatment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2014, MoPH in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and IMC established the National Mental Health Programme at MoPH. ▪ In 2015, MoPH, in collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and International Medical Corps (IMC), launched the “Mental Health and Substance Use Strategy for Lebanon (2015-2020)” with the objective of ensuring accessibility of high quality mental health care to all populations in Lebanon. ▪ The strategy addresses mental and substance use disorders in a cost-effective, evidence-based and multidisciplinary approach with an emphasis on community involvement, continuum of care, human rights, and cultural relevance. The strategy covers five domains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strengthening effective leadership and governance for mental health: (domain 1) ○ Providing comprehensive, integrated and responsive mental health and social care services in community-based settings for all populations (domain 2) especially the needs of specific vulnerable groups (domain 5) ○ Implementing key promotion and prevention activities for mental health and substance use disorders (domain 3) ○ Obtaining evidence-based knowledge to inform mental health policy and service development through an operational Health Information System and coordinated national research practice is another domain (domain 4) ▪ The National Mental Health Programme has been working on many fronts: integration of mental health into primary care, engaging universities and scientific societies, mapping of the mental health system in Lebanon (4Ws), developing key documents for mental health. In
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	<p>addition, the MOPH established and is currently chairing the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) task force which is co-chaired by WHO and UNICEF, this task force includes around 60 organizations working on the Syrian Crisis response in Lebanon with the aim of harmonizing and mainstreaming MHPSS in all sectors and improving access to care.</p> <p><u>MHPSS Action Plan:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop a referral system for crisis management linking all levels of care, draft to be shared with sector coordinators or representatives from different sectors. ○ Online 4Ws ○ Define TORs of a psychotherapist and standardization of recruitment criteria as well as salaries and packages ○ Mental Health trainings for ER Hospital staff ○ Staff care assessment ○ Develop a code of conduct for NGOs working in MHPSS ○ Conduct Capacity building for non-specialized staff.
5.	AOB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ OCHA-Lebanon has launched The Joint Analysis Unit aimed at providing innovative analysis to humanitarian issues arising in or affecting Lebanon. In order to meet the analysis needs, a brief 15-question survey was designed. OCHA Humanitarian Affairs Officer reminded partner agencies to take the survey on OCHA's current products in order to tell which ones they find more/less useful. ▪ Focal person from the British Council introduced the LASER (LANGUAGE, ACADEMIC SKILLS AND E-LEARNING) project which aims to deliver English

	<p>language courses to Syrians and Lebanese students between the ages 18-30 who have been unable to start or continue their higher education due to the current circumstances. The course is funded by the European Union, there will be no cost to those who qualify to attend, for more info check the attached document.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MoSA chair reminded partners to input in the template on private sector engagement which has been circulated by all sector coordinators. This exercise will serve as a baseline to further develop the way in which LCRP partners engage the private sector (COB for submission is 20 May 2016).
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Attachments

Document	Location
IA Presentation	http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=10993