



Minutes of NATIONAL INTER-SECTOR MEETING

2 March 2018, 12:00-14:00

Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Beirut

Chairperson(s)	Carol Ann Sparks – UNHCR Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh – UNDP
Minutes Prepared by	Hiba Taha – Senior Coordination Assistant (Inter-Agency Coordination) – UNHCR
Agenda of the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results of Partner Survey (Coordination) • Next Steps on Taking Forward the Inter-Sector Priorities • A.O.B.

Summary of Discussions and Action Points

1. Results of Partner Survey (Coordination):

Key Presentation Points:

- The presentation made highlighted key findings of the Partner Coordination Survey which was conducted in February 2018.
- A short overview was given of recommendations from previous coordination reviews pertaining to Leadership & Accountability, Delivery Structure, Information Management, and Donors.
- Feedback on the current survey was received from UN agencies, donors (including the UK, EU, Netherlands and Sweden), as well as international and national NGOs.
- 411 partners responded to the survey, 50% of which are international NGOs and 22% national NGOs.
- The share of respondents was highest at the national level (42%).
- The highest share of respondents corresponded to the Livelihoods, Protection, Social Stability and Basic Assistance sectors; the lowest share to the Shelter and Energy sectors.
- The role of Information Management (IM) in the response was generally perceived positively:
 - The major strength lies in the provision of technical support, data and gap analysis.
 - The relative weakness is at the sectoral level where IM support could be enhanced.
- Approximately 50% of respondents stated that the Inter-Sector team is (very) effective and efficient, 15% responded negatively.
- The Inter-Agency group scored high in terms of information-sharing and strategic planning of the sectors.
- Concerning the future of the coordination structure:
 - Around 85% of respondents were either neutral or positive on each question.
 - No major issues were highlighted concerning the existing coordination structure or the proposed strategy.
- On the issue of merging Water, Shelter and Energy into “Water and Habitat” sector, a majority of respondents agreed both at the national and field levels.
- On the issue of merging the Social Stability and Protection sectors into a single sector:
 - At the national level, 50% (strongly) agree and 35% were neutral.
 - At the field level, 60% (strongly) agree and 30% were neutral.



- On the issue of forming a “Relief and Livelihoods” Thematic Group made up of members of core groups from the Basic Assistance, Food Security and Livelihoods sectors:
 - Results were similar at both the national and field levels, with 50-55% (strongly) agreeing and 30% being neutral.
- On the issue of forming an “Access to Services” Thematic Group made up of members of core groups from the Water/Shelter/Energy, Education and Health sectors:
 - At the field level, 50% of respondents (strongly) agreed.
 - At the national level, 35% of respondents (strongly) agreed, and 35% were neutral.
- On strengthening Inter-Sector analysis, planning and M&E:
 - Results were similar at the national and field level, with 60% of respondents (strongly) agreeing and 30% being neutral.
- Through individual comments, some specific recommendations were made on improving the coordination strategy and potential changes.
- At the national level, the average rating for the effectiveness of the sector working groups in achieving their objectives is 3, which is satisfactory.
- At the national level, the average rating for the sector coordination in performing each of its tasks is 3, which implies that there are no major concerns.
- When asked if the co-leadership among UN, NGO and Government is sufficient in each of the sectors at the national level:
 - Most of the respondents from the Protection and Education sectors responded negatively.
 - Most of the respondents from the Livelihoods and Food Security sectors responded positively.
- The average rating for the following statements was 3 (satisfactory): the effectiveness of advocacy, operational delivery and protection mainstreaming, the state of preparedness and contingency planning, the strength of needs assessment and information management as well as the overall focus on operational delivery as opposed to information-sharing.
- A key challenge throughout all sectors is the lack of active participation.
- Across all sectors, a sizable share of respondents do not know whether cross-sectoral discussions are taking place, which is worrying and indicates lack of active participation. This is an area to be strengthened.
- What are the next steps?
 - Sector discussions to take place on the national and field levels.
 - Inter-sector discussions in the North, Mount Lebanon and South. (Bekaa has already taken place.)
 - Stakeholders to agree on a proposal to be submitted to the LCRP Steering Committee, which would potentially meet in March to make final decision on the new coordination structure to be rolled out by mid-2018.

The meeting presentation could be accessed through the following link:

<https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/62786>

Key Discussion Points:

- Each sector has received their respective 2017 Analysis.
- An inter-ministerial meeting will be held soon to further discuss the proposed coordination structure changes.
- Discussions with the sector working groups should happen on the coordination structure before the end of March.



- MoSA noted that there has not been any final decision on the future coordination structure, including possible mergers, as the ministries have not yet met to discuss.
- The Shelter sector stated that the perception within the Shelter working group itself is negative regarding the proposed merger into a Water and Habitat sector, even though the survey results indicate otherwise. Several ministries and UN agencies will be involved as a result of the merger, which implies numerous stakeholders. The Shelter sector does not have a clear vision on how this will unfold and cannot provide answers to questions around the potential changes.
- It is suggested to ensure more inputs from participants into the agenda for meetings, and to potentially provide Arabic interpretation at meeting, depending on the participation.
- More effort is needed to follow up on action points agreed at meetings.
- Each sector is requested to have a discussion centered around the coordination strategy moving forward, give their views on the survey, and provide recommendations while being as solution-oriented as possible. That feedback will be communicated to the inter-sector team and will be issued to help inform decision making at the LCRP Steering Committee.
- LHIF suggested having key questions to guide the discussions within each sector working group at the national level.
- The Water sector acknowledged that these discussions regarding coordination strategies are always happening; however, the working groups do not have a final say.
- The final decision on the coordination structure will be made by the LCRP Steering Committee. Nevertheless, the Partner Survey is a chance to share opinions, document positions, bring everyone together, and ultimately provide input, solution-driven ideas and clear alternatives. As such, it is an opportunity to help inform the decision-making process on the future coordination structure.

Action Points:

- Guiding questions for effective discussions within each sector working group concerning the proposed coordination strategy to be shared by the inter-sector team by Monday.
- Feedback from the sector discussions to be shared with inter-sector team and integrated into sector work plans.

2. Next Steps on Taking Forward the Inter-Sector Priorities:

Key Presentation Points:

- Priorities recommended through the survey results were laid out:
 - Focus on the humanitarian/development nexus and the various ways the coordination and response mechanisms can be improved in that area.
 - Focus on specific vulnerable groups such as older persons and persons with disabilities, as well as mental health issues and psycho-social support.
 - Facilitation of cross-sectoral discussions.
 - Long-term strategic planning.
 - Identification of remaining gaps and mapping of service provision.
- The priorities of the Inter-Sector working group for 2018 include joint fundraising and advocacy, contingency planning, inter-agency/sector referral system, and area-based planning and coordination.

Key Discussion Points:



- Important is to conduct a mapping exercise of different existing referral systems currently being used in the sectors. Tentative structure of this mapping will be sent next week to each sector.
 - The Health sector has an interest in exploring the possibility of developing an inter-agency referral system, which could be accessible to non-health partners and front-liners.
 - Discussions should take place at the sectoral level about how the referral systems are best put in place and its added value, particularly with colleagues on the field.
- The Basic Assistance sector expressed the need to better define and understand what area-based planning and coordination is in relation to each working group.

Action Points:

- Each Sector to update their year-end dashboard and ensure the quarterly dashboards are updated and uploaded on the portal.
- Each sector to submit their advocacy messages targeting donors as soon as possible.

3. A.O.B.

- According to the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities and MOSA, regional coordinators must be informed of any engagement with Mayors to ensure that any new projects are appropriately coordinated through the agreed upon LCRP structure. No programs that are not coordinated through the LCRP will be allowed.
- Field visits, especially those involving official delegations or high-level visitors, are not allowed without notifying MoSA or the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities beforehand, because it has to be processed through the Internal Security Forces. This can also be communicated at the level of the regional coordinators of MoSA.
- The inter-sector team is compiling the various sector-specific fundraising messages submitted thus far, and will circulate these by Monday noon. Comments and feedback on these messages are important to feed higher-level discussions that are currently taking place.
- Advocacy messages are not solely about funding; it is critical to communicate what is being done and the key issues targeted in the response.
- Humanitarian/development nexus, graduation and social protection to be included on the agenda of future inter-sector meetings.
- With the support of UNHCR, UNIFIL, UNICEF and LHIF, training will be provided to PSEA partners on sexual exploitation and abuse. An email about the subject will be shared with the inter-sector team by next week. Sectors were kindly asked to circulate it to as many partners as possible to reach a large number of stakeholders.