



## South Lebanon Livelihoods & Social Stability Sectors Working Group Meeting - Minutes

<b>MEETING</b>			
<b>Name</b>	Livelihood WG / Coordination Meeting	<b>Meeting date</b>	April 25 2018
<b>Meeting location</b>	UNDP South	<b>Meeting time</b>	11:30 a.m.
<b>Chair person</b>	Yousra Taleb / UNDP Elie Chaaya and Lynn Yu/UNHCR	<b>Meeting duration</b>	1.00 hr
<b>Minutes prepared by</b>	UNDP		
<b>Participants</b>	UNICEF, UNHCR, PU-AMI, UNIFIL (CIMIC and civil affairs and Secteast), CESVI, ACTED, NRC, Islamic Relief, UNDP, DRC, Arab Salim Cooperative, IRC, Action Against Hunger, Mercy Corps, Solidar Swiss, OXFAM, Hilfswerk Austria International and NRC.		
<b>Meeting Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Welcome &amp; Introduction;</b></li> <li>2. <b>Presentations</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. UNIFIL (CIMIC) – AlMazara project</li> <li>b. Local Partner innovation project – Arab Salim Cooperative</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. <b>Activity Info reporting</b> – current status</li> <li>4. <b>Central Level Update:</b> Our colleagues from the coordination team will be sharing central level sector updates</li> <li>5. <b>AOB</b></li> </ol>		

### Summary of Discussion Points

<b>A.</b>	<b>Deviations from original agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNDP welcomed the participants on behalf of the co-chairs</li> <li>• The agenda was briefly presented and validated by partners.</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Presentations</b>
	<p><b>UNIFIL (CIMIC) – AlMazara project (see presentation)</b></p> <p>The Spanish battalion in Sector East launched the Mazara project in January 2017. It is a two years project with the following components/schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of trainers (5 specialists from Spain to do three days training to specialists on topics identified by the ministry of agriculture)</li> <li>• Assistance for cooperatives: the new trained specialists will help the identified farmers to enhance their production and storage and treatment...(funded by cooperatives, MoAg, Ministry of defense of Spain, UNIFIL.</li> </ul> <p>In January, three Spanish olive specialists came to Lebanon and visited many different agricultural cooperatives, thinking about how to help the cooperatives to improve their</p>

production.

They gave information on best practices, given Spain's experience in olive. In these visited cooperatives it was found that they have the material and the land but not the new concepts applied in other countries.

Second phase: done in close coordination with the local administration in south Lebanon (Ministry of Agriculture extension office).

- First step to promote the cooperatives. Secondary product of this idea is to have new companies to support the cooperatives (with equipment, crops and new techniques). Support from local administration on the work of cooperative. This all will result in reducing costs in production and to contract qualified personnel (encourage them to work together to reduce the costs)
- Creating a brand: Lebanese olives are among the oldest in the area. However there is no global effort on working on the brand especially from the government. There will be work to have a defined brand and rank for the olives in Lebanon.
- Marketing: a marketing campaign will be funded by the Lebanese government and partly by the Spanish government. Spain, France and Italy usually have international meetings to discuss the production. Spain will work on inviting the Lebanese government to one of these meetings (Lebanon needs to be invited since they are not members of the EU)

Sector east representatives extended an invitation to all partners who are interested in joining efforts in this intervention noting that coordination has been done through UNDP with ACTED who are doing similar activities in the same area.

Q: where is the project taking place?

A: Location: sector east (Marjeyoun and Hasbaya districts and three municipalities in Bint Jbeil). Other villages in Bint Jbeil might be able to benefit if they commute to the base where the activities are planned to take place noting that this will be considered on a case by case basis.

Q: How are the cooperatives being identified?

A: Coordination with the local administration in the Nabatieh governorate (MoAg extension office). They will be identifying the cooperatives to benefit from the project.

### **Local Partner innovation project – Arab Salim Cooperative**

The Arab Salim Cooperative is moving the production of Carob to new levels. For many years, carob had one main use, the molasses. With support from UNDP, the cooperative has launched a new production line for Carob to turn it into powder. The powder is a healthier substitute of sugar. The cooperative then thought of taking another innovative approach to what can be done with Carob powder and they, with additional support from UNDP, started with a bakery line to produce carob cookies. The cooperative has been collaborating with the Lebanese University to run tests on the quality and content of the products to ensure the healthiest composition. It also contracted a nutritionist. With these different production lines, the cooperative is now able to utilize the carob harvest. The only remaining part of it is the seeds which are usually sold to laboratories in France and Turkey and other countries and used in preservative compositions. However, the cooperative is now studying possibilities to use the seed or transform it into material of more worth. They are also looking into the marketing plan for its products. Further information can be found on

<https://www.facebook.com/%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%AF%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%A8-%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%B5%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%85-204410386663154/>.

Noting that orders for products can be placed online as well.

**3. Activity Info reporting – current status**

	<p>The sector coordinator did a comparative analysis of partners who reported information of their interventions through the 3W template and the reporting on activity info. The following has been highlighted:</p> <p>Nabatieh (on Activity Info): AVSI reported workforce employability improved (MBST), AlMajmouaa and UNDP reported support to MSMEs and cooperatives.</p> <p>South (on Activity Info): AlMajmouaa and UNDP reported support to MSMEs and Cooperatives, CESVI and YFORD reported both workforce employability and support to MSMEs and Cooperatives, UNRWA, Hilfswerk Austria International and SB Overseas reported under the output workforce employability improved.</p> <p>In 3W and not on Activity Info:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SHEILD/ACTED (South and Nabatieh): 3 outputs, MSME and cooperative support, Workforce employability improved and Career guidance (AP: SHEILD and ACTED to agree on how the reporting will be done)</li> <li>• Islamic relief (South): Workforce employability improved; since the project is implemented within a consortium under MADAD, Islamic Relief will have an internal discussion with partners to decide on how the reporting will be done.</li> <li>• MERCY CORPS (South and possibly Nabatieh): Labor Intensive program (AP: sector coordinator to follow up with Mercy Corps)</li> <li>• PU-AMI (South): Workforce employability improved (AP: sector coordinator to follow up)</li> <li>• AVSI (Nabatieh): Labor intensive program (AP: sector coordinator to follow up)</li> <li>• CESVI (South): career guidance (AP: sector coordinator to follow up)</li> <li>• OXFAM (South): MSME and cooperative support. The beneficiaries have been reported in previous periods and OXFAM is not reporting further numbers to avoid duplication. AP: sector coordinator to talk with IM to see the best reporting approach in this case.</li> <li>• DPNA (South): Career guidance. AP: sector coordinator will follow up</li> <li>• Action against Hunger (South): Labor Intensive program. AP: sector coordinator will follow up</li> </ul> <p>It was also highlighted the number of interventions in the South district and the gap in Nabatieh. Partners were encouraged to consider possible interventions in Nabatieh.</p>
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Central Level updates</b></p>
	<p>FS and LH sectors doing a common dashboard</p> <p>Meeting with CP core group to enhance the referral system. A round table was done last year on private sector engagement. Will draft minutes of this meeting and shared with all partners, also best practices and lessons learned.</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- DRC has started a new project in the South whereby the protection sector beneficiaries (GBV), can benefit from life skills (CIS) interventions. Further details of the project will be presented in the coming working group meeting.</li> <li>- Partners were also encouraged to participate in the meetings with their success stories</li> <li>- Next working group meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 30 2018 at 11:30 am at UNDP office in Tyre.</li> </ul>