Minutes of NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY MEETING
18 May 2018, 12:00-14:00
Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), Beirut

Chairperson(s)	Carol Ann Sparks – UNHCR Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh – UNDP Mario Abou Zeid – MoSA
Minutes Prepared by	Hiba Taha – UNHCR
Agenda of the Meeting	• **Update on inter-sector referral mechanisms** • **Update on funding situation for Quarter 1** • **Knowledge Management** • **Results of the Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming survey** • **Presentation on CAMEALEON and their research plan**

Summary of Discussions and Action Points

1. **Update on inter-sector referral mechanisms**

   Key Presentation/Discussion Points:
   • All sectors have mechanisms in place to orient referrals.
   • Sectors have in place specific referral pathways. There exists directories of services, updated and centralized by the Protection sector or Inter-Sector.
   • The Inter-Agency referral is the main tool for referrals from within Protection and protection agency to a specific sector.
   • Some other sectors have used aspects of the referral tracking system of the Protection sector and customized it to their own sectors, for example the IA referral form.
   • Feedback mechanisms are incorporated into some sectors' referral systems.
   • Challenges regarding Inter-Agency referrals persist:
     ➢ Most referrals' tracking and monitoring are channeled through the sector coordinator, which can make the process labour intensive and dependent on a few key staff;
     ➢ Referral pathways are established within a sector, they remain internal working tools not always shared via the inter-sector;
     ➢ There are no harmonized feedback systems within the sectors.
   • MoSA is currently developing its own referral mechanism, which is to be integrated into the Inter-Agency referral system.

   Action Points:
   • All sectors are in the process of formalizing, in writing, procedures for referrals (including outlining guiding principles and feedback mechanism).
   • Basic referral information will be shared on a regular basis with the protection sector or inter-sector in the field.
   • A standardized feedback classification system to be developed and implemented across all sectors.
   • IS can provide support to agencies in developing internal individual referral mechanism.

2. Update on funding situation for Quarter 1

Key Presentation Points:
- The purpose of the financial tracking exercise is identifying funding gaps and ensuring a transparent flow of aid to Lebanon.
- The financial tracking consists of four cumulative updates, on a quarterly basis, on donor assistance to Lebanon and the LCRP. This exercise has been done in close collaboration with LCRP partners.
- The financial reports are prepared based on aggregation of data reported through donors and LCRP partners (UN/NGOs):
  - Donors report funds to Lebanon, committed and transferred to LCRP and non-LCRP activities;
  - LCRP partners consolidate and amend the donors' input and disaggregate funding received by sector;
- $251 million (9%) is the total funding received as of 31 March 2018 against the $2.68 billion appeal:
  - An additional $308 million was received in 2017 for implementation in 2018 as part of multi-year funding;
  - The total funds available in 2018 are $559 million, the sum of the funds received in 2018 ($251 million) and the funds carried over from 2017 ($308 million);
  - $559 million represent 21% of the funding required to implement activities under the 2018 LCRP.
  - All funding reported to the Inter-Agency after the Q1 reporting deadline will be included in the Q2 update.
- The US, Germany, Canada and the EU are the top four donors- 75% of the total donated during the first quarter of 2018.
- The next funding update will be in July; it will be a simpler process as it will not include carry-over and multi-year funding from the previous year.

3. Knowledge Management

Key Presentation Points:
- The IM team is currently developing two-pagers as an introduction to the different IM tools used by the Inter-Agency.
- The three tools that will be presented are a means to package the already existing information thereby making it much easier to access data through the portal and share it widely.
- **Spongebase** is an online dynamic map that allows for the aggregation of LCRP partner reporting at different geographical levels:
  - It collects data from ActivityInfo, RAIS and the Informal Settlements Mapping exercise;
  - Data from any LCRP relevant survey (VASyR, MICS, KAP, etc.) can also be visualized in the map;
  - It allows for downloading of data as an excel spreadsheet;

- ➢ Geographical levels (municipality, cadasters) within Spongebase are created with boundaries to overlay with activity level reporting;
- ➢ The Spongebase is updated every month (every 2nd week, after sector coordinators submit their monthly reporting).
- **The Assessment Registry** has been updated; assessments from partners have been gathered and added to it, in addition to all UN reports.
  - ➢ It is the most comprehensive list of assessments currently in Lebanon;
  - ➢ In order to add an assessment, a form has to be filled on the website.
- Interesting facts/statistics are extracted from assessments and published on the **Factbook**:
  - ➢ It includes links to download the actual assessments from which facts are extracted;
  - ➢ SDGs indicators can also be found in the Factbook.

Action Points:

- The IM unit of the Inter-Agency to add a feature to Spongebase allowing the download of coordinates as excel spreadsheets.

4. Results of the Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming survey

Key Presentation Points:

- The purpose of the survey is assessing practices and needs of LCRP partners on social stability and conflict sensitivity.
- The data was collected between March and April 2018; 83 partners responded across all sectors except Education.
- More partners now report conducting their own conflict analysis- 69%, although the knowledge on conflict issues has decreased, particularly for partners that are not involved with the Social Stability sector.
- The main data sources used are: i) The Perception Survey on Social Tensions (UNDP&ARK), ii) The quarterly Conflict analysis bulletins released by Lebanon Support in 2016, iii) From Tensions to Violence: understanding and preventing violence between refugees and host communities in Lebanon (Mercy Corps, 2017).
- The majority of partners consider that they are contributing to social stability, although a minority report that conflict sensitivity measures are being implemented.
- One way to ensure conflict sensitivity is encouraging partners to check that their programmes are conflict sensitive.
- Some examples of mechanisms used by partners to that end include regular monitoring and coordination with relevant stakeholders.
- Partners face challenges that affect their programming, of which the unwillingness of Syrian refugees to conduct activities with Lebanese nationals as well as regional and national circumstances.
- According to results of the ARK survey, 52% of intercommunal contact originates from UN/NGO facilitated events.
- Concerning partners' needs to address social stability issues, further training on conflict sensitivity in programme design is particularly recommended.

- The collection of best practices and lessons learnt was emphasized as a tool to improve conflict sensitivity along with guidelines on mainstreaming.
- The way forward would be to discuss, collect and disseminate lessons learnt as well as design and provide conflict sensitivity training to partners.

Key Discussion Points:
- FAO expressed its interest in conducting a training that would better reflect conflict sensitivity in its programmes' design and implementation.
- The discrepancy between the increase in the share of partners conducting conflict analysis on one side, and the decrease in knowledge on conflict related issues on the other, is best explained by the self-reporting and analysis that the agencies are conducting, thereby relying on their own expertise.
- The higher level of interactions is seen in areas with less restrictions on displaced Syrians (less curfews), which implies that natural interaction between both communities is more frequent when less restrictions exist.
- The Basic Assistance sector scored poorly on conflict sensitivity, although most of the multi-purpose cash assistance is channeled through the sector, which aims at increasing social cohesion.
- A German company, ZFD, provided conflict sensitivity training to partners last year.
- The sector has started collecting stories of best practices and success stories, through members of the core group, to draft a lessons learnt document and build on it.
- The conflict sensitivity training will be both technical and practical.
- The data and results of the survey will be uploaded online.

Action Points:
- The SoST sector asked partners who have conflict sensitivity trainings or processes to communicate them to the sector.
- The SoST sector coordinator will discuss conflict sensitivity training with other sector coordinators to make it as practical as possible with a long lasting impact on sectors' activities.

5. **Presentation on CAMEALEON and their research plan**

Key Presentation Points:
- CAMEALEON's objective is to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and learning of unrestricted cash transfers in Lebanon, particularly WFP's MCAP, without duplicating the already existing monitoring tools of WFP, rather building on them.
- CAMEALEON is a platform created by NRC, Oxfam and Solidarités International.
- Its implementing partners are the American University of Beirut (AUB), Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP).
- CAMEALEON is accountable to its donors (ECHO, DFID, Norway and Germany), WFP and the board comprised of NRC, SI and Oxfam.
- The project's objective will be achieved through holistic outcomes, research/studies and the development of a Value for Money in order to inform the global learning on MPC.

- CAMEALEON is conducting a longitudinal study with AUB to assess the impact of MPCA on the socio-economic vulnerability of beneficiaries in a multi-sectorial framework.
- The household survey modules are education, health, decision making, expenditure/saving, employment, demographics and housing/WASH.
- The self-reported data will be backed by admin data and complemented by qualitative exercises.
- The variables used in the sampling are the UNHCR status, whether individuals are receiving MPC, geographical distribution, vulnerability scores and the provision of other services.
- The sample validation is a dynamic process whereby some individuals included in the initial sample might drop out as a result of the recalibration of the desk formula. However, as part of the study, the latter group will be monitored after discontinuation of assistance.
- The ODI highlights are Protection and Social Cohesion, CaLP's focus is geared toward Accountability.
- The study was launched in May 2018 and will be done by December 2019.

Key Discussion Points:
- As a way to prevent survey fatigue, the sample is different from the VASyR's, although similar questions are included in the survey. This study would complement the VASyR findings and allow for tracking households within a period of time.
- CAMEALEON flags certain specific cases. If a case is identified as extremely vulnerable on the field, it should be flagged to WFP.
- For the social cohesion aspect of the study, the Lebanese community will not be part of the sample, it would rather participate in focus groups discussions and key informant interviews.
- Concerning the sense of safety and security of the targeted population, it is measured by looking at evictions and freedom of movement among other things.
- CAMEALEON has had some discussions with sector coordinators however it is an ongoing process in order to feed the input into the study's framework and areas of interest.
- Beyond sharing the findings of the study/analysis, it would be an added value on the inter-sector level to have a space for conversation around the data in order to feed the information into the sector strategies, planning and programmes. Follow up with sector coordinators on the specific research questions is also recommended.

The presentations are accessible on the data portal through this link:
https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/63838