

Working Group on Livelihoods Minutes – 23rd March 2018 – Beirut

Meeting			
Name	Working Group on Livelihoods meeting	Meeting Date	23/03/2018
Meeting Location	MoSA-7 th floor	Meeting Time	13.00
Chair person	Mario Abou Zeid- MoSA Tom Thorogood -UNDP	Meeting Duration	1.5 hours
Minutes Prepared by	Gloria De Marchi		

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introduction
2. Updates from the Field
3. Presentation on the Lebanon National Job Program by the World Bank
4. Updates from the Sector
5. AOB

1	Welcome and Introduction
	Mario Abou Zeid welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. Gloria De Marchi introduced and welcomed Mohammad Saleh, the new Livelihoods Sector Coordinator for Bekaa. (Mohammad Saleh: mohammad.saleh@undp.org)
2	Updates from the field (Presentation attached)
	<p>North: The Field Coordinator conducted MBST data collection and analysis across sector partners in the North. The Referral mechanisms has been reactivated. Two partners are conducting Market Assessments in the region. Reporting updates shows that 3 partners are working on MSME/Cooperatives Support and VC, 3 on Labor intensive programming and 10 on Workforce Employability.</p> <p>South: 24 partners are running different Livelihoods interventions such as support to MSMEs, Labor Intensive programs, MBST. New partners are working on Career Guidance (never done before)</p> <p>Persistent gap identified in Value Chain interventions. UNDP is working on the development of 2 VCs in the South– Frikeh, Oregano</p> <p>BML: 30 Livelihoods partners are active in BML in 2018, running 72 Livelihoods activities. The main focus is on support to MSMEs.</p> <p>Bekaa: In Anjar the construction of a homemade food market is expected to finish by 15th of June. In Al-QAA the Construction of a cold storage room for agricultural products is under design by the Union of Engineers. In the Union of Qalaat Al- Istiklal a construction of a facility for packaging and marketing of local agricultural products is under design. In the Union of Baalbek there are interventions on rehabilitation of agricultural roads. In East Baalbek UoM: Construction of a public wholesale market for agricultural products In Deir AL Ahmar a Cold Storage Room is under design. The Bekaa Livelihoods Sector Coordinator is having bilateral Meetings with Livelihood Actors to optimize activities and avoid service duplications</p>
3	Presentation on the Lebanon National Job Program by the World Bank (Presentation Attached)

Zeina El Khouri, Consultant at the World Bank, and Angela Elzir, Labour and Social Protection Specialist, presented the Lebanon National Job Program developed by the World Bank.

The Program has not yet been approved by either the Board of the WB or the Lebanese Government

The Program aims at creating economic opportunities in support to the National Job Program (NJP), under the Vision for Stabilization and Development.

The WB is proposing a 400\$M loan to the Government of Lebanon, as a support to the overall investment 1.3\$ Billion for the NJP.

The loan is linked to specific reforms and conditions such as the Implementation of the PPP Law, the support to Customs Strategic Plan, Reforms to upgrade VCs, setting up of a SME Observatory, Establishment of an Entrepreneurship Fund etc...If the reforms and conditions won't be met, no money will be disbursed. This is done to incentivize the Government of Lebanon to do things that needs to be done and can be easily achieved.

The Program looks at creating around 52.000 Jobs over 10-15 years and has three main expected Results Areas: (a) Enhancing the Environment for Private Investment (b) Catalyzing Job Creation through Trade and Investment in Lagging regions and (c) Connecting Women and Youth to Jobs.

It targets two types of beneficiaries: (a) firms, particularly SMEs in selected Value Chains and (b) Individuals, particularly Youth, Women and Syrian Refugees.

Questions and Answers:

- 250\$M leveraged from the Private sector
 - ✓ The 250\$M are not guaranteed.
E.g. Tripoli Economic Zone: The PS is willing to finance on the condition that the Government develops viability gaps.
- Concerns related to the type of funding and sustainability of the Program (It will increase the debt of Lebanon)
 - ✓ All mitigation measures at political level have been taken. Each component of the Program is under discussion with relevant ministries for approval
- Implementation of activities
 - ✓ The WB will not implement the activities. They will look for possible collaboration. For instance, they are trying to build capacity of MoET to develop a complete VCs Program, they will recruit accelerators, under specific criteria, etc.
- Possibility to divide the loan to minimize risks
 - ✓ Loan is given upon conditionality, such as the approval of certain pending Laws
- Does this Program have the same approach of the NPTP?
 - ✓ No, the NPTP targets different groups of people
- The Program doesn't present any solution/vision to help Lebanon out of the Syrian Crisis
 - ✓ The economic situation of Lebanon was grave already before the onset of the Syrian Crisis. This is a long-term development project that targets and looks at the Demand Side of the Market. Without this Program, the Status quo will be maintained.

4 Updates from the Sector (Presentation Attached)

Gloria De Marchi, Livelihoods Sector Coordinator, presented the main results of the Coordination Survey.

Only 20 people completed the CS for the Lh sector at National level. Overall the response was good, although 4 main challenges were identified in achieving effectiveness.

The Lh CG partners met to discuss about the identified challenges and how to move forward.

- A) **Advocacy:** CG members suggested to pilot a Mapping exercise of all Livelihoods stakeholders that work on Advocacy. In addition to this, it was suggested to develop a Livelihoods Strategy for Advocacy and set up an Advocacy Platform to bring all LH partners together and come up with consistent and common advocacy messages, so as to represent one unique voice.
- B) **Protection Mainstreaming:** Improve coordination with the Protection sector to identify the main gaps

	<p>in mainstreaming protection within the Livelihoods sector and overcome them. Refine and Standardize the Referral System at Field Level. The referral System must become a joint instrument to be used by both Lh and Protection partners. Target areas with highest % of children at work in Lh programming (addressing youth/adult unemployment). Enhance coordination with MoL</p> <p>C) Quality and quantity of data available: The Lh CG partners proposed to re-arrange the Lh web Portal and classify the Assessments that have been conducted so far. Furthermore, the National coordinator was asked to keep track of the new/planned assessments to put partners in contact, when relevant.</p> <p>D) Lack of Active participation at the WG meeting: Livelihoods co-leads suggested to make the WG more interesting by bringing Non-LCRP partners around the table to share best practices and lessons learnt. Lh Core Group partners proposed to have max 1 presentation per WG to have more time for the Q&A session. Furthermore, it was suggested to have thematic discussions around specific topics, such as VCs.</p> <p>In addition to the 4 main areas identified above, the Coordination Survey has also showed that Livelihoods partners, both at Field and National Level, are not aware of the cross-sectoral discussions.</p> <p>Among the Cross-sectoral discussions that the Lh sector is having or will be having during the year it is worth mentioning: (a) FS-LH on reporting on Activity Info (B) Lh-Protection-CP on improving Lh programming to tackle CL and advocate for better decent working conditions (c) Lh-Protection for the Referral System.</p>
6	<p>AOB</p>
	<p><u>MoL Decision 29/1</u> Tony Ayrouth, Decent Work Advisor-ILO, clarified that there is not political shift in the MoL, regarding the sectors where Syrians are allowed to work. A clarification letter about the Decision 29/1 was addressed to ILO, signed by the MoL.</p> <p><u>Work Plan for 2018</u> The Work Plan has been finalized and will be shared soon with the Partners.</p>

Organizations present at the Livelihoods WG meeting: UNDP, Palladium, Trocaire, FAO, Cesvi, UNRWA Youth Unit, ILO, Caritas Switzerland, Caritas Lebanon, Oxfam, MoSA, Mercy-USA, Mercy Corps, PU-AMI, HEKS/EPER, World Vision, DPNA, KfW, UNOPS, MoF, UNHCR, LebRelief, UNIDO, Intersos, DOT, WFP, Dorcas, Relief International, Basmeh & Zeitoneh, Faire Trade Lebanon, Secour Islamique, Red Doha, DFID, EU, Right to Play, UN Women, Alef, Rene Moawad Foundation

