Minutes of NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY MEETING
15 February 2019, 10:00-12:00
UNHCR – Beirut - S&K building, B1 Conference room A

Chairperson(s)	Lauren Panetta – UNHCR Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh – UNDP Robin Saghbini – MoSA
Agenda of the Meeting	• **Storms' Response Update** • **Inter-sector Priorities**

1. **Storms' Response Update –** *Lauren Panetta (UNHCR)*

   (The presentation is found [here](#))

   Key Presentation:
   • Preparedness – prior to the storm:
     ➢ Emergency SOPs
     ➢ Weather forecast/ flood hazard
     ➢ Stocks
     ➢ IAMP
     ➢ Assessment/reporting tools
     ➢ Communication trees
   • Needs Assessment:
     ➢ Phone Survey for initial prioritization
     ➢ Adapted RNA for multi-sectoral assessment
     ➢ Sector assessment as needed
   • Response:
     ➢ Coordination among relevant ministries and partners
     ➢ Distribution of CRIs, shelter kits, drainage kits, baby kits, etc. and relocation
     ➢ Dewatering and desludging
     ➢ Distribution tracking
   • Lessons Learned:
     ➢ Identify gaps and issues
     ➢ Action planning: steps to be taken to improve preparedness/risk mitigation and response
     ➢ Advocacy
   • Use of existing data and weather forecast to assess the risk and prioritize sites: weather forecast and satellite imagery, CNRS flood, IAMP data, altitude data.
   • Set of Extreme Weather and Emergency Tools for i) referrals, ii) rapid phone assessment, iii) rapid needs assessment and vi) distribution tracking. All the data collected feeds into a matrix developed on RAIS. Sector specific assessment might follow later.
   • Post storm interventions are possible when gaps are identified during the storm.
   • API linked to RAIS – all the data on RAIS can be read on different systems.
   • Close to a 100% of those in need received assistance.
   • Strengths – Preparedness and Coordination:

- Winter campaign in August – seasonal cash in November
- Inter-Agency coordination mechanisms were immediately triggered
- Early inter-action with DRM
- Referrals from OVs, protection monitoring…
- Prepositioning of contingency stocks
- Communication with communities
- Areas for improvement and steps taken during the response:
  - Use of common emergency tools
  - Clear communication trees and inclusiveness of coordination meetings
  - Stock updates and tracking
  - No duplication of requests from the field
  - Support early warning
- Different lessons learned sessions are taking place across the field offices.
- Lessons learned and priority actions:
  - Enhance mitigation measures + increase emergency funds
  - Broader winterization strategy
  - Replenish regular stocks
  - Ongoing site improvements in flood-prone areas
  - Expand pool of potential temporary relocation sites
  - Further protection mainstreaming and accountability
  - Improve Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
- **Post-storm most urgent interventions:** i) 12 unsafe informal settlements and 6 unsafe collective residential or non-residential sites require permanent relocation, ii) 104 unsafe sites need improvement to make them safe.
- Advocacy messages:
  - Increase funds to undertake site improvements and broader disaster risk prevention and reduction actions
  - Relocation of refugees away from flood-prone areas
  - Commitment to the use of common tools, coordination mechanism and reporting

Discussion Points:
- Many partners who are conducting the RNA do not have access to RAIS. However the contact info of focal points from each agency is being collected at the field level to provide access as soon as possible.
- Need for a clear geosplit to ensure needs assessment is being conducted across all areas – especially in BML.
- There is focus on informal settlements in the response – emergency tools are better adapted to informal settlements – despite the fact that only 19% of refugees live in IS.
  - The most urgent needs are in IS – which face a higher risk of flooding.
  - The actions that should be taken in residential and non-residential structures are more long term interventions.
  - Tools and referrals can be adapted to more easily assess other types of shelters.
  - Collective Site Mapping Tool (COSIMA) used in North and BML to map collective sites – need to be p-coded.

- Under the Basic Assistance sector, nearly 170,000 HHs receive the cash for winter packages in late December – a large share of these HHs do not live in informal settlements.
- Landmines are now a priority given the flooding that has affected some areas.
- List of all sites flooded and affected are already mapped, however it needs to be verified by partners.
- Specific outreach plan for national NGOs is important because small NGOs that are operating on the field are not part of the coordination structure.
- Outreach to donors:
  - Pushing for longer term funding required for preparedness, particularly in WASH and Shelter sectors.
  - The Inter-Agency is currently preparing a one-pager targeting donors.
- Some sites are facing repetitive flooding and same response is always adopted – need to think of innovative and longer term interventions.
- With the emergency tools now in place and harmonized, it is possible to clearly map out who distributed what and where by sector.
- Burden of reporting:
  - Some partners have an obligation to report to donors.
  - From and NGOs' perspective, it is necessary to have an understanding of the resources and the main gaps to be able to have a targeted response and better communication with donors concerning the needs.
  - Reporting on the common tools is the way to capture gaps most efficiently as all input is consolidated into a single system.
- The Shelter sector does not conduct PDM, only assessments at the end of the year. The BA sector conducts an assessment after the winter season to assess the winterization strategy (to look at gaps and needs) and after the disbursement of cash assistance.
- Desludging persists as an issue – add it as advocacy to donors.
- The common tools should result in a more coherent and equitable response.

Action Points:
- A lessons learned document will be developed by the Inter-Agency and shared among all stakeholders based on the discussions already happening at the field.
- It is critical that all partners report on ActivityInfo (AI) in order to better track assistance provided across all regions and identify gaps as well as prioritize areas of intervention.
- Move forward with the post-storm priority actions identified – the action plan put together by the Inter-Agency.

2. **Inter-Sector Priorities –** *Margunn Indreboe Alshaikh (UNDP)*

Key Presentation Points:
A. Knowledge Management - answering key research questions, better use of available data.
  - The Inter-Agency in Lebanon has a wealth of data that should be used for better analysis relevant to design and programming.

B. Prioritization/Targeting/AAP – Links to previous discussion on vulnerability, how is vulnerability defined in the LCRP and how to target the most vulnerable.

C. Strengthening Emergency Response.

D. Mid-Term review and follow up – delays in getting the right team in place. The call for proposals is online through the UNDP procurement website. Review team is expected to be on board by the end of March to conduct a review of the whole LCRP, two years into the response, taking stock of the progress and making recommendations moving forward even beyond the 2020 framework. This will conducted in parallel with the review of the UN Strategic Framework.

E. Brussels Monitoring Framework and follow-up – This is currently a work in progress.

- A coordination survey will be circulated next week – similar to the one that was circulated last year to collect recommendations from all stakeholders concerning the coordination structure.

- From the NGOs' perspective, one of the main priorities moving forward is strengthening inter-sectoral linkages.

- The role of affected populations should be mainstreamed into the programme designs – one pilot that builds on this idea is the use of human centered design in the Social Stability and Water sectors. Also trends from the PA are integrated into the overall analysis and were used in formulating the sectors' situation analysis and strategy for 2019.

- Strengthening the impact level analysis – Prioritization strategy is identifying the interventions that will have the most impact toward achieving the strategic objectives of the LCRP.

- Issues with incomplete data – all partners are asked to report on AI and make sure the relevant staff attend the sector based AI training sessions on national and field levels.

Action Points:

- Present during the next IA meeting the 2018 financial tracking update, the results/ impact and highlight the most pressing challenges from the 2018 LCRP annual report, which is currently being prepared.