



Minutes of NATIONAL INTER- AGENCY MEETING

12 June 2020, 10:00-12:00

Remotely on Webex

Chairperson(s)	Assem Abi Ali - MoSA Carol Ann Sparks – UNHCR Elina Faber Silen – UNDP
Agenda of the Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on LCRP Business Continuity Plan• Funding Update and 3RP Appeal• Context Updates <i>MEED: Monitoring of the Effects of the Economic Deterioration & Social Tension update</i>• NSSP Update• A.O.B

1. Update on LCRP Business Continuity Plan

- The LCRP Business Continuity Plan (BCP) was first developed in March by the inter-sector team with relevant stakeholders. It is meant to be a reference document to guide partners' work throughout the emergency response to COVID-19.
- There is a need to update the BCP as deconfinement is being rolled out, and plans should be aligned with WHO and government guidance.
- The BCP update outlines critical service gaps, emerging needs, resumption of activities including timeline and pace, anticipated economic/financial/operational challenges, impact of not resuming activities as well as activities that will not be resumed in 2020.
- The updated version of the BCP should also reflect lessons learnt from the response including modalities that were successful and could be adopted.
- A draft was already circulated to sector coordinators for additional input. A final draft will be shared with the inter-sector working group for endorsement before being circulated to the wider Inter-Agency.
- All partners have had the chance to contribute to the process through the sectors' working groups.
- Sector coordinators presented a summary of the discussions within their sectors on way forward. Please find sector specific critical service gaps, emerging needs, operational/financial/economic challenges as well as activities that will not be implemented in 2020 in the attached presentation.
- Response related to migrant workers from IOM: IOM has conducted a vulnerability assessment of migrants in Lebanon. The findings were shared with partners working with migrant workers and the larger UN network. Partners who have any specific question related to this issue are kindly requested to reach out to IOM directly.

2. Funding Update and 3RP Appeal



In 2019:

- The total 2019 appeal – i.e. sectors' budget – is \$2.62 billion.
- The total funds available for 2019 is \$1.43 billion of which \$455 million delivered through cash assistance and \$248 million as support to public institutions.
- LCRP partners appealed for a total of \$2.24 billion in 2019.
- 75 organizations reported funding between January and December 2019.

In 2020 – Q1:

- The total 2020 appeal – i.e. sectors' budget based on needs – is \$2.67 billion.
- The total funds available as of 31 March 2020 is \$423 million, including a \$136 million carry-over received in 2019.
- LCRP partners appealed for a total of \$2.2 billion in 2020.
- 51 organizations reported funding between January and March 2020.
- The least funded sectors as a percentage of funds received from total sector appeal are Shelter, Energy and Basic Assistance.
- Under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan, the LCRP is requested to revise the LCRP 2020 total appeal ahead of the Brussels conference.
- The yearly LCRP appeal is calculated based on a needs-based approach. As such it will not be revised.
- Partners will be asked to revise their 2020 appeal to reflect any changes in their programming brought about by the pandemic.
- An email will be sent to all partners including instructions on how to revise the 2020 partner appeal on Activity Info.

3. Context Updates

MEED –Monitoring of the Effects of the Economic Deterioration

- These are the preliminary results of the second wave of the MEED.
- Exercise led by UNHCR and supported by WFP and the Inter-Agency.
- The objective of the assessment is to monitor the changes at the household level over time.
- It is a phone survey with nationally representative samples extracted: **(1) Syrian refugees**, and **(2) Non-Syrian** refugees. Each sample is estimated at 500 (total 1,000) refugee households.
- The results below relate only to Syrians.
- 60% response rate for the survey – because WhatsApp was used.
- Main problems reported by refugees: Increase price in food items and unemployment.
- Same distribution of refugees across shelter types compared to VASyR.
- Average rent expected to pay is still the same across all types of shelter, but the average rent refugees are paying is higher.
- 97% of HHs have debt and overall increase in total debt (+ 200,000LBP).
- 70% of HHs do not have a working member compared to 44% for first wave.



- 11% reported engaging children in income generating activities since October 2019.
- 51% of HHs reported that one member lost his job compared to 34% in wave 1.
- An overall increase in food-related and livelihood coping strategies.
- 92% report knowing the symptoms of COVID-19 and 99% do not have any concern reaching out to MoPH hotline.
- The question on child labour is asked differently in VASyR and MEED, therefore the results are not comparable.
- Most of these results are in line with results from the WFP survey.
- Nothing on protection measures related to COVID-19 – for that refer to PM exercise.
- 18% withdrew their children from school – this question was asked in Wave 1 and it most probably related
- The paid value for rent exceeds the rental cost, this most likely refers to incurred debt as landlords are pressuring refugees to pay their outstanding debt.
- Important to use this data to plan and inform programming.

Tension Update

- Tensions between Syrians and Lebanese are mainly related to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak and access to services:
 - Some municipalities enforcing independent measures restrictions (March & April 2020) – tensions might also arise given the trends observed.
 - Harassment and stigmatization of refugees when suspected with Covid-19 infection or as a source of Covid-19 spreaders (Stigmatization of Lebanese also observed).
 - Evictions/eviction threat of suspected cases.
 - Social media fueling tensions through the spread of false rumors.
 - Escalation of tensions over access to electricity, solid waste management services and job competition.
 - Tensions around cash assistance have been rising since October 2019 yet deteriorated further in the past months with relevant mitigation measures applied, especially with hygiene concerns related to overcrowding at ATMs but remains volatile.
 - Between 2017 and 2020, positive relations reported decreased from 28% to 15% with main causes of tension cited are competition over lower skilled jobs (60%), access to electricity (19%) and access to medical care (9%).
- Intra Lebanese tensions were regularly reported over the last weeks:
 - Low intensity localized protests are now a persisting and rising trend.
 - Progressive deconfinement and economic degradation could contribute to increased violence.
 - Escalation in propensity to violence.
 - Increase in crime and robberies, specifically in the Bekaa.
 - Intra-Lebanese relations witness increase tensions with Lebanese citing negative relations increasing from 7% in 2017 to 21% in 2020.
 - More than 70% of Lebanese often concerned about exchange rates and ability to withdraw money.



- Perception of the public service quality on a negative trajectory across the board, primarily Electricity, Healthcare, and Water quality.
- The Social Stability strategy to address rising tensions:
 - Central and Regional Tension Task Force, engaging authorities including MoSA and MoIM
 - Information sharing on key trends with the wider humanitarian community
 - Providing contextual updates
 - Mainstreaming Conflict Sensitivity and Do No Harm
 - Engaging Technical Cells and Response Teams

4. National Social Solidarity Program (NSSP) Update

- This programme is meant to provide immediate relief to vulnerable Lebanese impacted by the economic and COVID-19 crisis.
- Developed by MoSA and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and launched by MoSA in coordination with MoIM.
- Support will be provided in two waves starting with the most vulnerable until the end of the year 2020.
- Different lists at various ministries will be used to identify the most vulnerable in the short run.
- The total budget for the programme is LBP 75 billion.
- Inter-ministerial Platform for Assessment Coordination and Tracking (IMPACT) is an online application with more than 465,000 vulnerable households registered and used by more than 1,100 municipalities and moukhtars. This web-based application will be used to track and target households.
- The first wave targets 187,500 households, of which 160,679 supported so far (assistance delivered by the army).
- The total number of beneficiaries can be scaled up to 200,000 households – those living below the extreme poverty line.
- Focusing on certain categories deemed more vulnerable – female headed households, HHs with all members above 64 and no civil servants, with any child under 5 with high dependency ratio, with at least a member with disability and no civil servants, with more than 4 children under 18 and no civil servants. These criteria are based on international standards and the characteristics of vulnerability in Lebanon.
- All the households targeted are distributed amongst all Lebanese governorates.
- The second wave will start in two weeks.
- Another SSNP project is expected to be launched at the beginning of 2021.
- Providing support to both Syrians and Lebanese would reduce tensions between the communities.
- Partners who are planning to provide assistance to vulnerable Lebanese do not have access to IMPACT. However, they can contact MoSA directly for the list of households registered on the platform.
- The government does not have the capacity to assist all those registered and here is the importance of partners covering the gap.



5. A.O.B

- The Inter-Agency is committed to strengthen referrals across sectors, for this reason it has developed three complementary tools:
 - Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on Referrals
 - Inter-sector service mapping
 - IA monitoring platform – initially for Protection but was extended to other sectors.
- Two types of trainings were provided in the past months, the first on the IS service mapping and the second on the minimum standards for referrals.
- More than 12 trainings have been conducted so far on the IS service mapping and more are planned.
- 9 trainings were provided on the minimum standards for referrals –in English and Arabic. Two additional trainings are planned for June; the invitation along with registration link will be sent soon.
- The training for the IS service mapping is in English because the database is in English, however the training on the minimum standards for referrals will be provided in both languages.
- These are the main tools used by all sectors for referrals. As such it is very important to keep the IS service mapping updated and for all partners to be familiar with the tools.
- All most recent documents produced by the IA are on the information hub: <http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/>.
- Partners who have completed assessments or planning for assessments are encouraged to submit them on the Assessment Registry here: <http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/assessmentregistry/>

Action Points

- IOM to present their response to COVID-19 targeting migrant workers and their vulnerability assessment during the next meeting.
- IOM to share the findings of their assessment with the Inter-Agency.