Beirut/Mt Lebanon WASH Sector Working Group – Minutes of Meeting

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| **Purpose of Meeting** | Beirut/Mt Lebanon WASH Sector Meeting | | |
| **Meeting Location** | Beirut, UNHCR Field Office | **Meeting Date** | 15 April 2014 |
| **Chair persons** | Hani Chatila ([chatila@unhcr.org](mailto:chatila@unhcr.org)) and Alain Sayah (sayah@unhcr.org) | **Meeting Time** | 11.30 am |
| **Minutes Prepared by** | Hani Chatila (chatila@unhcr.org) | **Meeting Duration** | 1.30 hrs |

# **Review of action points of last meeting (18 March 2014)**

| **Action** | **By who** | **Progress** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| IOCC intervention in Mt Leb - updates | Sanaa - IOCC | Ongoing |
| Collect information from partners (IS and CS mapping) | All actors | Ongoing |
| WASH Sector Leads to make policy decision on provision of fuel and paying water subscription fees | Sector leads | Ongoing |
| Hani to inquire possibility of monthly meeting at Water Establishment. Round table discussion held by the General Director of the Water Establishment (which includes general list of needs) is to be circulated. | Hani (UNHCR) | Finalized |
| Hart to share draft baseline assessment specific to reservoirs project to be used pre and post intervention. | Hart (ACTED) | Ongoing |
| CHF to prepare detailed assessment of water quality results in schools. Water treatment intervention needs in public schools will be shared with sector. | Maya and Hussein (CHF) | Finalized |
| To finalize discussion on co-lead of WG during next WG | All actors | Finalized |

# **Monthly meetings in BMLWE**

* Possibility of meeting in Water Establishment (WE) on a monthly basis was discussed with the General Director. He preferred that few meetings could take place during the year in order to discuss WE needs with Donors and other actors. Meeting would be similar to what was held end of November 2013 (presentation was shared by actors present in meeting).

# **Review of current statistics**

* The number of Syrian refugees in Beirut and Mount-Lebanon reached around 272,000 individuals between registered and awaiting registration. 26.3 % of registered refugees in Lebanon are based in Beirut and Mount-Lebanon. Baabda still has the highest numbers of refugees in Mount-Lebanon.

# **Actor highlights**

URDA:

* URDA will collaborate with Save the Children (SC) for WASH/Shelter interventions in areas outside Mt Leb. URDA will be in charge of shelter interventions while SC will cover WASH component. The collaboration might be expanded to Mt Lebanon.

**PU-AMI’s rapid satisfaction survey (HK/BK)**

Due to complaints by refugees on the quality of some hygienic items, PU-AMI further investigated quality of items being distributed.

Results of survey and investigation:

* The majority of the beneficiaries reported that the provided hygiene kits and baby kits do not cover a month’s need.
* Voucher or cash distributions for kits give beneficiaries more freedom of choice and ability to adapt to specific needs.
* Further investigation at this level revealed that the kits provided indeed do not match the brands agreed in the contract.

Way forward:

* It is too late to shift to voucher or cash as June is last month for HK/BK distributions. Unconditional CASH will be introduced in May 2014.
* Enforce existing penalty clause with supplier.
* Conduct continuous monitoring rounds in all distributions to ensure delivered kits match the requirements in the contract.

# **Water quality assessments in public schools**

Water quality in 86 public schools was tested for both bacteriological and chemical parameters. Results showed that approximately 20% showed evidence of bacteriological contamination and 30% needed RO treatment mainly due to elevated TDS levels.

Recommendations:

Step1 - Replace existing corroded tanks and piping networks to all tested locations

Step2 - Add chlorine tablets to all locations

Step3 - Carry on new tests on locations with contamination – after steps 1 & 2 are concluded.

Step4 – Install filtration systems in the persistent locations not meeting standards

Note: Use of RO is not recommended as schools do not have sufficient financials to maintain and operate the units. As such, locations with elevated TDS values will not be treated.

# **ToR and Co Lead of Mt Leb WASH WG**

* All present actors agreed that ToR specific to WG at field level can be overlooked as ToR of national level is sufficient.
* It was agreed that all actors are to Co-Lead, each for 3 months duration as not to increase workload on any single actor.
* Co-lead schedule will be as follows:
* CHF (until June)
* ACTED (July 2014 – September 2014)
* PU-AMI (October 2014 - December 2014)
* UN Habitat (January 2015 – March 2015)

# **Activity Info (AI) reporting**

* All actors were encouraged to submit their activity updates through AI.
* It was clarified that UNHCR Programme unit has accepted to opt for AI for monthly achieved figures. Quarterly narrative and financial reports for UNHCR implementing partners are still applicable.

**AOB**

* NEXT MEETING: 20th of May 2014

# **Agencies/NGOs who attended this meeting**

ACTED, CARE, CHF, MF, PU-AMI, UN Habitat, UNHCR and URDA.

# **To do list**

| **Action** | **By who** | **By when** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| IOCC intervention in Mt Leb - updates | Sanaa - IOCC | Ongoing |
| Collect information from partners (IS and CS mapping) | All actors | Ongoing |
| WASH Sector Leads to make policy decision on provision of fuel and paying water subscription fees | Sector leads | Ongoing |
| To finalize presentation on assessment of water quality in Mt Leb | Alice - ACTED | Next WG |