

## Minutes of Meeting

### 1<sup>st</sup> Livelihoods Working Group Meeting

26 August 2013

UNDP-Beirut office, 3:00 pm - 4:10 pm

#### List of participants

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#### Agenda of the meeting

1. Introduction and general updates
2. Validation of the Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Livelihoods Working Group (LWG)
3. Updates per agency (assessments, activities, etc)
4. AOB

## Summary of discussions

Item	Actor	Deadline
<p><b>Introduction and welcoming</b></p> <p>The beginning of the year signified the first time livelihood programmes were prominently considered in the Syrian refugee response and were, as a result, included in the RRP5 process. Following RRP5, this was the first meeting of the Livelihoods Working Group (LWG). The primary objectives of the meeting were to review the draft LWG Terms of Reference (TOR), learn more about the key actors and obtain updates on agencies about their current and forthcoming livelihood programmes/activities. The meeting was also an opportunity to touch up issues, achievements and challenges facing the sector. Some participants expected to be briefed on the preliminary findings of the WB/UNDP study during the meeting.</p> <p>The revised coordination structure related to livelihoods was explained. There are three working groups under the Task Force on Host Communities, namely the LWG, the Social Cohesion Working Group and the Services Working Group. Livelihood interventions targeting both host and refugee communities was considered to be essential to promote social cohesion given the increasing limited employment opportunities and competition over already scarce resources.</p>		-
<p><b>Terms of reference (TOR) of the Livelihoods Working Group (LWG)</b></p> <p>The draft TOR of the LWG was presented to the members. The draft TOR had been initially prepared with input from UNDP, Ministry of Social Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office. Mr. Clark SURIZNO, Early Recovery Advisor, observed that the TOR reflected shorter term activities rather than medium to long term. Mr. Nilse Ryman (UNESCO) requested clarification as to whether formal vocational training fell under the Education Working Group (EWG) or under the LWG.</p> <p>Francesca Battistin (IRC) asked about how the LWG related to the Livelihood Field Coordination Meeting taking place in the North (Qobayat). It was explained that the LWG at central level sets the national livelihoods strategy and advocates for funding, in close consultation with the field. The LWG also extends technical support to the field coordination group. So far, field coordination on livelihoods is taking place in Qobayat, which is co-chaired between UNHCR and FAO.</p> <p>Following discussions, the following was agreed:</p>		

<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNHCR recirculate the draft TOR for feedback, comments and inputs from the members</li> <li>- Formal vocational training programme e.g. BT/TC (high school level) falls under the WEG</li> <li>- Assess the need to have coordination mechanisms in other additional field locations</li> <li>- Meetings be held every two weeks in the beginning</li> </ul>	UNHCR	
<b>Main issues (achievements and challenges) and Mapping</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms. Abeer Mezher (DRC) asked Mr. Haytham Sayyad of the Ministry of Social Affairs for details related to their position on vocational training for Syrian refugees. Mr. Sayyad stated that a ministerial decision will be issued in the coming weeks. It was still not clear which trainings would be affected. MOSA was also seeking to crack down on informal businesses with the support of Internal Security Forces (ISF) and municipality police.</li> <li>▪ Ms. Charu Bist (UNDP) briefed about the World bank/UNDP study on the impact of the Syrian crisis on host communities. She presented the methodology of the UNDP and WB study and solicited feedback from the plenary with respect to their cash for work and livelihood programmes. Only DRC provided input.</li> <li>▪ Mr. Iftikhar Yassir (FAO) briefed about the food security project (vaccination campaign and dairy products) and the impact on host communities. This was considered an important topic which would fall under the FSWG.</li> <li>▪ A mapping of services was considered as an essential step to learn more about existing activities and identify gaps (by area, service, target group, etc). In that respect, a 5W matrix was presented to all. It was suggested to add the donor to each project to prevent overlapping. Concerns were raised that it might be difficult from a programmatic perspective given multi-donor funding in some projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop strategy of LWG during next meeting</li> <li>- Share and fill in the 5W matrix</li> </ul>	Working group members	
<b>Next steps</b>		
Follow-up on action points above	LWG	
Meeting in next two weeks to develop the livelihood strategy in light of assessment findings, RRP6 plans, etc	Co-chairs	
<p>Attachments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TOR of Livelihoods Working Group</li> <li>- 5W matrix</li> <li>- PowerPoint presentation on latest registration figures, statistics on the skills and occupations of Syrian refugees in</li> </ul>		

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