

Working Group on Social Cohesion Minutes – 31st January 2014 – Beirut

Meeting			
Name	Working Group on Social Cohesion	Meeting Date	31/01/2014
Meeting Location	UNDP-6 th floor	Meeting Time	10:00 A.M
Co-Chair person	Shombi Sharp -UNDP Anna Leer-UNHCR	Meeting Duration	1.5 hours
Minutes Prepared by	Bastien Revel		

Representative of :

Prime Minister Officer	Ola Sidani, PMO
Ministry of Social Affairs	Makram Malaeb, MOSA Haytham Sayyad, MOSA

Main discussion points

1. New additions to the Terms of Reference
2. Key thematic topics to be included in the Workplan of the SC Working Group
3. Coordination in the field – experiences and recommendations
4. Activity Info
5. Mapping tools
6. Main findings of Mercy Corps assessment

Summary of discussions and action points

1	<p>New additions to the Terms of Reference</p> <p>Shombi Sharp presented the main innovations in the generic ToRs proposed by UNHCR for all the working group: the first one is to have an NGO representative to serve as a co-lead of the working group, the second one to create a core group, including NGO representatives, focusing on more in-depth review and guidance of the WG: strategy, oversight, monitoring and evaluation.</p> <p>A short discussion followed on whether other ministries should be involved. While there is a possibility to integrate the Ministry of Labour in the livelihood working group or Ministry of Interior for the social cohesion working group, there will be no structural change of the overall response.</p> <p>A suggestion was to appoint NGOs to participate in the core group on a rotational basis. Mercy Corps, SFCG, and World Vision expressed interest to participate in the core group – possibility to have each of the interested ones on a quarterly basis. A local NGO should also be represented in the core group.</p> <p>The representative of the LHIF considered that there is a need to identify all together as a Social Cohesion Group on the NGO representative and its role and responsibility.</p> <p>→ Action point: follow-up with the 3 organizations to see nature of interest (Co-chairs)</p> <p>→ Action point: finalize and circulate WG ToRs (Co-chairs)</p>
2	<p>Key thematic topics to be included in the Workplan of the SC Working Group</p> <p>Ballots featuring the key interventions and tools from RRP6 were distributed to participants, who voted for their top three priority topics. Each of these topics will be discussed during the SC working group meetings, focusing on key lessons learned and success stories worth replicating elsewhere from different partners.</p> <p>Ana Leer emphasized the need for these topics to be operational ones, so that working group discussions can direct the response in the future.</p> <p>A discussion followed on CSPs. There is a need to ensure that the conflict analysis and the root causes identified are integrated in the selection of CSPs. Not all local level mechanisms are going to have a CSP component, and not all CSPs will set up local level mechanisms, but very often both will be integrated. Local level mechanisms will identify causes of tensions, and CSPs will aim at addressing them when possible, through their own</p>

	<p>decision-making fora.</p> <p><i>Local level conflict resolution mechanisms</i> were identified as the priority topic for the first discussion, followed by <i>CSPs, youth (as change agents), women (as change agents), conflict assessment</i> and <i>local leaders (as change agents)</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Action Point: Send the final results of the priority selection and the topic for the next meeting so that participants can prepare/send questions (UNDP). The core group meeting will involve volunteer organizations to help structure the discussion (WG Participants). ➔ Action point: Finalize and share the WG workplan (co-chairs)
3	Coordination in the field – experiences and recommendations
	<p>In the Bekaa there are two separate working groups (one on livelihood, one on social cohesion). In Qoubayat there is only a livelihood working group. There is a need to clarify the structure that we recommend to have in the field: separate or common working group(s). There are no coordination structures in Tripoli, in Mt Lebanon and in the South.</p> <p>The Bekaa social cohesion working group is limited to information sharing but will aim to coordinate further to better target interventions. In Qoubayat the livelihood WG is slowly growing, and social cohesion topics are very much integrated in its work.</p> <p>Ana Leer emphasized the need to make sure that field inputs into thematic discussion at central level and that conclusions from central WG discussion are passed back.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Action point: recommendation to keep one combined group and strengthen linkages between central and local level- pay attention at the issue at the chair and co-chair from NGO (Co-chairs).
4	Activity Info
	<p>Almost all the participants seemed up to date on activity info. A participant pointed out the need to pay particular attention to specific vulnerable groups, for example Lebanese returnees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Action point: participants to e-mail Shombi Sharp (shombi.sharp@undp.org) if they need more training.
5.	Mapping tools
	<p>The UNHCR map presented in an earlier WG meeting was not preliminary and comprehensive enough but will further be developed. UNHCR now has critical sources of information with protection monitoring partners who report on community and individual incidents.</p> <p>UNFPA will launch a report in February on youth, focusing on Lebanese-Syrians relations. One chapter will be on relations between Syrian and Lebanese youth, one on livelihood.</p> <p>UNDP is working on an incident map based on data provided by Internal Security Forces but needs to get additional data on incidents not involving Syrians to have a basis for comparison.</p> <p>The aim will be to integrate all these tools to get a more comprehensive and integrated conflict mapping.</p>
6	Ongoing and planned assessments: Mercy Corps, Save the Children
	<p>Mercy Corps: Please refer to the presentation attached.</p> <p>Save the Children is working with AUB to evaluate the impact of CSPs on social cohesion. This will entail focus group discussion and polling of 600 households (50% Lebanese, 50% Syrians).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Action point: Save the Children will send their research proposals and indicators. ➔ Action point: Mercy Corps presentation will be presented with the minutes of the meeting.

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