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|  | MINUTES OF MEETING |  |  | |
| Name | Livelihoods working group for Beirut & Mount Lebanon | Reference | 05-ML LIVELIHOODS MOM 110816 | |
| Meeting Location | UNDP Country Office | Meeting Date | 11/08/2016 | |
| Chair persons | Haytham Sayyad (MoSA) and William Barakat (UNDP) | Meeting Time | 10:00 A.M | |
| Participating Associations | MoSA, UNDP, HWA, Nawaya, Talia, UNICEF, OCHA, SBoverSeas, CARE, PU-AMI, ACTED, HKCC, IRC, TdH Italy, Konrad Adenauer, Intersos, Right to Play, Tabitha/Dorcas, SIF, CLMC, Amel, Makhzoumi Foundation. | | | |
| Minutes Prepared by | UNDP Research Assistant  Iason Gabriel and Socio Economic Officer Nathalie Nassif | Meeting Duration | 1 hour and a half | |
| Purpose of Meeting | * Tour de table * Presentation and Discussion of the National Agricultural Strategy 2015-19. * Presentation about IRC Livelihoods Intervention Project * Right to Play Livelihoods Update * AOB | | |  |

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

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| 1. | Presentation and discussion of the National Agricultural Strategy (2015-19) from MoA |
|  | *Please refer to the PPT presentation.*  The strategic plan “Agricultural and rural development program” was developed in 2014 with support from an EU grant. It was the product of consultations with departments and 10 technical working groups. There will be a review every two years.  Formulated with all partners and MOA and agencies, 10 technical groups from all sub sectors with the objective to  develop the institutional capacities and increase preparedness of MoA in order to manage the agricultural sector and overcome challenges and crises through partnerships and collaboration with relevant stakeholders.  The strategy includes 8 Courses of Action, 30 Components and 106 Areas of Intervention.  A Steering committee was formed to supervise the overall progress and follow up on the implementation of the strategy.  Sections address: the safety and quality of local and imported food, the productivity and competitiveness of agricultural products, good governance and sustainable use of resources, scientific research in agriculture, the development of cooperative sector and mutual funds, MoA capacity, and climate change.  The plan will cost 330 million USD for the 2015-19 period. 265 million will be spent on development projects. One third of activities concern climate change.  Syrian refugees need special permission before doing land-training projects. The food security working group and MoSA, are trying to help them.  MoA yearly operation plans contain short-term priorities that match the NGO project cycle. Participants should contact the speaker or the lead of the food security working p group (Nadine Abdul Hamid) for details.  The MoA has 27 agricultural centers in the different districts also responsible of the inspection and are responsible for training, and a list of technical training programs. MoA also has a list of agricultural cooperatives with contact points. Participants requested this information.  The MoA is participating in trade fairs, has an export subsidy program, and aims to improve the quality of produce so that it meets EU standards. The expansion of irrigation remains a priority and the MoA may provide subsidies for this in the future.  The FAO ran a pilot project which used treated wastewater for irrigation but this project was not taken up. Details were requested. There is an agricultural census that contains data about the sector for the entire country. The MoA agreed to share this information.  The MoA and municipalities are working together on some projects that focus on forests.  There is room to develop closer connections between the schools and technical curriculums being provided by NGOs and agencies. The MoA needs information about the training activities that are taking place. The MoA encourages NGOs to actively coordinate with them.  A rich discussion followed the presentation, including questions on the geographical distribution and identification of projects. The MoSA coordinator asked Ms. Amal Salibi the MOA representative about the tools used against the programs for Syrian refugees or training in agriculture sector and informed that agricultural trainings for Syrian refugees are not allowed, MOA clarified that the strategy was aligned with LCRP and as a ministry they are more involved in food security WG.  A representative from Care expressed that a lot of comments could be raised about the strategy mainly towards the guidance from the MOA in relation to the priorities and timeframe, and inquired about fast agricultural priorities with quick impact that could be clearly differentiated from the long term programming interventions, an example of which is the irrigation infrastructure projects. Another gap was highlighted including the linkages between farmers and agro industries, in addition to the technical gaps to be explored and tackled in the dedicated trainings for skilled Lebanese agricultural workers.  The MOA explained that specific areas that were identified need improvement are being taking care of within the MoA operational plan.  The MoA tackles within its course of actions the improvement of the irrigation infrastructure, designated departments could guide partners on where to intervene and in which geographical areas. Many studies were prepared and could be coordinated with the Ministry focal point Ms. Nadine Abdel el Khalek regarding all issue related to the Syrian crisis,  It was also inquired about written restrictions in relation to the training and employment of Syrian refugees, MoSA explained that sharing these restrictions would create a barrier for partners, also mentioned that trainings for Syrian refugees should be granted approval from MoSA and preferable coordinated with MoA  MoA invited partners currently designing agricultural projects to coordinate with MoA, they could be supported in setting priorities and harmonizing training programs with educational curriculums including teacher capacity building needs and gaps.  As was also asked about the relation between MOA and municipalities, where MoA mentioned that specifically reforestation projects are launched with research centers universities and with close cooperation with municipalities.  Replying to the question on using the treated waste water in irrigation, it was mentioned that a pilot project was conducted with FAO however the idea was not very welcomed by farmers as many factors should be taken into consideration mainly the nature of the seeds, the quality of the crops and the attitude of the farmers towards this practice. However, there was a demand to have this coordinated with the MoEW and MoE for the sake of farmers.  MoA mentioned that in terms of innovation, there are pilot projects currently ongoing in some areas to promote the use of renewable energy in irrigation of lands.  No customized trainings are designed yet for these new techniques, |
| 2. | IRC Livelihoods Presentation |
|  | For 18 months the IRC has run the Lebanon livelihoods skills center. The project ends in December 2016.  The center has registered 5,000 people and given them IRC ID cards.  Half are Syrians, followed by Iraqis, then Lebanese and Palestinians. There are complications with labor law concerning Syrians.  The center provides emergency cash grants ($300-500), conditional cash transfers for work ($200 for 60 hours) and grants for small enterprises ($3,000). It also provides cash for products during the hand-over phase. The center provides vocational training and coaching, apprenticeships, and legal support. Enrolment is based on vulnerability score and interviews.  They connect people with local enterprises. 20 per cent of people who underwent training found work within six months.  They provide clients with certificates, but these are not certified by Ministries.  The 80% who do not receive employment have their information passed on to job centers.  A consortium of NGOs including Oxfam, CARE and Save the Children, will soon start a similar programme in the area. It will focus on 450 people Bourj Hammoud area. Now in study phase. To be finalized with MoSA soon. MoSA asked all NGOs to coordinate with them, via the LCRP, before implementing programs. |
| 3. | Small Brief on the Right to Play Livelihoods updates |
|  | Right to Play will launch a new project with a German vocational company. It will run for three years and aim to work with 60% Syrian refugees, 40% Lebanese or other. Target age group is 12-17. Intended to provide career guidance to 3,000 people, as well as, vocational training and apprenticeships.  Want to partner and coordinate with schools and educational centers, training of teachers. In Beirut, Mount Lebanon, North Lebanon, Tripoli, Bekaa.  Now conducting a market study. |
| 4. | AOB |
|  | UNDP will launch a call for proposal for a dual training project that would include market analysis, vocational training and on-the-job-training with paid internships. Partners will be informed through emails when the call is online.  A consultant from LEADERS consortium also explained about an ongoing project in Mount Lebanon, highlighting the following:   * Funded by the European Union’s Madad Trust Fund and the Regional Development and Protection Programme (RDPP) * LEADERS Consortium comprised of the Danish Refugee Council (Lead), CARE, ACTED, Makhzoumi Foundation and Oxfam. * The project supports bottom-up and locally owned solutions to economic and social challenges faced in Lebanon. Local businesses, enterprising individuals as well as prospective investors in the private sector have a central role in contributing to improving local market systems to benefit displacement affected populations (host communities and refugees). * Two priority approaches to reach a large number of vulnerable people:   + **Access to work:** The unemployment rate will be reduced through targeted skills training and job placements. Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will be supported to innovate and scale-up market potential by improving business development services, such as financial and technical inputs, market access, economy stimulating infrastructure etc. LEADERS will engage local, national and regional stakeholders to address the everyday market barriers that restrict business potential and access to employment for the poor.   + **Strengthen economic development and service delivery:** The Action promotes inclusive and harmonised ‘Local Economic Development’ (LED) and service delivery. By engaging with local stakeholders LEADERS builds their capacity to plan, direct and implement development priorities that support local investment and business stimulation. Inclusive dialogue with and between local and national stakeholders will encourage and support investment in local economies. |
| 5. | Action Points |
|  | * The next LH WG meeting for BML will take place on September 8, 2016 * The requested documents form the MoA during the presentation will be provided and attached to the minutes of meeting. * Coordination Officer asked partners to prepare for next WG meeting by reviewing previous MoMs and the Livelihoods Strategy of LCRP 2016 for the brainstorming session of the new LCRP design for 2017- 2020 |