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| **Arsal Coordination Meeting** | | | |
| **Date** | 12/07/2017 | **Time** | 11:30 am |
| **Location** | UNHCR Zahle | **Duration** | 1.30 hr |
| **Chair** | UNHCR |  |  |
| **Attendance** | UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP,ACF, QRC, SCI, DRC, TDH-Italy, DAF, Relief and Development, MSA, MoSA, Intersos, Deputy Mayor, NRC, Amel, Mercy Corps, UNOCHA | | |

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| **Topic** | **ACTION** | **DUE DATE** |
| 1. **Mission 11/07/2017** |  |  |
| UNHCR conducted a visit to Arsal on the 11th of July. The aim was to discuss access and services to the informal settlements affected by the raids last week and express UNHCR’s interest in knowing and understanding the host community and discuss co-existence among host and refugee community following the unfortunate events of the raids  Mayor stated that assistance should be provided to the affected informal settlements as they are civilians and require assistance as necessary. They require shelter, WASH and CRIs assistance.  Mayor emphasized the importance of increasing development projects in Arsal especially in regards to electricity, water, and infrastructure. As seen that humanitarian agencies are providing a lot of support to the refugee community, for instance in the network done for potable water that is available to all informal settlements, and disregarding the needs of the host community.  He also emphasized the need to implement livelihood projects as employment has reportedly decreased in Arsal and this is one of the main causes of tension among host and refugee community.  Deputy Mayor stressed on the need of a hospital and access to medical facilities and equipment.  Municipality wishes from UNHCR to advocate for the plant project promised by the Minister and advocate to fasten the process of implementation.  UNHCR’s Protection unit met with OVs regarding any issues, fears faced by the refugee community. As well the team met with local NGOs to discuss their stock and assess the gaps and the possibility of agencies of providing assistance as needed in order for local NGOs to be able to act in case of emergencies.  Discussed was the preliminary assessment conducted by DAF and NRC on the two informal settlement affected by the raids. (Al Noor and Al Karya)  Al Noor Informal Settlement reportedly 18 rooms were completely destroyed and 3 tents. All the remaining 70-80 rooms require plastic sheets and a WASH assessment is needed It was stated by NRC we were informed by NRC that the 90 HHs, of the 80 destroyed rooms and 10 remaining rooms, are to be evicted by the landlord. The tenants do not want to move as a community “in fear that they will be affected by another raid”. They are dispersed into informal settlements at the moment residing with relatives- Al Noor Informal settlements is divided into two lands with two different landlords.  NRC to map out the families and assess their needs accordingly.  Al Karya Informal Settlement was not as damaged and require WASH intervention as well as 3 tents are in need of plastic sheets.  NRC to conduct and share a more in-depth assessment. | Note | Note |
| UNHCR has an urgent mission also today due to a repatriation of Syrians. This return is not organized by UNHCR and UNHCR’s mission is only to conduct interviews and just consult with the refugees on their views.  Inter-agency mission planned for tomorrow was not approved by UNDSS and will be postponed till next week. | Note | Note |
| Deputy mayor states that the host community in Arsal fear the repetition of 2014 events. Al Noor tenants have left and rented private accommodation, the host community fears of where these families have dispersed inside Arsal especially after LAF made it clear that if any weapons are to be fired they will fire back.  Important to note that other informal settlements the contain weaponry were not raided by LAF and the tenants of those informal settlements are leaving at night as they are afraid of potential raids and hence this creates tension and a feeling of insecurity within the host community. Previously the municipality allocated around 100 daily contractors to act as “municipal police”, but hey had to lay 70 of them due to lack of funds and at the moment there is no capacity for the municipality to monitor the situation in the absence of local authority presence inside Arsal.  Amel stated that refugees have created self-protection groups inside informal settlements and refugees are advising all those with weaponry to leave the informal settlement. | Note | Note |
| 1. **General Situation** |  |  |
| IRC stated that 23 children aging between 16 and 18 years old were arrested during the raid. 22 were released and one is still detained. IRC conducted child protection interviews and provided services to the detained. They state that there are gaps in the assistance being provided to Al Noor informal settlement mainly in respect to WASH intervention (lack of water tanks, sanitation...) and medication. They state that there is presence of mood stabilizer pills that are being distributed by an unknown source and the side effects of these spills are still unknown as well. Children are facing severe psychosocial distress (nightmares…). They are providing psychosocial services support services and those in need of a doctor follow up are being referred to Amel. Refugees are sleeping with their clothes on in fear of potential raids and fear even attending to a PHC if needed and shops in Arsal are closing early as well. The situation is escalating and fear is spreading among both the refugee and host community.  Amel stated that children are being used as human shield by the militants which is also affecting their psychosocial state. | Note | Note |
| IRC stated that there are plenty of rumours being spread regarding UNHCR sponsoring the returns of Syrian refugees. They stress the need to communicate that UNHCR plays a neutral role in this process perhaps through awareness sessions, SMSs, leaflets..  UNHCR stresses that its position regarding return to Syria remains the same that it should be a voluntary return with basis of safety and dignity. There are different actors playing a role, UNHCR does not oppose any deals made or returns that happen simultaneously or on different level inside Lebanon and Syria as long as it is voluntary.  UNHCR’s position remains that any return involving armed elements is not refugee return and for transparency purposes is communicating this with other actors and will monitor how this particular return happens.  As long as Syrians are happy and this is voluntary and what they want, then it is fine. It is not a role to interfere or stop their return. | Note | Note |
| UNHCR stressed the need for agencies to update their stock available as to attend to any gaps existing in Arsal and to coordinate in case of emergency. The google docs have been amended as requested to have editable columns in order for agencies to add any existing assistance not mentioned.  <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jA5nWCSpSY9r7hFQ4TMWrpfY4YqfZhQ32IM_au9suIc/edit?usp=sharing> | Note | Note |
| 1. **Sector update** |  |  |
| Water trucking and dislodging services were being provided under temporary contracts until the tender was finalized, during June. Therefore the suppliers selected in the tender should have started working at the beginning of July. The reason why services have not been delivered since then is not related to the raids that took place in Al Noor and Al Qariya camps nor to the general security situation. It is related to the pressures we have been receiving during the tender process and especially upon official communication to the suppliers that were selected and to those who weren’t. Negotiations with the Municipality are under way to guarantee the safety of our staff and our ability to deliver under the new contracts and we will not resume the work till those guarantees are met.  Negotiations are ongoing with the municipality in specific with the mayor as if action is not taken fast the situation will get worse and tensions will increase among the host community and the refugee community.  Deputy mayor emphasized the importance of finding a solution as complains from Babin tenants are coming in of which they fear that if WASH interventions are not implemented soon the Lebanese will attack them especially when it comes to dislodging activities.  Deputy mayor stated that they are ready to assist, but ACF stresses that they are awaiting the outcome of the negotiations with the mayor and advocate for anyone capable to assist in solving the situation if not completely at least temporarily to be able to assist the informal settlements. | Note | Note |
| As for child protection, UNICEF stated that there are four sector partners providing psychosocial support, TDH, IRC, Amel and SB Overseas. The effects of the security situation led some NGOs to stop child protection interventions within Informal Settlements. | Note | Note |
| Arsal Health working group will be updating the contingency stock for weapon wounded and outbreaks;  At national level there is a review of the contingency planning and UNHCR Bekaa team requested to receive the latest preparedness national plan developed by MoPH, WHO and relevant UN agencies in order to start operationalizing the preparedness plan at Bekaa level in coordination and support of MoPH/WHO and Bekaa health and WASH partners for acute watery diarrhoea; To note that Lebanon is free from acute watery diarrhoea;  2 weeks ago there were around 130 cases affected with food intoxication and with the support of MoPH stool sample were taken for analysis but no leftovers. Around 50 were admitted to the Mercy Field hospital and the others treated on site and all recovered;  MoPH is strengthening its surveillance for acute watery diarrhoea and a pilot of weekly stool sample will be taken from the Mercy field hospital for different age groups cases having diarrhoea | Note | Note |
| 1. **Waste Water Management** |  |  |
| On waste water treatment plant UNICEF stated that they finalized the design and concept and the proposal is sent to the Ministry for approval. Donors for construction have not been identified yet.  Deputy Mayor stated that last Tuesday a meeting was held with the Minister Mirehbi who stated that funding for the plant is secured by UNDP and UNICEF for 12 Billion LBP for a period of three years.  UNDP and UNICEF will verify this information. | Note | Note |
| UNDP with coordination with MoSA and partnership with QRC are working on the storm water network which is 2500 m. It is to be finalize and sent to the Ministry of Water and Energy for approval. The implementation period of this project is 22 days.  UNDP will be able to support in more projects in Arsal and hence a meeting should be held with the municipality whether in Arsal or outside to discuss the priorities and needs in order to proceed as needed.  UNHCR is also working on the canal channel project with ACF and is just awaiting to finalize the technical part. This project is to complement the canals made by UNDP and WFP. | Note | Note |
| 1. **AOB** |  |  |
| Intersos stated that they were denied access to conduct BLF distribution for 22 HHs in Arsal by the military intelligence as they were told that agencies cannot enter Arsal at the moment.  Municipality affirms that there are no interruption in commercial assistance provided to Arsal. | Note | Note |
| UNHCR is planning on conducting a refresher training session on the Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) for staff that already did the training previously and training sessions to new staff that are interested in participating. Thankful for all the agencies that updated the list shared by UNHCR and encourages those who did not to do so as early as possible. The plan at the moment is to conduct a rapid needs assessment training every Friday of the week starting 21st of July. The training takes 3 hours with a capacity of 30 participants and hence for that sake UNHCR will prioritize new staff and agencies operating in North Bekaa. Invitations will be sent accordingly. Hopefully will be able to reach the 200 plus interested staff. | Note | Note |
| **Action Points:** | **Partner/Actor** | **Date** |
| NRC to map out families of Al Noor Informal Settlement | NRC | 14/07/2017 |
| IRC to share the gaps in medication with Health unit in order to assist and act accordingly. | IRC | Asap |
| ACF to follow up on outcome of negotiations with Mayor as to proceed with WASH interventions in Arsal | ACF | Asap |
| UNDP and UNICEF to conduct a meeting to discuss the waste water management plant and its updates and clarify to the municipality. | UNICEF/ UNDP | Asap |
| Security to follow up on the claim that agencies are denied access to Arsal and inform WFP/Intersos. | UNHCR | 15/07/2017 |
| NGOs to update their contingency stock on google docs and the RNA staff list.  <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1jA5nWCSpSY9r7hFQ4TMWrpfY4YqfZhQ32IM_au9suIc/edit?usp=sharing> | All Agencies | 14/07/2017 |
| **Proposed date of next Arsal coordination meeting** |  | 15/08/2017 |