

North Lebanon Inter Agency Minutes of Meeting  
 14 January 2020, 10:30 – 12:00  
 UNHCR Tripoli Office

<b>Chairperson(s)</b>	Anne Dolan (UNHCR) Alain Chatry (UNDP) Khaled Osman (MoSA)
<b>Agenda of the Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction to 2020 by North IA coordinator (UNHCR HoO) and IA National Coordinator</li> <li>- MoSA and MoIM briefing on communication with local authorities</li> <li>- Sectoral updates</li> <li>- AoB</li> </ul>

Introduction – 2020 Objectives:

With the beginning of 2020, means to enhance coordination and collaboration between IA partners should be assessed including more effective dissemination of sectoral and inter-sectoral decisions, made at the national level, to field coordinators.

The Senior National Inter-Agency Coordinator plans to visit the different regions to further understand the IA and ISCG direction of planning and implementation and to ensure support at the national level.

A meeting was held between UNHCR IA and MoSA, aiming to enhance collaboration and coordination in managing emergencies. During this time last year, we were all busy with the flooded sites, while this year, the enhancement of the RNA tools and system enabled us to better manage emergencies and have time to do further follow ups and coordination activities.

National-level sector coordinators are asked to provide 2020 workplans in consultation with their regional counterparts and share it later with the Inter-agency unit. If regional coordinators have not been contacted on the matter, they may wish to contact their national coordinators, as this is a crucial step in the identification of national targets and priorities at the interagency and ISCG level. The IA National Coordinator re-iterated the need for national and regional coordinators to liaise in order to streamline standardized approach after highlighting sectoral priorities and challenges.

A short retreat will be organized with the national IA, sector coordinators, MoSA, and representatives from I/NGOs to discuss the priorities identified.

In November 2019, the IA collected indicators and began publishing situational updates to assess the impact of the current (financial/political/security) situation on programs. Additional qualitative assessments were collected during this period by NGOs, and other actors which will be analyzed and discussed within the ISCG for a collective view on the situation.

The World Bank is planning to conduct a household level survey with members of the host community to assess the impact of the economic situation on vulnerable families. Similarly, UNICEF will conduct the MIX survey which aims to assess both host and refugee families' socio-economic situation.

An ISCG meeting tackled the current situation on programs on 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2020. Some sectors identified and forecasted challenges to achieving their sectoral targets. For instance, the Basic Assistance sector is discussing the need for a re-evaluation of the SMEB. The Education sector noted more Lebanese students are moving from private to public schools where the sector will need to re-evaluate schools' capacities. This information will be shared with the North ISCG when compiled for field level discussions.

It was mentioned by some partners the need to hold communication at national level with the different ministries to gather data, such as the number of newly enrolled Lebanese children in public schools. which will further assist sector leads and partners with evaluating the potential challenges.

All partners were encouraged by the national coordinators to collect needs and gaps data for both Lebanese and Syrians as meetings with donors and advocacy will be based on such information and data.

A discussion with LIEF will take place soon on the data that was collected by their teams and to analyze the gaps in both communities.

The Health Sector has been collecting and sharing data with the national sector lead to highlight gaps and challenges of individuals' access to health services, mainly Secondary Health Care.

The national IA Coordinator mentioned the need to account for all the initiatives that were taken in the past and assess the possibility to incorporate them within the sector strategies.

#### MoSA & MoIM briefing:

MoSA and MoIM coordinators in the North requested from all IA partners to share with them their organizations' planned activities prior to implementation, to ensure local authorities are aware of the projects.

Sector Updates: (Updates are in the PPT attached, the below are comments and discussion highlights during these presentations)

#### Protection:

- The MoIM coordinator Nada Mawlawi and NRC supported the management of the eviction of families from a collective shelter in Barsa during Christmas.
- A North Lebanon Emergency Cash Assistance Coordination Group was established in 2017 that meets on a quarterly basis. This taskforce is in the process of developing

guidance to partners on the amounts to be provided to families in need, based on the situation/risk. This is the first guidance of its kind in the country.

#### SGBV:

- Harmonization of prevention and response to early marriage tools started back in 2018, further developed during 2019 and it will be a sector priority for 2020.
- Some sector partners will start to shift from HH level responses to community level responses after assessing, identifying mitigating measures and providing the needed support. This new approach will prompt more proactive role by the local structures in managing the cases, count more on community impact.

#### Shelter:

- More than 50% of settlements need fire-fighting kits.
- At the sector level there has been discussion on the provision of firefighting kits, yet no concrete decision has been taken.

#### WASH:

- National Water sector workshop was conducted in BO to discuss 2019 challenges and identify lessons learned.
- A proposal was made during the workshop to develop sub taskforces within the WG with a clear workplan to address challenges.
- The WASH 2020 action plan was finalized and will be shared with the sector and IA partners soon.

#### Basic Assistance:

- Cash assistance, from UNHCR, to poor Lebanese was provided through BoB Western Union.
- The BA sector is discussing the need to re-evaluate the SMEB in light of the devaluation of the Lebanese currency
- MoSA highly recommended partners to use NPTP list to target Lebanese vulnerable families.

#### Health:

- Hospitals are facing challenges to get medical supplies and materials needed for surgeries, as suppliers are asking for USD in advance. If not in USD, they are asking for the black-market USD rate in LBP ranging from 2000 - 2600 LBP per 1 \$.
- UNHCR is continuously monitoring contracted hospitals for any change in policy related to payment methodology requested from patients.
- Gap in support with patient share remains a big issue with only 2 partners supporting a limited number of patients:
  - o SAMS project to support vulnerable families with the patient share was reduced from 70 to 40 at national level, leaving for the North 10 – 15 cases per month, noting that this project will end in June 2020.
  - o Relief international is supporting only patients of age 60+ with the patient share as needed.

Furthermore, refugees as well as vulnerable Lebanese face challenges to access healthcare services, especially Secondary Healthcare. Data collected on refugees facing challenges since the start of the current situation showed that among 58 refugees there were: 10 baby detention, 2 body detention, 27 delay to access healthcare leading to the death of 3 refugee children, 5 discharge against medical advice (AMA), 9 risk of AMA discharge and 2 home deliveries that resulted in the admission of the babies to the neonatal intensive care unit.

- As updates on the vaccination campaign that took place in Dec, the target was not reached as some private schools did not collaborate to allow vaccination. Similarly, there was a very low rate of vaccination at PHC level.
- UNHCR supported the provision of Life-saving trainings (Basic Life Support – BLS, Advanced Cardiac Life Support – ACLS and Pediatric Advanced Life Support - PALS) certified by the American Heart Association (AHA) by Balamand Medical Simulation Center of Balamand University to 171 Nurses of 10 contracted hospitals in the North. The same center also provided a training on leadership to 30 managerial staff of these hospitals.
- URDA highlighted that a meeting with Lieutenant Kheir, the head of the LAF Relief council, and Qatari donors agreed on sending to Lebanon in-kind assistance which includes medical supplies and CRIs. URDA can further facilitate additional advocacy with Qatari donors if any additional needs are identified.

#### Child Protection:

The sector highlighted the increase in child protection cases starting October 2019. The Sector will be preparing a briefing to present to the Inter Agency in February on the action implemented and planned to address these cases.

#### Social Stability:

- Follow ups on service provision by partners
- Solid waste taskforce identified a challenge related to the collection of solid waste in Akkar region (dreb el awsat area) which is being followed up by partners at the moment due to unknown reason (whether it is related to lack of funds, trucks, man power, etc..)

#### Food Security:

- WFP launched expression of interest to shop owners in the North which will be posted in newspapers.
- Prices assessment is being conducted with non-WFP shops to analyze the impact of the situation on both refugees and host community. The results will be shared by WFP in the next IA.

#### Action Plan:

- The preparation of an IA workshop during February to discuss 2020 IA objectives and plan way forward to achieve these objectives;
- WFP is required to share results of the market assessments in the upcoming IA meeting.