

1. Protection (Child Protection / SGBV)

- During the first quarter of 2016, Protection partners have jointly analyzed information on residency renewal with the General Security Office and on the impact of lack of valid residency permits. Findings are based on household and community level assessments, key informant interviews and legal assistance provided directly to refugees. Accordingly, since the introduction of the new residency renewal/regularization procedure in January 2015, the percentage of refugees without residency steadily increased. A higher proportion of refugees lacks valid residency was found in the Bekaa, while a lower proportion of refugees lacks residency in the South, respectively 60% and 33%, according to data from Household survey. Data analysis indicate that the more economically vulnerable the household, the more likely it is to have at least one family member without a valid residency. The majority of refugees reported lack of financial means as the primary barrier to renewing residency. Other obstacles to renewing/regularizing residency include lack of identity documents, fear of approaching GSO (due to irregular status), and inability to provide other documentary requirements.
- In order to empower communities to address child protection issues, the Child Protection actors implemented a programmatic shift by focusing on strengthening community-based child protection mechanisms, engaging communities in addressing vulnerabilities of boys, girls and caregivers. In addition, renewed focus will be placed on increasing the capacity and awareness of children to mitigate risks and know available services, including through structured community based child-sensitive activities, psycho-social support and life skills programs. A particular focus remain on providing psycho-social support for girls and boys who have been identified as at a heightened risk of violence or abuse or have been victims of such violence.
- In order to improve timely and appropriate support for women and girls at risk and in particular SGBV survivors, the sector has conducted an assessment of capacity building needs among 12 organizations. While the survey results indicate that around 90% of organizations have internal protocols and regular capacity building activities, one in three case workers reported challenges in follow up on individual cases due to high demand for services. Additionally, increasing complexity of cases faced, such as ones where survivors were contemplating or had attempted suicide, or there is more than one survivor in the household, impacts quality of services provided. To respond to these needs, the sector has initiated an inter-agency coaching programme that aims at providing case workers and supervisors across Lebanon with a space to share experiences and gain knowledge on best practices to assist SGBV survivors. The programme will include at least 10 peer to peer sessions in 5 governorates as well as three days training.

2. Health

- The OCHA- Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPF) call for proposals closed in February and a Health Committee was convened with UN and NGO representation to review and score six health-related proposals submitted out of a total of 54.
- In February, a number of children (Lebanese, Syrian and of other nationalities) received a dose of oral polio vaccine as part of the second round of the polio mop-up vaccination campaign for 2016. During the first round which took place in January, 143,784 children (out of 150,522) received a dose of polio vaccine. The vaccine protects children by preparing their bodies to fight the polio virus.
- The preliminary results of an updated mapping exercise of primary health care services through primary health care centers (PHCCs), social development centers (SDCs) and mobile medical units (MMUs) were reviewed to improve future interventions. Among the key observations noted were that MMUs are visiting locations which are less than two kms away from the closest PHC center.
- Vaccination of children (Polio/MMR) in public and semi-public schools in the Bekaa and the North was initiated. Vaccination of children in schools in the South is planned for the following months.
- The Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) gave a presentation on the Emergency PHC Restoration Project commonly referred to as the Universal Health Care (UHC) project. The primary objective of this three-year pilot project with a total budget of 21 million USD is to provide an essential healthcare package (EHCP) to 150,000 beneficiaries of the poorest Lebanese identified by the National

Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP). Beneficiaries will receive a package of services through 75 PHCs within the MoPH-PHC network, whereby the family enrolled will contribute to the offered services an amount of 12 USD/family/year only.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) launched the process of procuring sufficient supplies of medicines for the treatment of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (such as cardiovascular, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases) made available at around 460 PHCs centers through the MoPH/YMCA chronic medications program, funded by the EU.

3. Education

- In February, the 1st round of the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) started in 32 schools selected by MEHE targeting children between 7 and 17 years old who missed out of education for two years or more. Transportation was provided by UNICEF with the support of Caritas to the most vulnerable children enrolled in the programme who are not within walking distance or who face protection concerns. Placement tests were conducted in by the Centre for Education Research and Development (CERD) and over 5,000 children sat for the test.
- To ensure inclusion and coordination with education partners, CERD organized an Inception Workshop on February 3 in order to build consensus among partners around the process and focus of development of a unified Non-Formal ECE package. Around 30 NGO's and UN agencies attended the workshop consultation, and organizations with on-going programmes targeting 3 - 5 year olds presented their current and planned programmes.
- Education partners came together for the elections for a seat on the NGO Sub-Committee. MEHE requested the formation of this committee to coordinate between the Race Executive Committee (REC), the RACE Project Management Unit (PMU) and the partners implementing education programs or education-related activities in the field. It serves as an information and coordination platform to keep all stakeholders informed, avoid duplication in the field and strengthen cross sectoral linkages. The results of the composition of the committee are expected early March.

4. Basic Assistance

- The interagency winter support plan for 2015/2016 was concluded end of February. Implementing agencies plan to follow up with unreached beneficiaries during March as well as to conduct post-distribution monitoring studies.
- By mid-February, 216,750 economically vulnerable and exposed to cold households (85% of the planned beneficiaries) received different winter support assistance. Of those, 156,750 received cash for winter and 60,000 received any form of core relief items such as blankets and stoves. It is worth mentioning that a 15 to 20% no show rate was recorded. The no shows are mainly unreachable families eligible for assistance that did not approach UNHCR earlier to update their contact details. The interagency winter support plan was well funded this year where almost 90% of the funding requested was secured.

5. Food security

- In February, 684,615 persons were reached with food assistance through various modalities (such as vouchers/cash/in-kind). Beneficiaries assisted include 590,520 displaced Syrians, reached through e-cards (99%) and vouchers. 39,456 Palestine refugees from Syria were provided with food assistance through ATM cards and 3,062 with vouchers. 368 Palestine refugees in Lebanon were assisted through vouchers. 27,208 vulnerable Lebanese were also supported by the National Poverty Targeting Programme (NPTP). In-kind food parcels and hot meals were provided to complement the food assistance to more than 24,000 refugees and host communities. Among those assisted, 690 households were served through community kitchens. 1,230 farmers were trained and received material for sustainable agriculture production. Of which, 1,000 received seeds and tools and milk hygiene kits and 220 were trained on food losses. More than 50 Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) staff were trained on Concepts and Definitions in Agricultural Production Surveys and means of using tablets for data collection.
- Having received new funding, pledged during the "Supporting Syria and the Region Conference" in London earlier this month, WFP

Lebanon will be reinstating the full rations value for Syrians refugees at 27 USD.

- During the monthly coordination meeting, it was agreed to establish new sub-working groups within the sector: micro –gardening and community kitchens based on the partners requests for guidance from the sector. Both working groups met and discussed on the issues raised by partners such as: Standard Operational Procedures, types of Micro Gardening (MG), Aim of MG, legal limitations, sustainability, feasibility & extension of activities. For the community kitchen one issued discussed were: beneficiaries, legal framework, sustainability, food Safety & disposal, linkage to other type of assistance.
- The sector has been working on the scoring of the projects submitted by NGO partners for the 2016 first Humanitarian Pooled funds allocation. Five projects have been submitted to the sector and review is ongoing by the established committee composed by the sector coordinators ,the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) (the sector NGO co-chair) and OCHA.

6. Shelter

- This month witnessed no major shelter winter damages in informal settlements. In 130 sites in Bekaa, technical assessments identified needed interventions to prevent flooding and ensure safe access of the refugees to their shelters. The risk of fire shall be reduced through measures identified by experts from Lebanon and abroad, who will report to an inter-sectorial task force initiated by the Shelter Sector.
- Four Temporary Technical Committees (TTC) currently elaborate guidelines for the implementation of some main shelter activities. TTCs have been initiated for: Site Improvement (8 partners, led by Save the Children International and UNHCR), Rehabilitation of Substandard Buildings (10 partners, led by NRC), Cash for Rent (6 partners, led by PCPM) and Neighborhood Upgrading (7 partners, led by UN-Habitat). These guidelines, which are coordinated with the other sectors, are expected in the next month.

7. Energy and Water

- The terms of reference to establish a sector steering committee for the Energy and Water Sector have been agreed by the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW) and the Ministry of Environment (MoE).
- MoEW is identifying existing energy infrastructure projects that will contribute to achieving the targets under the energy component of the sector. These will be prioritised to benefit the most vulnerable but more funding and implementing partners are needed to realise this. A study is also being planned to more accurately identify the most critical energy needs and corresponding solutions.
- MoE chaired a national coordination meeting bringing interested partners and government institutions together to discuss current and proposed environmental projects for the Syrian crisis response. Partners' current and planned activities under the environmental outcome are being consolidated and shared with the various stakeholders.
- In an effort to reduce the environmental impact and risk of WASH related disease from wastewater in informal settlements and some remote collective sites, Solidarités International in collaboration with UNHCR, MoE and MoEW is undertaking a pilot project for onsite treatment of domestic wastewater.

8. Livelihoods

- The issue of livelihoods and job creation was one of the core topics of the London conference in early February. In its statement of intent, the GoL called for increased investment in municipal projects, temporary employment programmes, and national infrastructure so as to foster job creation in vulnerable areas. Livelihoods partners are primarily working in supporting Lebanese small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and value chains (five partners) and municipalities through local public work programme (six partners). However the level of such activities still remains limited, with partners active in 16 of Lebanon 26 Qaza and primarily concentrated in Akkar, Baabda, Saida and Zahle areas.
- The sector worked on aligning its activities more closely with the Ministry of Economy and Trade (MoET) SME strategy. Out of the 41 initiatives listed by MoET to support SMEs, 17 are already integrated into the sector's strategy, notably on improving access to capital,

enhancing standards of products and services, or expanding training programmes to meet market needs.

- As for the overall legal framework, the GoL statement of intent also recognizes the need to ease the access of Syrians to the job market in certain sectors where they are not in direct competition with Lebanese. The Minister of Labour issued a new decision regarding business, professions, crafts and jobs confined solely to Lebanese citizens which extends the areas where Syrian nationals are allowed to work from 'cleaning' to 'environment', in addition to agriculture and construction.

9. Social Stability

- Whereas very modest progress were reported in February by the sector (11 new community support projects completed, one new community event organized by a conflict prevention committee in Bekaa), partners are already active in over 121 vulnerable cadasters (Mount Lebanon remaining the governorate with the least interventions so far, due to difficulty to implement social stability programmes in large urban areas).
- Social stability partners are providing capacity support for strategic planning, service delivery and community outreach to 10 Unions and 155 Municipalities. This additional support to local institutions is crucial for the response, as a recent analysis by the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPs) pointed out the challenges faced by municipalities to respond to both host communities and refugees needs, especially as 70% of municipalities are in need of new employees. In order to ensure that additional support if optimally used, the sector is undertaking a review exercise of the 89 'conflict mitigation mechanisms' set up by partners over the past two years to identify which one are still dialogue spaces at local level and prevent dispute escalation at the local level and which communities are in need of new interventions.

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