



Minutes of NATIONAL INTER-AGENCY MEETING

11 June 2021, 10:00-12:00

Remotely on Zoom

Chairperson(s)	Assem Abi Ali – LCRP General Supervisor, MoSA Elina Silen – Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator Camilla Jelbart Moose – Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator
Agenda of the Meeting	1. Welcoming Remarks 2. Snapshot of LCRP Q1 Funding Overview and Q2 Priorities 3. Presentation of the most recent tensions data (ARK/UNDP Perception Survey Wave 10 from April/May 2021) 4. Sector presentations on lessons learned from working through remote modalities 5. LCRP Business Continuity Planning 2021 6. AOB

Proceedings

1. Opening – Assem Abi Ali – LCRP General Supervisor, Ministry of Social Affairs:

- The LCRP General Supervisor initiated the meeting by indicating that there many issues that are surging in the country, and that there is a strong need to continue supporting the vulnerable people through indicating the needed mitigation measures that are needed.

2. Snapshot of LCRP Q1 Funding Overview and Q2 Priorities - Elina Silen, Senior Inter-Agency Coordinator

Update on LCRP Q1 Funding as of 31 March:

- Lebanon LCRP 2021 Appeal: partners: \$2745.0 M (2.75 billion) with Funds received between Jan and Mar 2021: \$287.8 M (10% of appeal). Funds received in 2020 for 2021 projects + carry over: \$357.7 M (14% of appeal). Available funds: \$645.5 M (24% of appeal), with 1.9 not yet allocated to any sector.
- Three underfunded sectors include: Shelter Sector - the second most underfunded sector with only USD 5 million available for 2021. Based on the results reported in Q1, the Shelter Sector remains chronically underfunded which is impacting all interventions, including emergency preparedness and repairs in residential shelters; Food Security Sector (FSS), funded at 10% with only around USD 77 million received in 2020; the Basic Assistance Sector (BA), funded at 14%with USD 50 million received in 2020. For FSS, there are also gaps around support for farmers and resilience-based components.

Q2 Priorities and Funding Gaps:

- Based on the funding updates presented, the sectors have updated programmatic priorities for Q2 and identified specific funding gaps to be flagged to donors. Each sector identified 3 to 5 priorities. Please refer to the PPT for more details on the Q1 funding update and Q2 priorities.

3. Presentation of the most recent tensions data (ARK/UNDP Survey Wave 10 – April/May) - LCRP Conflict Sensitivity Mainstreaming Focal Point, Fadel Saleh

- The presentation provided an update on the latest tensions monitoring perception survey, with data collection conducted in May 2021 with a sample of 5,000 surveys. Each wave is



nationally representative of Syrian and Lebanese adult populations. These are the key outcomes of the survey:

- Quality of inter-communal relations between refugees and host communities is deteriorating - more people describe the relations as negative in specific localities – currently at 29.7%. Results are particularly negative in Akkar, Baalbek-EI Hermel, South and Beqaa.
- Intra-communal relations are also deteriorating – 29% of Lebanese describe relations as negative compared to 3% in 2018.
- The primary reason for inter-communal tensions is unemployment and competition over jobs. Intra-Lebanese tensions are primarily driven by political/sectarian divides at followed by economic factors. Currently, risks for escalation of communal tensions around the lifting of subsidies remain significant and are materializing between people.
- People's main concerns remain socio-economic – access to cash and subsidies. The majority of citizens remain highly dependent on subsidies to maintain their current lifestyle despite an increase in unemployment nationally. To this end, some 60% of respondents worry about the lifting of subsidies. There is a general sentiment that subsidies are essential to maintain the quality of life; but the opinion of how subsidies are benefiting populations remain polarized. Employment and livelihoods opportunities for all are key to maintain stability.
- The situation is growing more volatile – marked with increased violence, security incidents and use of arms. The propensity to violence remains high mirroring the current escalations of incidents. Community insecurity has been on an increased trajectory since January, especially with an increase in incidents of theft and robberies followed by armed clashes. Many of the incidents are related to the social economic situation. In this context, it is essential to strengthen conflict sensitivity given the higher risk of escalations impacting communities and the operational environment. It is also important to prioritize prevention and holistic business continuity planning as well as strengthening the rule of law and community security support, including municipal police.
- The full dataset can be accessed here: <http://ialebanon.unhcr.org/Perception/>

4. COVID-19 – Lessons learned in implementing remote modalities - Sector Coordinators

- *LCRP Sector Coordinators for Livelihoods, Education and Protection*

- With the COVID-19 outbreak, LCRP partners are increasingly resorting to remote modalities to maintain delivery of critical interventions. Initially, remote modalities were introduced as an ad-hoc temporary measure, however the context has required protracted use. For the 2021 LCRP, one key planning assumption was that the COVID-19 outbreak would continue and remote, blended or hybrid approaches were thus mainstreamed across sectors. During Q1 2021, sectors were asked to take stock of the impact of remote modalities on the sectors' ability to meet needs, identify lessons learnt and set collective recommendations in order to adapt practice for the future. Key outcomes of this exercise included:
 - **Positive Impact of remote modalities**
 - Ability to maintain more regular/frequent contact with beneficiaries and communities (including those difficult to reach otherwise such as those with disabilities).
 - Allows to get around mobility constraints/travel restrictions that affect the population we serve (for example those who lack valid residency or fear arrest).
 - Reduces costs and time spent on transportation for beneficiaries and service providers.
 - For some groups, possible to increase outreach (men, PwSS, mobility impaired and youth).
 - Increased number of participants for activities such as meetings, training and workshops.
 - For some topics, online modalities are even preferred (eg. trainings involving comms technology).
 - Data collection is lower cost and more time efficient (however, there are challenges too).



- Reduces costs and time spent on transportation for beneficiaries (and service providers).
- **Negative Impact of modalities**
 - Decrease in number of people reached (particularly in remote areas with bad connectivity. Barriers: include lack of access to internet, availability of confidential spaces).
 - In particular, older persons, children (including those with disabilities, younger children and those engaged in child labour), persons with certain disabilities (hearing/mental), the most economically vulnerable as well as highly sensitive cases are particularly difficult to reach and support.
 - Some activities particularly affected: awareness sessions; legal aid on complex cases or with review of documents; Rehabilitation services for PwDIS and older persons; MHPSS;
 - Lack of proper devices for children and teachers for remote learning
 - Lack of learning readiness at leave of parents to support children with studies
 - Some activities have been completely suspended (infrastructure, some distributions, validations).
 - Staff and frontline workers' wellbeing affected due to limited capacity building, self-care options and direct coaching and supervision.
 - Remote fatigue is leading to dropouts, non-active participation. More dropout of women.
 - Online modalities are having a negative impact on refugee-host community relations. Difficulty to manage conflicts during training or outreach on sensitive topics.
 - Costs associated with communication (devices, cards etc.).
- **Recommendations**
 - Agree with beneficiaries on best way to reach out to them and ensure a backup plan.
 - Continue to advocate for/ensure in-person support to high-risk cases (eg. CP and GBV case management) even during lockdown/further outbreak.
 - Remote modalities preferred for certain activities (even beyond COVID-19), for example to reach out to /maintain communication with person facing mobility concerns (PwDIS).
 - Disseminate lessons learned and good practices within sectors and across inter-sector. Adapt awareness material including for youth, women, persons with disabilities and elderly.
 - Develop new and adapted M&E modalities for services offered remotely.
 - Provide mental health support to staff and frontline workers. Collect and disseminate experiences/ good practices on staff wellbeing and increase psychosocial support and self-care sessions.
 - Digital literacy and coaching needed - train facilitators, trainers, municipalities and local 'leaders' on how to engage participants online. Develop more interactive modules to maintain interest. Ensure proper induction sessions for beneficiaries as well.
 - Develop guidelines for populations to be safe online including data protection.
 - Hybrid/blended approaches are preferred (but more guidance on this is needed).
 - Continue to provide devices and internet cards.
 - Look into possibility of "tech hubs", for example at Municipalities to be used by local community members.
- *Please refer to the PPT for details.*

5. Presentation and Discussion on LCRP Business Continuity Plan (BCP) 2021 - Elina Silen Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer

- Within the deteriorating context, it is critical to ensure continuity of LCRP operations. The analysis undertaken for the LCRP COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan suggests that a range of other risks are further impacting the business and programme continuity in 2021. As such, there is a need to further expand the Business Continuity Plan to enhance LCRP



partners' preparedness for the evolution of these risks and mitigate negative impact on operations.

- The process serves to map out some of the key risks and how they are currently impacting the response, and also if these risks deteriorate what could be the future impact. The main focus is 'forward looking' to be prepared as much as possible for possible impact on ongoing LCRP operations.
- This is a regional process that is driven by the sub-national Inter-Sectors. Four 'Inter-Sector +' workshops have now been conducted in each region. Next steps will include to develop regional level action plans.
- *Please refer to the PPT for more details on the 7 identified risks and regional specificities.*

6. AOB - IYCF Promotion, Counseling and Support Campaign *presented by Abigael Nyukuri, Nutrition Sector Coordinator*

- The Nutrition Sector (under the EOC) presented the National level Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) campaign which aims to; Promote optimal IYCF practices, as per WHO recommendations and the national policy for infant and young child feeding, to the Lebanese community and those residing in Lebanon; and necessitate increased and sustained demand to skilled IYCF services including counselling and support. The Power point briefly summarizes the scope of the campaign.
- **Discussion Points:**
- [MoIM] - asked whether the campaign considers that some women do not have the capacity to breastfeed (for example by ensuring milk provision). The Nutrition Coordinator responded that it is important to not market infant formulas to the general population. Through the IYOC hotline, these cases are rather linked to the lactation specialists. Providing infant formula can cause more problems in certain instances, so it is better to look for other feasible options which is why the nutrition sector has provided a guidance for this matter.