**Meeting Minutes**

**VENUE**
Mercy Corps, Salim Street, Musherwa 406, District 5, House n. 4; Saholaka behind Erbil bank – Sulaimaniyah, Iraq

**DATE AND TIME**
10:00 am – 11:00 am, Monday 6th January. 2020

**PARTICIPANTS**
OCHA, JCCC, MC, IOM, GIZ, Rwanga Foundation, PLC, KEDO, CDO, DRC, YAO

### Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING AGENDA</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 10:00am – 10:10am</td>
<td>Opening remarks (Recap on last meeting)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Round of introductions from the Suli-cluster partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10am – 10:25am</td>
<td>HC Visit and Follow-up on the last discussion with the partners on durable solutions for the IDPs in Sulaimaniyah and the surrounding areas</td>
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<td>Sulaimaniyah Livelihoods Service Mapping orientation/update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. 10:25am – 10:50am</td>
<td>Brief from the Suli-cluster partners’ Livelihoods projects/activates</td>
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<td>Challenges and expectations of livelihoods in Sulaimaniyah</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. 10:50am – 11:00am</td>
<td>Q&amp;A/ AoB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Key talking points:

1. **Opening remarks (Recap on last meeting) & Round of introduction from the sub-cluster partners**

   - From now on the Sulaimaniyah Livelihoods Sub-cluster coordination meeting will take place in Mercy Corps as requested by the attending partners
   - The Sulaimaniyah Livelihoods online Service Mapping sheet was shared with the actors from November however, few actors have updated their agency projects/activities

2. **HC Visit and Follow-up on the last discussion with the partners on durable solutions for the IDPs in Sulaimaniyah and the surrounding areas**

   During the last HC visit, on November 27th 2019, a work Lunch was arranged with all the Sulaimaniyah ICCG members headed by OCHA and by request of HC to follow-up and address the progress on the durable solutions for the IDPs taskforce.
   To push this forward, another workshop will be conducted on durable solutions for IDPs in Sulaimaniyah – further information will be shared in future meeting
   As Livelihoods Coordinator, I highlighted the importance of livelihoods intervention to push forward this approach considering that Livelihoods is the third most common need mentioned in the HRP and HNO 2019.
   For further details on this work lunch, the MoM could be shared upon request.

3. **Brief from the Suli-cluster partners’ Livelihoods projects/activates | Challenges and expectations:**

   - Rwanga Foundation: ended the third phase, and is entering the fourth phase of the Employment and Empowerment of Youth and Labour Market Stakeholders through Rwanga Foras Project.
   - Completed outreach with the employers, other private sector stockholders, and universities to register the job seekers and job providers on the Foras portal; during this month we will try to register participants from Sulaimaniyah Polytechnic and Teshk international university and Kurdistan Technical Institution
Suli Sub-cluster Meeting #1
Meeting Minutes

- Constantly update the portal with available vacancies
- Conducted two trainings in December for around 50 company employees based on the company’s request on essential themes
- Rwanga Foundation is prepared to coordinate and provide Job Seeker or Employment training to Universities, NGOs, program beneficiaries, and Employers. Also to register job seekers on the portal
- The criteria for the Employment training participant; for the person to be either a fresh graduate (0 – 3 years, recently graduated) with minor experience or newly employed to develop their skills and abilities depending on their needs or identified gaps

• Kurdistan Economic Development Organization (KEDO): currently working on;
  - Provide Microfinance/Small Loans (round 2M IQDs) with a Guarantor being a Government employee started since 2008
  - Provide one month Vocational training with Lafarge Co. on farming and agricultural assistances
  - Work with Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) on Job Placements and Job Scale Development in 3 Universities (Charmo, Halabja, and Kalar – Garmyan) for training 150 senior University student (50 per mentioned locations)
  - In partnership with Mercy Corps for REVIVE Program – A one year Livelihoods program. The team working on this project is hired. The program activity implementation is projected to start by end of January

• Preemptive Love Coalition (PLC): work on livelihoods projects in Ashti Camp and Arbat Refugee Camp ARC in Sulaimaniyah through direct implementation;
  1. **Empowerment Projects:** provide small business grants (around 1000$, subject to change according to the business idea) for IDP and Refuges focusing especially on women households (women economic empowerment) aiming to change the mentality toward the importance of women intervention in the market. After the small business opening, PLC will continue monitoring to support not only the business establishment but the sustainability too. Around 100 small businesses were established in the KRI from the start of this project (more the 50 small businesses were in Sulaimaniyah)
  2. **WorkWell Project:** Job training program (age 18 – 35). The training entails a set of hierarchy steps (Basic IT, Micro-work and/or Advanced IT, to Freelance) each take two months to be completed and has different criteria
    - **Basic IT:** it’s basic IT material + English language. This Training course is a prerequisite to the other two trainings. Around 180 participants have graduated in Sulaimaniyah alone, since the start of the program in April 2019
    - **Micro-work and/or Advanced IT:**
      - Micro-work: covers data collection and analysis. In addition, the participants will be given trainings on Annotation and segmentation of Media that will be used for Artificial Intelligence. The Micro-work jobs consist of receiving tasks where they will work on annotation and segmentation and receive small amounts of money for completing each task. 153 participants are registered on the Micro-work platform.
      - In the Advanced IT: we added a new class; Social Media Design, which was selected after a Market search that emphasized high job opportunities available for social media specialist and social media designers due to its new emergence in the job market.
      - We also cover Accounting (QuickBooks), WordPress, and other courses offered by the project.
- Freelance: The final step of the project consists of intense resume and cover letter preparations, interview skills, and job search. Around 50 found job opportunities from the start of the project in 2019. Transportation is covered by the PLC program throughout all the trainings.

- This project will end by the end of January, however, there are negotiations of an extension (to be updated in future)

• **Civil Development Organization CDO:** Funded by the KRI Government and mostly covers Sulaimaniyah IDP and Refugees. CDO is currently working on;
  - Manage a Vocational Training center. We deliver training (transportation is covered) for women HH to provide an income generation source for the family
  - Run a Job Center. In the duration of 5 months, 79 individuals got accepted into the employment market – 30 of them were placed in coordination with the GIZ. Also, provide CfW for vulnerable people who seek for daily wage availabilities
    * There is a Facebook page to announce the job opportunities or any other activities of CDO
  - Coordinate with the employers (outreach) and ask them to fill forms on available vacancies, skills and qualifications they demand for the job opportunities. Similarly, jobseekers are asked to fill forms; CDO does the market linkage accordingly
    * CDO will also monitor the jobseekers and job provider for follow-ups and performance progress
  - Provide awareness session on Iraqi labour law, CV writing, and interview skills.

• **International Organization for Migration IOM:** this year’s livelihoods activities focuses on two locations Halabja and Sulaimaniyah
  - IOM conducts an individual market assessment before working on livelihoods project in the area. The data collection process for the mentioned assessment is completed in Halabja and is in the reporting stage, in Sulaimaniyah however, we are still working on the data collection. IOM manages two projects;
    1. **Community Revitalization Program CRP:** a sustainable program in its 9th phase (targets IDP and H.C.) covering all Iraq (15 Governorate). Provides Vocational Trainings (group training), in-Kind Grants (1500$, this about will be adjusted), on Job Training (individual training), Farming trainings, and job placement. All training participants are provided with tools except JP that all grant amount is cash
      - The CRP project includes many services (individual livelihood assistant, business training, infrastructure projects, community engagement, and cash for work) and the project funded by PRM.
    2. A Livelihoods project in Sulaimaniyah and Halabja that targets off-camp refugees
      - IOM also runs Infrastructure projects and Community Engagement Projects in the Livelihoods projects areas (Sulaimaniyah and Halabja) for the aim of increasing impact
      - **Enterprise Development Fund EDF:** provide support to the private sector (Small & Medium Enterprise SME) to expand and/or scale-up their intervention and increase employability – on Iraq level. IOM might cover Sulaimaniyah in future for the mentioned project
      - Also on Iraq level, IOM piloted EDF-i (innovation) project to promote innovation and increase employability
      - IOM has piloted a project with AsiaCell Co. (to support tech based projects) and 51Labs (to provide the trainings). IOM sits in the pitching panels to decide on grant the most promising business idea and job creation possibilities (5000-30000$ grant depending on business type)
      - To receive individual grants, IOM focuses on Khabat, Qaratughan and surrounding areas in
Sulaimaniyah – areas that have less job opportunities. while for the EDF project further details will be later announced online

- IOM works on CfW projects, for example in 2019 in Rzgari, Kalar area – around 70 individuals worked for more than 1000 working days (25$ per day). In 2020, we will have CfW in Sulaimaniyah and Halabja areas

- **Youth Activity Organization YAO:** in partnership with Mercy Corps, YAO works on REVIVE a Livelihoods project that covers Said Sadiq area in Sulaimaniyah and Qushtapa in Erbil. YAO is currently working on hiring the staff that will work on this project. Further details will be shared once we start with the program implementation

- **Danish Refugee Council DRC:** run one livelihoods project that covers Bakrajo, Raparin, Kanakawa, Piramagron and Bazyan in Sulaimaniyah. DRC runs a Job Center for trainings (it can be used by any other I/NGOs or other actors who wish to conduct training/meeting in the center). The project is funded by the GIZ and it consists of three components;
  1. **Livelihoods Activation Grants LAG:** for vulnerable families to sustain an income generation source this is after conducting an assessment and score according to a set of criteria. Later will also fill the MPCA form, a CCI tool, to identify the cash assistant rounds. Then DRC will do Counseling on the selected participants to guide them in the final round (4th round) which they will be provided with Micro Business Grant. The participants will take a Life Skill Training (one day), and before the 4th round, they will take a Literacy Business Training to know how to manage the grant (work on the Business plan)
    
    *MPCS target covers 15 individuals (we will avoid targeting refugees or this component to avoid duplication with the UNHCR)*
  2. **On Job Training & Placement:** DRC will support for 6 months. In the 1st month DRC will provide 100% of the participants’ salary, in 2nd month 75%, 3rd month 50%, from 3rd to 6th month DRC will provide 25% of the salary and the employer will provide the rest). This year’s target is to place 30 individuals
  3. **Scale-up Business Grants:** after filling the assessment form, scoring, business form, then they will go to the Counseling to decide on the 50 individuals who will join the business training. After filling their Business Plan, a committee will be formed to evaluate the business and only 11 will receive the scale-up grant (in two instalments, 4000€ max)

- **Mercy Corps:** has REVIVE Livelihoods project in partnership with KEDO and YAO. Project overview;
  - Covers Said Sadiq (Halabja too through Said Sadiq) and Chamchamal in Sulaimaniyah and Qushtapa in Erbil
  - KEDO is responsible for Chamchamal area, YAO is responsible on Said Sadiq and Qushtapa
  - The program will provide a Transferable Skills and Career Development TS&CD training for all the participants (IDP, H.C., Refugee and Returnee; minimum 30% female and 10% disabled person; age 18 ≥) on the last day they will go through the pathway interview and decide on how they want to continue their engagement in REVIVE;
    1. **Shared Value Partnership (pilot):** this intervention target 20 skilled participants with experience. Payments are due either in 50% between Mercy Corps and the Employer (3months each) to pay the participants’ salary. Or similar to the DRC, in the 1st month Mercy Corps will provide 100% of the participants’ salary, in 2nd month 75%, 3rd month 50%, 4th month 25%, until the employer will provide 100% of the payment by the end * Depending on the company size and financial policies, the payment method will be decided
2. **Internship**: targets around 65 participants in Sulaimaniyah. Only employers with micro businesses will be provided with a small stipends as support to their business.

3. **Startup and Scale-up Business Grants**: similar to what’s mentioned by the actors however, the startup grant is (5000€) and the scale-up grant is (4000€)
   - Startup grants participants will revive a Basic Business Training
   - Scale-up grants participants will not participate in the TS&CD training, rather will be filtered into the program directly
   - The program will host Job fairs, Scale-up and Startup Business events for the purpose of increasing participation and engagement with the private sector and promote market linkage
   - **Market Development System MSD** is also one of the paths that REVIVE will work on with the aim to support the companies (private sector) to create job opportunities through consultation and training chains with the business owners (SME)
   - Currently, our Partners are in the recruitment process, Mercy Corps is signing MoUs to start working in the Hubs/ centers per the mentioned locations in Chamchamal and Said Sadiq, the service mapping will be finished by this month, to identify the shared value partnership with the companies who are willing to participate, Business Development Support BDS, and identify the business owners who are willing to engage in the internship pathway

- **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GIZ**: in Sulaimaniyah does direct implementation of CfW (25,000 IQD/40 days) BNFs have to Disconnect with GIZ CFW intervention for 6 months to be able to register again for another round of CFW project
  - Work in the city center and surrounding areas in Sulaimaniyah, Erbil and Dohuk
  - As livelihoods in Sulaimaniyah, GIZ is implementing though Mercy Corps, DRC, HI, PLC, and Rwanga Foundation
  - GIZ is a technical implementing agency fund by BMZ (Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development), and acts according to commissions given by the BMZ. Each commission is a “programme”, specifically focusing on income-generation in KR-I, the new name of this programme which I am representing is: “Employment Promotion for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees, Returnees and socially deprived households in host communities”.
  - Focus has been KR-I so far (last 3 years), however need to expand to Ninewa but that’s under discussion (since different programmes of GIZ are already working there).
  - Strategically, this GIZ program in KRI promotes sustainability in employment and income generation, although short-term access to income activities is still done directly through CFW.
  - GIZ Has a new project with ILO to standardize BDS and unify materials for I/NGOs or Iraq actors, further details will be provided in future meetings. GIZ implementing partners will also be a part in this and receive the training accordingly depending on ILO’s criteria
  - Graduates of the training will act as a certified trainer/freelancer to support others in conducting future trainings in SIYB
  - GIZ wants our partners to highly coordinate amongst each other to avoid duplication and make sure all are on the same page, unitedly for the same cause
### 4. Actions & AoBs

**ABO:**
For actors to share any Livelihoods assessments or reports that’s conducted on Sulaimaniyah Governorate and the surrounding areas level, if willing. Later will share them with the ELC to be shared on the Humanitarian Response website.

**Action:**
The Sulaimaniyah Livelihoods online Service Mapping sheet to be circulated amongst the Sulaimaniyah Livelihoods actors in the area and to be filled by Monday COB (13th Jan)

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