Concept note

Technical workshop on psychosocial support for vulnerable populations

Beirut – Dec 19, 2017

Rationale

Over the past six years, nearly 5 million people have fled the conflict in Syria and sought refuge in neighboring countries in the Middle East region such as Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey. This massive exodus is causing multiple traumas (due to the conflict, the exile, the marginalization of the refugees, domestic violence, etc.) which increase the vulnerability of the populations, host and refugee. Addressing these traumas is key for the stability of host countries and for the reconstruction of Syria.

Humanitarian actors provide an immediate response in the health sector, including psychosocial care. But, as the crisis continues, the traumas become embedded and vulnerabilities are increasing. These traumas require long-term care which raises the question of the involvement of development actors in supporting the provision of psychosocial support in Syria's neighboring countries.

To address some of the above challenges, this workshop will be organized in Beirut to share experiences on current activities in the field of psychosocial care and to prepare for an adequate and coordinated response to meet the psychosocial needs.

Objectives

The objective of the technical workshop is to get an overview of the existing psychosocial support programs (NGO and government-led) in order to better address the needs of the host and refugee populations in Lebanon. Although this first workshop will mainly focus on Lebanon, experiences from the region (Jordan, Iraq and Turkey) can be shared in order to put the Lebanese experience in a regional perspective.

The workshop aims to define the main challenges encountered and the related priorities for ensuring the continuity and the scaling up of programs. The identification of country-specific challenges and regional issues, through benchmarking, networking and learning, will bring coherence to the psychosocial support programs for the displaced populations in the region.
**Target Audience**

This one day technical workshop is designed for a medium-sized group of selected participants (20-25) and will not be open to the public. Participants will include representatives of local and international NGOs working on psychosocial care in Lebanon; concerned or involved IFIs and agencies (WB, UNHCR, AFD, WHO); representatives of the Lebanese ministry of public health (MoPH) in charge of psychosocial support programs; and regional stakeholders who can bring insight on what is being done in the neighboring countries (Jordan, Iraq).

**Expected Outcomes**

The workshop will focus on (i) building experience on the ongoing programs in order to (ii) identify the needs and priorities and (iii) pave the way for the implementation of further enhanced and improved programs. More specifically, the expected outcomes are the following:

(i) Getting an overview/Stocktaking of psychosocial actors and beneficiaries in Lebanon. The workshop will help produce a mapping of interventions in the field of psychosocial support. It will focus on the type of beneficiaries (host or refugees, gender, age range); the geographic location of projects; the budgets allocated and the source of funding; and most importantly, the difficulties encountered (institutional bottlenecks, geographic constraints, difficulties in reaching the beneficiaries, etc.).

(ii) Identifying the populations in need, the geographic locations which are not (and should be) covered, and the financing gap. The workshop will explore the financing opportunities to pursue ongoing psychosocial support programs, to expand and diversify them, and to create new ones, in accordance with identified needs and priorities.

(iii) Conceiving a modus operandi: exploring the possibilities of co-ordination between actors; identifying the country-specific challenges and the regional stakes; identifying the conditions for a sustainable management of psychosocial support programs by the public authorities; and examining the possibilities for a scaling up of these programs.

This first technical workshop will pave the way for a larger workshop in 2018, with a regional ambition and scope, in collaboration with the CMI and the WB.

**Organization and funding**

The workshop is organized by AFD which will provide for logistics arrangements and venue, staff time for workshop preparation and implementation, and funding of experts as needed and appropriate.

The CMI and/or the WB would contribute through staff time and/or the funding of regional and international experts through the CMI MDTF.

COM issues will be managed jointly by the AFD, the WB and the CMI.