UN-HABITAT LEBANON
COVID-19 UNIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES
RAPID ASSESSMENTS
COVID-19 UNIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES: RAPID ASSESSMENTS

Overview of presentation

1. Objective
2. Methodology
3. Geographic coverage
4. Preliminary findings
5. Preliminary recommendations
6. Next steps & discussion

Iqlim El Kharroub El Jnoubi Union
Objective of Rapid Assessments

1. Lebanon close to 90% urban by population; 65% residing along the four main coastal cities; one of the most densely populated countries in the world.

2. In line with UN & Government of Lebanon COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, MoIM directives, UN GHRP, UN-Habitat global and regional plans.

3. Local authorities are at the frontline in responding to COVID-19.

4. Identify key urban challenges relating to the response (WaSH, isolation centres, livelihoods, shelter) and propose mitigating measures in the most vulnerable locations.

5. Contribute to a broader coordinated response by complementing and leveraging actions by others.
UN-Habitat Lebanon Country Programme
COVID-19 Crisis Response Plan

COVID-19 Field Rapid Assessment Checklist

The rapid assessment will involve qualitative data gathered based on a set of interviews and review of available reports and materials. Interviews should be held in the form of a discussion and not Q&As. The below points will help in guiding the discussion where relevant. Unnecessary points not to be raised during the interviews.

1. General information
   - Estimate # of population residing within the Union
   - # of Syrian refugees – locations?
   - % of poor Lebanese – locations?
   - # of confirmed Covid-19 cases? # admitted to hospital/s? location? # subject to quarantine?
     Location/s? gender? age? vulnerability?

2. Measures undertaken by the Union/municipalities to contain Covid-19
   - Has the union or other agency undertaken a Covid-19 assessment? When? Report?
   - Union’s and municipal capacities to implement Government and MoM decisions? Gaps and challenges?
   - List actions and activities undertaken by municipalities to implement the decisions? Gaps and challenges?
   - Availability of sufficient financial and human resources? Equipment? Supplies?
   - Existing Union/municipal response plan/s
     - Impact of the current lockdown on population, mainly vulnerable groups? Measures taken to support? Challenges?

3. Coordination and collaboration frameworks
   - Existing coordination structure/s? Which level/s? (governor, MoPH, MoM, etc.)
   - Frequency of meetings? Locations? Implementation of decisions?
   - Collaboration with UN or Int’l agencies, NGOs? What, Who? Where & When?
   - Focal persons leading/attending the coordination meetings and liaising with agencies/NGOs
   - Gaps and challenges?

4. Need for a local quarantine
   - Intention of the Union to establish quarantine locations for Covid-19 minor cases
   - Availability of the location? Capacity? Previous usage? Ownership?
   - The need to refurbish the location? Availability of funds? Need for technical assessment?

5. Water and Sanitation
   - Availability of communal handwashing stations? Need? Where?

6. Urgent Needs
   - Main challenges?
   - Human resources, # and capacities?
   - Equipment, supplies and materials?
   - Technical support?
   - Financial needs?

7. Awareness
   - Is there general awareness on how to protect against Covid-19? Gaps? Any particular groups? Any needs to focus on more, if so where?
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Methodology

1. Identification of UoM’s: located in districts with COVID-19 cases.
2. Development of checklist in line with Ministry of Interior and Municipalities memo, dated 19 March 2020: qualitative data and 8 thematic areas.
3. Each Field Team composed of 3 persons: Technical and social backgrounds.
4. Interviews with Heads of Unions of Municipalities and site visits if needed.
6. Compilation of field reports into 1 comprehensive report.
7. Identify immediate, medium and long term needs to support.
COVID-19 UNIONs OF MUNICIPALITIES: RAPID ASSESSMENTS

Geographic coverage

1. 33 Unions of Municipalities
2. 23 districts (except Beirut, Rachaya & Hasbaya)
3. 657 municipalities
4. Covering 3+ million Lebanese population
5. More than 700,000 Syrian refugees
6. 180,000 Palestinian Refugees from Lebanon
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<td>UoM Deir el Ahmar (Baalbeck)</td>
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<td>UoM Charek Zahle</td>
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<td>Keserwen Ftouh</td>
<td>UoM El Qalaa (Bint Jbeil)</td>
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<td>UoM Hermel</td>
<td>UoM Jabal Amel (Marjeyoun)</td>
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Preliminary findings

1. Unions and Municipalities fully engaged in the COVID-19 response despite limited resources.

2. Following national level directives, however, engagement is chaotic due to the multiple directives coming from national level compared to existing skills/expertise and to the shortage of funds.

3. “Crisis Cells” established at the Governorate/District levels to follow up on lockdown and COVID-19 cases — Unions and municipalities formed “emergency committees” engaging NGOs, Moukhtars, scouts, university students, etc., to respond to COVID-19.

4. Local response exclude Syrian and Palestine refugees which, according to mayors, should be the responsibility of UNHCR and UNRWA — not in line with the national One Health Response.

5. Precautionary measures applied: high visibility, low impact, absence of know-how.

6. Municipalities are obliged to support those struggling to survive.
Preliminary findings

5. The involvement of municipalities in identifying/preparing isolation centers not based on clear guidance or procedures. Many costly initiatives started without proper assessment.

6. Municipalities raised serious concerns about the limited presence of UN + int’l community.

7. Access to clean water is not granted at all household levels, especially in most disadvantaged neighborhoods. Municipalities lack sufficient funds to provide clean water.

9. Wastewater, solid waste and medical waste not properly managed. This may cause a wide transmission of the virus in case it can live for a long time in wastewater and solid waste.

10. Awareness raising campaigns on COVID-19 are being conducted through different instruments, yet messages are not necessarily accurate and relevant. Local skills and experience to deal with such crisis are lacking.
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Preliminary findings on critical needs of vulnerable populations

1. According to mayors, interventions at the level of the Syrian and Palestine refugees have been minimal and limited to the distribution of some hygiene materials.

2. WaSH services within ITSs have been provided in an irregular manner which causes many environmental challenges within hosting communities.

3. The response strategy/procedures to potential COVID-19 cases amongst refugees are unclear.

4. Access to clean water within most disadvantaged communities is questionable. Municipalities do not have the resources to deal with such a challenge.

5. Families who are already under the poverty line are becoming poorer. The socio-economic conditions of those families has become very critical.
UN-Habitat assessing a suggested quarantine location (Kuwaiti Centre Mall), owned by the Federation of Minieh Municipalities, consisting of two floors about 2000 sq meter each floor.

UN-Habitat discussing with the Federation of Municipalities of Zgharta Caza that covers 52 villages, the current situation in the region, measures being implemented and their needs to respond to the COVID-19 challenge.
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Preliminary recommendations

1. **Urgent needs:** WaSH, wastewater, solid waste, livelihoods, PPE/hygiene + awareness.

2. Immediately design programmes and projects that target the rapidly growing number of vulnerable Lebanese in addition to Syrian and Palestine refugees.

3. Municipalities should be urgently technically supported to adequately implement MoIM and MoPH COVID-19 directives. Current practices are likely to be cost ineffective.

4. Multi-sectoral & multi-dimensional interventions and projects at municipal level should be jointly developed for immediate implementation.

5. The large and costly established/to be established isolation centres to be revisited based on actual needs.
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Preliminary recommendations

5. Advise/support municipalities on COVID-19 WaSH implications, mainly on the disposal of medical waste.

6. Quick solutions should be implemented ensuring sufficient supply of clean water in areas with high vulnerabilities.

7. Promote COVID-19 related income generating projects that may provide temporary jobs to vulnerable population groups; women, refugees, youth, etc. This involves the production of locally made masks, disinfection and sterilizing materials.

8. Promote urban farming projects to support families, mainly women, returning to settle in their villages/towns of origin.
## COVID-19 UNIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES: RAPID ASSESSMENTS

### Next steps: responding to immediate needs — matrix snapshot

#### UN-Habitat Lebanon - COVID-19 Rapid Assessments: Identified projects to support most urgent needs

| April 2020 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| **Gov** | **District** | **UoM** | **Quarantine** | **Water** | **Waste Water** | **Solid Waste** | **Livelihoods** | **PPE + Hygiene** | **Awareness** |
| Baalbeck-Hermel | Charak Btaille | Quarantine | A potential location in Bdeyrael that need refurbishment and equipment | Provide water filters to ensure clean water supply (WE) | - | - | Support women in agro-business | Provision of protection supplies and disinfection materials | Providing awareness for waste workers on safe collection and sorting of contaminated waste |
| | Baalbeck | Quarantine | 2 locations are available in 2 villages. Both need complete refurbishment and equipment: | - | - | - | Support the house-farming project through provision of vegetables seeds and plants | Provision of protection supplies and disinfection materials | - |
| | Mintaqat Deir el Ahmar | Quarantine | Construction of water collection ponds to feed home gardens with irrigation water | - | - | - | - | Provision of protection supplies and disinfection materials | - |
| | Hermel | Quarantine | Ambulance to transport suspected cases | Provide water networks to un-connected neighborhoods | Complete the sewage network in some neighborhoods | Pickup | - | - |
| Bekaa | West Beqaa | Quarantine | 1. Building under construction needs equipment (12 beds & sheets etc.) 2. Existing Medical clinic needs equipment (6 beds & sheets etc.) 3. Respiratory equipment | Handwashing stations | - | - | - | - |
| | El Boulaara | Quarantine | A building exists, yet requires refurbishment and equipping | Handwashing stations | - | - | Provision of protection supplies and disinfection materials | - |
| | El Beqaa Awaal | Quarantine | Possible need of equipment for quarantine locations | 1. Handwashing stations 2. Electrical station (i.e. solar panels) | - | - | Provision of protection supplies and disinfection materials | - |
| | Jbail | Quarantine | A building exists, yet requires refurbishment | - | - | - | Support + funding an extension of the Cash support to needy families | Provision of protection supplies and disinfection materials | - |
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UN-Habitat Rapid Assessment Report
COVID-19 projects Provision of Handwashing stations

**Project Title:** Equipping vulnerable urban populations including refugees and migrants with WaSH facilities to mitigate the impact of COVID-19

**Donor:** UN-Habitat HQ.

**Targeted Areas:** Beirut (Sabra + Daouk and Ghawash) and Bourj Hammoud (Nabaa + Maraach)

**Completed activities:**
- Complete design of Hand Washing Stations and technical dossiers
- Coordination with both municipalities of Beirut and Bourj Hammoud
- Identification and validation of HWSs locations through field visits to the neighborhoods:
  - 5 in Sabra, 4 in Daouk and Ghawash, 8 in Nabaa, 3 in Maraach and surroundings.
- Development of a communication plan, awareness plan, and video script.

**Planned activities:**
- Production of the stations (end of June)
- Drafting MoUs with each municipality as handing over of the HWS.
- Mobilizing and training community volunteers on conducting awareness activities.
- Development of IPC materials (posters, roll-up, pamphlets...) + video production.
COVID-19 projects Distribution of Hygiene Kits

**Project Title:** Providing life-saving COVID-19 protection gear to vulnerable urban communities in Lebanese cities, including refugees and migrants

**Donor:** Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

**Targeted Area:** Beirut, Sabra including the following neighbourhoods: El Jazzar, El Daouk, Saida Ghawash, Ghazza Buildings, Salwa El Hout, and Hay El Basha

**Beneficiaries:** +2,100 Lebanese, +1,300 Syrian, +1000 Palestinian, +14 Other nationalities (Data was collected via household survey)

**Project Partner:** Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD)

**Project Activities:**
- Door to Door awareness and distribution of vouchers
- Distribution of 992 hygiene kits
- Provision of awareness messages for households on basic COVID-19 hygiene principles and rational use of the kit

**Timeline:** June 2020

**Video link:** https://we.tl/t-ZRGfQJJFBU