

LHIF in 2017

This document represents a projection – prepared by the Secretariat with input from the Steering Committee – of LHIF’s focus and work for 2017, based on the existing member-approved Strategic Directions and taking into account LHIF work to-date and evolution of the context.

Refugee Rights & Protection – Strategic Direction IA

- **Status of Refugees** (SDI-Ai1, AO 1.1): Continuing advocacy and “watchdog” work on legal status
 - Consultation with/within UNHCR in Protection-Advocacy Group
 - Analyzing, highlighting and raising status-related issues to the HCT and donors, e.g. (based on current known issues, although also noted that others are likely to arise):
 - Concerns around the proposed, and – if relevant – implementation of, the attestation.
 - Is the removal of the pledge not to work being applied and is it having a positive/negative/non-impact?
 - Concerns around protection of Recorded, Inactivated and Unregistered refugees
- **Livelihoods** (SDI-Ai2, AO1.2): Expanding work on the link between residency/status and decent work
 - In coordination with ILO and other UN allies, work to have the link between sponsorship and workplace exploitation become understood by HCT and donors as a key concern and strive to get it adopted within high-level advocacy points and livelihoods planning
 - Track and provide “watchdog” role on London commitments around refugees’ access work and on issues of workplace abuse and exploitation more broadly
- **Access to Services and Assistance** (SDI-Ai3, AO1.3): Illustrate degradation of vulnerability; ensure access regardless of UNHCR registration status, legal status, or nationality
 - Ongoing work on Education and push for out-of-school children to have meaningful access to formal or non-formal education (e.g., by removing barriers to education, and by removing the most debilitating restrictions on NGOs ability to support)
 - Increasing advocacy around the needs and vulnerabilities of PRS and PRL.
 - Starting in Q4 2016 and into 2017, increased work around highlighting barriers to obtaining assistance (e.g., healthcare, food/cash assistance, education, etc.)
- **Voluntary, safe and dignified return** (SDI-Aii1, AO2), starting in Q4 2016 and continuing in 2017:
 - Consensus building via analysis, roundtables, etc. among INGOs/donors/HCT/local NGOs/others, “beyond the redlines”, concept of voluntariness, populations that won’t be able to return, etc.
 - Enhancing messaging on the need for a political solution to the conflict in Syria, in coordination with other regional and global NGO fora
 - “Watchdog” role on voluntary return
- **Resettlement** (SD1-Aii2, AO 3): Increase resettlement of Syrians from Lebanon
 - Ongoing advocacy on the need for it and benefit of it (starting in 2016 and continuing)
 - Tracking of/reporting on resettlement from Lebanon, compared to September 2016 and other targets, as well as with other countries

Planned, Integrated Response – Strategic Direction IB

- **NGO engagement in response planning and coordination** (SDI-Bi1):
 - Continued advocacy to get/keep NGOs at the table (as necessary)
 - Support to NGOs who are at the table to better engage at all levels (e.g., at sector level, via coordination orientations, briefings for new CDs, etc.)
 - Ongoing mutual support and collaboration with LINGOs on NGO engagement and operational issues of common concern

- Evidence-based, Inclusive Programming (SDI-Bi2): Based on member-raised (and preferably member-led) concerns and priorities
 - Advocacy for inclusion of affected-population groups being left out of response planning/policy or assistance eligibility/delivery (e.g., Recorded-Inactivated-Unregistered Syrians, PRS, PRL).
 - Increased coordination work around inclusion of PRS/PRL in the response, specifically.
 - “Watchdog” function on the evidence-base, e.g., highlighting to donors/HCT when the numbers don’t add up, are missing, or are counter to on-the-ground experience
 - Ongoing advocacy at sector and HCT level for transparency in information sharing and vulnerability determinations (e.g., Food/Cash assistance eligibility)
- Longer-term Thinking/Financing (SDI-Bii): Ongoing advocacy messaging for increased development funding to Lebanon (notably to create jobs and support municipalities) that is not at the expense of humanitarian funding (which needs to maintain), even if/when the conflict in Syria ends
 - Explore – in next LHIF Strategic Planning (Q1 2017) – member interest in expanding advocacy around the transition to development approaches and the needs of vulnerable Lebanese

Operational/Humanitarian Space – Strategic Direction II

- Visas, Work Permits & INGO Registration (SDII-A): Ongoing advocacy
 - Handover of information tracking, analysis and case management to OCHA (should be completed by end of 2016, but remains to be seen)
 - Co-Chair Access Task Force and maintain strong link between ATF and LHIF membership on visa, work permit and INGO registration issues
 - Trouble-shoot new and urgent developments as necessary
- GOL policies on programming/response (SDII-B): Ongoing advocacy for NGO operational space
 - At the sector level, where possible, supporting members to build productive consensus with GOL lead Ministries on approach and role of NGOs
 - Highlight emerging access issues – such as government project and partner approval processes – and close work to track and address them with/through the Access Task Force, HCT and donors
 - Trouble-shoot new and urgent developments as necessary

Representation – Strategic Direction III

- Ongoing facilitation of strong INGO representation in the HCT, LCRP Process, LDF, and other response leadership bodies as necessary, as well as collectively with the RC/HC, UNHCR Representative, donors or other stakeholders as requested/necessary
- Ongoing networking with national/local NGOs and other NGO fora regionally and globally

Communications – Strategic Direction III

- Ongoing information circulation via email, and maintaining contact lists
- Production and distribution of Newsletter (adjusting as necessary to be useful), and other tools to increase understanding of who LHIF is and what we do with members and external stakeholders
- Re-vamp of website and roll out of intranet (should be completed in 2016, but may roll into 2017)

Administration/Governance – Strategic Direction III

- Ongoing grant, financial, and human resources management in accordance with host agency policies
- Ongoing forum and membership management in accordance with LHIF Governance Framework