

The 19th Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) meeting

League of Arab States Headquarters, Cairo, Egypt

26-27 November 2013

Talking Points

- OCHA ROMENA would like to use the occasion of the 19th Regional Coordination Mechanism to update participants on our partnership with the League of Arab States (LAS), particularly with the Health and Humanitarian Division.
- On 29 May 2013, the Secretariat General of LAS and UNOCHA signed on a joint Plan of Action (PoA) that reinforces cooperation on humanitarian issues. The PoA sets out a framework for regular dialogue and exchange of information between the two organizations, and provisions for closer coordination in humanitarian response.
- The Plan also focuses on ensuring better preparedness for emergencies, building regional humanitarian response capacity and carrying out joint efforts in resource mobilization and advocacy. It is an opportunity to build on our longstanding collaboration with LAS and take it one step further in the effort to address humanitarian needs in the region.
- As part of this collaboration, OCHA ROMENA has recently been supporting the Health and Humanitarian Assistance Division in partnership with the Crisis Room Department in the development of a humanitarian workshop scheduled for the third week of January 2014 (exact dates to be confirmed).
- The workshop aims to establish a humanitarian network among LAS Member States with the aim of improving humanitarian coordination in the region – the network would act as a platform for information sharing, exchange of expertise, partnerships and policy dialogue. Furthermore, LAS would like to use this new proposed structure to develop an Arab humanitarian strategy that would provide an overriding framework for greater coordination and collaboration in the region.
- The platform could also help facilitate the regional consultations that LAS has agreed to organize in the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.
- We would like to stress the importance of ensuring coordinated UN support for these activities. In this regard, I would like to invite fellow UN colleagues to come together and discuss how we can best provide support that ensures LAS is able to achieve their outlined objectives. OCHA ROMENA will make arrangements to convene this dialogue. Many of these plans are ambitious, but they are also an indication of the seriousness and importance LAS is giving to improving humanitarian action in the region.