Joint Meeting between Protection and Livelihoods Sectors

Meeting Minutes

Time & Location: Thursday, 28 April 2022, 13.30-15.45 hrs / Zoom

Chairs: Lara Özügergin – Assistant Inter-Agency Coordination Officer (UNHCR)

Hande Gürdağ Uzuner – Livelihoods Sector Coordinator (UNDP)

Participants: AAR Japan, AID Uluslararası Doktorlar Derneği, Alresala Foundation, ASAM, Atlas Relief and Development International, Bonyan, Buca Municipality, Building Markets, CARE Turkey, Concern Worldwide, Danish Refugee Council, DG Echo, DRC, El-Bir Yardımlaşma ve Dayanışma Derneği, FAO, Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce, GIZ, Global Educational Research Association, GOAL, HRDF, IDA, IFRC, IGAM, IKGV, ILO, INGEV, Inogar Kooperatifi, İnsani Şam Derneği, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, IOM, İzmir Metropolitan Municipality, JCCP-REALs, KADAV, KEDV, LEAP, Leader Woman Association, MAAN, Malatya Şam Derneği, MdM Turkey, MSYDD, MUDEM-RSC, Mültecilerle Dayanışma Derneği, Orange, Qatar Charity, Refugee Rights Turkey, Relief International, Sağlıkta Genç Yaklaşımlar Derneği, Save the Children, SENED Organization, SEVKAR, Solidarity, Respect and Protect Organization, SPI, SUMAF, Support to Life, TAS, TRC, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDO, UOSSM Der, US Embassy PRM, Violet Organization, WALD, Watan Foundation, The World Bank, WHH, WFP, YYD

Meeting Agenda:

I. Welcome and Introductions
II. Overview of Protection Sector Activities
III. Overview of Livelihoods Sector Activities
IV. Recap of Available Referral Related Tools
V. Presentation of key findings from the Joint Survey
VI. Deep-Dive into Referrals between Sectors
VII. Way Forward and Closure
VIII. AoB

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Introductions

- The aim of the joint meeting between Livelihoods and Protection Sector was introduced to participants. Based on the observations in the field and per feedback received from partners, the necessity of strengthening cross-sectoral response between Livelihoods and Protection was identified as a priority. A series of meetings will be organized between the two sectors to facilitate deep-dive into certain thematic areas of collaboration.
- The first meeting will be focusing on referrals between Livelihoods and Protection Sectors. The upcoming meetings of this series (the details will be communicated once confirmed) will take place before the 3RP planning period starts and will be focusing on programming

(including related to accountability to affected populations within programming and protection mainstreaming within livelihoods programmes) and exploitative labour practices.

Agenda Item #2: Overview of Protection Sector Activities

- Lara Özügergin, Assistant Inter-Agency Coordination Officer at UNHCR, delivered a presentation on the overview of protection sector activities which will be made available via email.
- The presentation included protection sector objectives, sector activities, stakeholders that the sector works with, persons of concern targeted through interventions, and the thematic priorities that were identified for the National Protection Working Group for 2022.

Agenda Item #3: Overview of Livelihoods Sector Activities

- Hande Gürdağ Uzuner, the Livelihoods Sector Coordinator at UNDP, delivered a presentation on the overview of livelihoods sector activities which will be made available via email.
- The presentation included livelihoods sector objectives and activities, and sector priorities for 2022.

Agenda Item #4: Recap of Available Referral Related Tools

- A recap of available Inter-Agency level referral tools was facilitated, including the Inter-Agency Referral Form (IARF), the Livelihoods Profiling Form and Services Advisor (I.e. service mapping platform).
- The IARF was developed and rolled out by the National Protection Working Group at the end of 2018 to strengthen referral pathways and establish minimum standards between and within the sectors. Since 2018, protection partners have been using this tool very widely to be able to refer cases in a standardized manner. It is a living document with regular revisions/updates based on the feedback from national and field level partners from different 3RP sectors. The latest update/revision was made in September 2021. The IARF package and the forms are accessible from the DropBox link. The package is available in English and Turkish; and the form itself is available in various languages including Arabic, Farsi, Turkish and English.
- A training was organized in September 2021, to introduce a revised version of the IARF and the package and also to promote wider use of the existing inter-agency referral mechanism across 3RP Sectors. If you have not participated and/or are not familiar with the IARF, please kindly contact Lara Özügergin (ozugergi@unhcr.org) and Levent Ekşi (eksi@unhcr.org) for further assistance.
- The IARF contains only “need-to-know” basis information and it is aligned with the Data Protection Law in Turkey. The package also includes step-by-step information on how to fill out the form and practical information for the referral processes.
- Services Advisor was developed by UNHCR’s Information Management Unit at the national level to provide a platform map services available to refugees and asylum seekers and to

increase coordination among service providers. If you and/or your organization are not familiar with the platform, please kindly contact Levent Ekşi (eksi@unhcr.org) and Orhan Afşin (afsin@unhcr.org) for further assistance.

- **Action Point:** A training/workshop will be organized for the Services Advisor for 3RP sectors. A consultation will also be held to seek feedback from partners on the platform. Details of the training will be communicated once confirmed.

- The Livelihoods Sector Profiling Form was introduced to sector members. The Profiling Form is developed by the Livelihoods Sector to be able to i) create a standardized form to facilitate livelihoods referrals; ii) to collect data on the available/existent skills of individuals; iii) to be used (particularly by livelihoods actors) as part of the referral process to be sent with the IARF if the referral is specific to livelihoods. The form is filled out via an interview with the individual. A step-by-step guide was provided during the presentation for the non-livelihoods sector partners, which is available in the meeting presentation on slide number 18. If further assistance is needed, please kindly contact Hande Gürdağ Uzuner (hande.uzuner@undp.org) and Tunç Gündüz (tunc.gunduz@undp.org).

Discussion Points

- Further systematization of the Services Advisor and the IARF was highlighted as future endeavors. UNHCR Information Management Working Group Coordinator mentioned that the digitalization process of the IARF will be the end goal where it will be integrated within the Services Advisor platform. A meeting will be held with interested organizations to discuss the digitalization process/project.
- It was highlighted that the Livelihoods Sector Profiling Form is currently working on establishing impact surveys and assessments to be able to understand the employment situation of individuals who are referred to employment opportunities. Long-term follow-up is being made by partners individually up to a certain point. Reporting is currently taking place via Activity Info however this does not necessarily allow for the follow-up of individuals' employment situations.
- There are no available up-to-date statistics on referrals. However, once the Livelihoods Sector Profiling Form is used widely, the necessary indicators will be presented in the sector dashboards. The relevant sector dashboards can be accessible from UNHCR Data Portal.
    - **Action Point:** Livelihoods sector may potentially discuss identifying indicators for their sector partners to report on the referrals.
- The Livelihoods Sector Coordinator highlighted that there is close collaboration with the private sector while referring individuals to an employment opportunity. There are ongoing incentives provided by the sector to the employees for individuals' social security and work

permit procedures. In addition to referring individuals to employment opportunities, the sector also provides information sessions for the employees.

- **Action Point:** Establishing common information tools regarding the labour market, employment regulations, work permits or business establishment is crucial to contribute to a greater outreach in establishing decent work opportunities and self reliance both for refugees and vulnerable host community member. The Livelihood Sector working group had made two surveys to collect existing information on employment and business establishment here. All Protection and Livelihood sector members are requested to fill out the survey to submit available information tools to be mainstreamed.

- Concerns were raised with regards to the categorization of the Livelihoods Sector Profiling Form by further categorizing the individuals which may create additional vulnerabilities. The Livelihoods Sector Coordinator highlighted that the Livelihoods Profiling Form can be used in a manner that not only to be used for the livelihoods opportunities/employment opportunity but also to be used for other services/opportunities referrals such as literacy programs, vocational and language courses, mentoring programmes and certification of available skills to prevent further vulnerability and create an expectation of formal and decent job placement. The Protection Sector Coordinator also highlighted the importance of running the referral process uniquely per the individual's specific needs.
- Concerns were raised around some questions in the Livelihoods Profiling Form. Per the previous experiences, individuals tend to leave blank and/or have reservations about the questions of "previous work experience, company name, etc" due to their informal work status, therefore, based on these experiences some organizations do not include these questions in their referral form. However, the Livelihoods Coordinator highlighted that the Form has been developed as a result of inclusive consultation processes and the mentioned questions are identified as beneficialquestions to be able to make an effective referral however in the case of doubt or hesitation any question can be skipped based on the preference by the interviewee
- Reservations are mentioned about the digitalization process of the referral forms, as the process may result in delays to initiate case management processes. The Information Management Working Group Coordinator indicated that there is an information field at the beginning of the IARF where referring organizations are requested to identify the emergency/priority level for the referral. In the digitalized version, there could be deadlines/reminders to be sent to the relevant organizations to further facilitate the process.

Agenda Item #5 and #6: Presentation of key findings from the Joint Survey and Deep-Dive into Referrals between Sectors

- Livelihoods and Protection coordination team administered a survey prior to the meeting, which is available in English and Turkish.
    - **Action Point:** The survey will remain open for entries for the coming weeks. Partners who have not yet provided inputs are kindly requested to do so, as feedback received will inform future discussions.

Discussion Points

- It was highlighted that many LGBTIQ+ and GBV survivors face challenges and tend to drop out of the ongoing courses due to the trainer's attitude toward them. Therefore, they face challenges while accessing livelihood opportunities. Protection Working Coordinator mentioned identifying mutual and cross-sectoral solutions/recommendations on the different types of challenges that are faced.
- Partners mention that many of beneficiaries are not able to participate in available trainings/courses due to the prioritization of the individuals who do not have a language barrier. It was also mentioned that the most vulnerable individuals are not being selected for such activities.
- UNHCR Livelihoods Team informed that they are currently prioritizing strengthening partnerships with Directorate General for International Labour Force and are facilitating activities for this year and next year. Additionally, they are currently discussing with DGILF to establish a public and private sector dialogue platform, as private sector entities have a key role. The goal is to bring together the public institutions, I/NGOs, and private sector representatives to discuss developing long-term policies to be able to respond to the current needs of refugees.
    - **Action Point:** UNHCR Livelihoods Team will further inform the sector members on the developments on the partnership with DGILF and the establishment of a dedicated platform between private and public sectors, UN agencies, and I/NGOs.
- SENED informed that there are ongoing projects with Livelihoods and Protection that target persons with disabilities. PSS sessions and entrepreneurship training, capacity building grants, and coaching are some elements within the project. In addition to these, information sessions are being provided on business registration. With regards to registering businesses, they observe reservations by refugees due to fear of losing disability salary and ESSN Cards.
- It was highlighted that the paid courses are being used as a temporary livelihoods opportunity by both host and refugee communities. A mechanism that will enable individuals to sell their homemade products should be established for individuals who cannot leave their house due to various reasons (with complementary medium term interventions to facilitate these individuals leaving their houses as well). In addition to the information sessions on formal work; there should be gender-based awareness sessions about working outside the home. It

was highlighted that the projects and programmes should not feed the traditional gender roles and should be gender transformative in this regard.

- It was mentioned that advocacy should be undertaken to revise national legislation on cooperatives to allow for refugee women who would like to be founding members of a cooperative.

Agenda Item #7: Way Forward and Closure

- Due to time limitations and considering the interest of partners to continue discussing linkages, a full-day and in-person workshop will be organized between the two sectors to facilitate further deep dives into potential collaboration areas.
  - **Action Point:** In-person and full-day workshop will be organized between the Livelihoods and Protection Sectors for further deep-dive discussions on referrals and identify further collaboration between the two sectors, around mid-June. Further details will be communicated to the members accordingly.
  - **Action Point:** Due to the full-day workshop that will take place around mid-June, the National Protection Working Group Meeting will not take place in May.

Agenda Item #8: AoB

- Participants are informed about the Disability and Inclusion Summit that will take place on May 26th, 2022. Relief International (RI) will host an online Disability and Inclusion Summit on the 26th of May 2022, to create a space where all relevant parties can share recent studies, experiences, challenges, lessons learned, and best practices on programs for people with disabilities. Despite the urgent need to adequately include persons with disabilities in programs, serious gaps still remain in understanding the burden and barriers for persons with disability across Turkey. If you would like to participate in the Summit, please fill out this form. Further details of the Summit are accessible from here.
- The members are informed about the Out of School Workshop session on vocational and technical education as an alternative formal education pathway for adolescents that are allowed to work per relevant legislation in Turkey. Further discussion will take place with the Education Coordinators. Further information on the Workshop will be provided to the members.
  - **Action Point:** The accountability to Affected Populations Task Force (AAP TF) meeting will take place at end of May. Further meeting details will be communicated to the members.

Action Points:

- Training on Services Advisor will be organized. Both sector members will be informed accordingly.
- Livelihoods sector may potentially discuss identifying indicators for their sector partners to report on the referrals.

- Establishing common information tools regarding the labour market, employment regulations, work permits or business establishment is crucial to contribute to a greater outreach in establishing decent work opportunities and self reliance both for refugees and vulnerable host community member. The Livelihood Sector working group had made two surveys to collect existing information on employment and business establishment. All Protection and Livelihood sector members are requested to fill out the survey to submit available information tools to be mainstreamed. All available information on employment and business registration will continue to be submitted here for the purpose of establishing a database of info tools to be disseminated to all refugees and vulnerable host community members.
- The survey, which was shared with all participants prior to the joint meeting, will remain open for entries for the coming weeks. Partners who have not yet provided inputs are kindly requested to do so, as feedback received will inform future discussions.
- UNHCR Livelihoods Team will further inform the sector members on the developments with the partnership with DGILF and the establishment of a separate dedicated platform between private and public sectors, UN agencies, and I/NGOs.
- In-person and full-day workshop will be organized between the Livelihoods and Protection Sectors for further deep-dive discussions on referrals and to identify further collaboration between the two sectors, around mid-June. Further details will be communicated to the members accordingly.
- Due to the full-day workshop that will take place around mid-June, the National Protection Working Group Meeting will not take place in May.
- The accountability to Affected Populations Task Force (AAP TF) meeting will take place at end of May. Further meeting details will be communicated to the members.