



Disability and Age Sub-Working Group Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 15 May, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 PM

Venue: UNHCR Amman office

Chairs: Martina Mannocchi (UNHCR) and Saba Al Masri (IOCC)

Minutes prepared by: Martina Mannocchi (UNHCR)

Participants: UNHCR BO Amman, International Orthodox Christiane charities (IOCC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Caritas, Habitat for Humanity, UMR, Nour Hussein Foundation (IHF/NFH), COOPI, Un Ponte Per

Meeting Highlights

Agenda Item I. DASWG Co-chairs and HCD updates

- UNHCR reminded to members to update the service mapping that is circulating.

Agenda Item II. Presentation of DASWG Gap analysis plan: open discussion with members on structure of the Gap analysis and possible contributions from partners

Presenter: Martina Mannocchi, UNHCR CBP

- Due to the lack of available comprehensive assessments, DASWG is planning to conduct a gap analysis to assess existing gaps in service provision for Persons with disabilities in Jordan
- The gap analysis will involve Refugees as well as Jordanians in urban areas. The geographical coverage is Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa, Madaba and the South (to be defined the locations)
- The gap analysis will include Survey (developed by UNHCR on Kobo) and FGDs with persons with disabilities, as well as KIIs with relevant stakeholders and analysis of available secondary data.
- Members are invited to contribute based on their capacity in conducting Surveys and FGDs. Several members expressed their interest and availability.

Agenda Item III. Open discussion on the three questions shared by DASWG co-chairs with members

Presenter: Martina Mannocchi, UNHCR CBP

What strategies can be employed to ensure that development actors and other stakeholders are thoroughly acquainted with their responsibilities toward protection of people with disability and elderly?

- Increase nr of hired employees with disabilities in organizations.
- Implement the existing national strategy and advocate for its implementation. Make an actual plan based on the existing strategy. Each partner has currently different plans and standards, often not in line with existing strategies.
- Update policies in local and international NGOs about recruitment of PwDs.
- Take into consideration the voice of small groups, CBOs, etc not by involving them only in FGDs but also WGs, coordination meetings, etc.
- Have a comprehensive mapping of services to advocate for the missing ones.

How can we engage in discussions with various government bodies and civil society organizations?

- Many CBOs/ local structures are not aware about the existence of WGs, coordination meetings. Increase information about activities of WGs and outreach to ensure CBOs participate.
- Ensure accessibility for PwDs for participation. Some do not participate due to architectural barriers.
- Build trust between UN/international actors and CBOs/community structures.
- Advocacy with government and development actors.
- Involve more actors as universities.
- Increase involvement of and engagement with OPDs.
- Increase messages through social media to advocate for PwDs/behaviors change.
- Through workshops and meetings, we can provide data, case studies, and real-life examples to illustrate the issues and encourage active participation and commitment from all stakeholders.

What steps can be taken to ensure that all humanitarian and development actors are actively involved in addressing protection issues, considering the fund reduction?

- Build capacity of local actors – how to approach donors – how to address needs.
- Advocacy with the government to respond to basic needs of PwD.
- Develop self-help groups in the communities, plan on how to handover projects to local communities, empower PwDs and caregivers. Implement CBR.
- Encourage communities to talk more about their needs, rights and start advocating for them.
- Each humanitarian actor should take a role in reducing this gap between the needs and the availability of services.
- Enhancing collaboration among all actors to improve referral systems is crucial. By identifying key priorities and promoting resource-sharing and joint initiatives, we can maximize the impact of available funds and ensure a coordinated approach to protection.

Agenda Item IV: DASWG members/ partners updates and AOB

No major updates from partners. UNHCR will follow up with interested partners for the gap analysis.