



Protection WG Meeting Minutes

September 18 2024, 10:00-11:30

Location: Hybrid, MS Teams & UNHCR CO

Agenda

- Co-Chairs Update
- Presentation on the Alternative Measures to Juvenile Detention by the National Council for Family Affairs, Dr. Naela Sarayrah
- Presentation on Step Together by AVSI, Ms. Jessica Verdelli
- Partners Updates
- AOB

Agenda items	Discussion	Action points
Presentation on the Alternative Measures to Juvenile Detention by the National Council for Family Affairs, Dr. Naela Sarayrah	<p>Presentation of the NCFA project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NCFA and UNHCR have enjoyed a long-standing and fruitful partnership founded on a shared commitment to safeguarding children’s rights. UNHCR is included in the NCFA National Steering Committee for Juvenile Justice. One of the key priorities of the Committee were alternatives to detention for juvenile. - The situation analysis on alternatives to detention released in 2023 showed that there is a critical need to address the capacity of judges; according to the law, there are 8 alternatives, however, judges usually resort to only 2 (return to parents & community service). 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- After the analysis, a manual for alternatives to detention was developed, which was followed with a ToT for judges.- The ToT on alternatives for detention was held in September 2023, it was divided into 2 parts; technical part and the ToT on skills and techniques. The participants in the training were juvenile judges from the Judicial Council, military judges from the Armed Forces (military judges are the only ones authorized to deal with drug crimes), probation officers from the MoSD.- The training included a pre- and post-assessment (delivering mock ToT).- The overall objective of the project was to focus on the child's best interest, to reduce recidivism, to equip judges with necessary skills and techniques. <p>Results & lessons learned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Many judges expressed that the ToT provided them with more insight on how to choose and direct their fellow judges on alternatives which best suit the juvenile's needs, their so-called fear that releasing juveniles into alternative programs may lead to higher rates of recidivism, was fully addressed.- Many judges expressed how overwhelmed they are with heavy caseloads and administrative burdens, which limit the time and resources they can dedicate to exploring alternatives to detention. This challenge was a focal point of discussion, with participants seeking solutions.- One participant presented on the potential role of AI in easing the workload, highlighting how AI can analyze large amounts of data about a juvenile's background, behavior, and risk factors to help judges make informed decisions about the most appropriate alternative to detention.- There will be a basic workshop on utilizing ChatGPT this year, potentially, to be followed with more advanced trainings next year.	
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	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Co-chair: NCFA is responsible for drafting policies and strategies regarding family affairs, including GBV and CP. There is a lot of added value for UNHCR in having the partnership with NCFA. NCFA has previously drafted the national Survivor-Centered Approach, produced the report on Refugee Family Status to understand all the challenges refugees are facing, or did a project related to early marriages with the Sharia Court.- Dr. Naela Sarayrah: All NCFA developed manuals must be endorsed by the Judicial Council.- IOM: IOM'S s complementary work; this year IOM started to work with the MoJ, the Judicial Council, and the Jordanian Bar Association on access to justice, which includes improving public legal aid access and alternative sanctions. It is a technical assistance project, IOM will be supporting the three beneficiaries on improving automating, digitalizing alternative sanctions processing which will inevitably include the ones for juvenile.- TDH: In 2019, TDH issued a model of action on the implementation of the alternative to detention. It was endorsed by the Judicial Council, it was also an Annex to a guideline issued by NCFA. The implementation started by piloting the rehabilitation model of action with JOHUD (2020-2021). Then TDH started to establish partnerships, as per the recommendation of the Judicial Council, to implement the alternative to detention in Irbid, Zarqa, and Amman. TDH has been implementing the rehabilitation since 2021 and will be continuing until the end of 2025. TDH also managed to train the juvenile judges on the implementation of the alternative to detention. <p>Questions for Dr. Naela Sarayrah</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Q: What is going to happen next? Will there be any future evaluation to see whether there was any change in the alternatives proposed?- Dr. Naela Sarayrah: According to the statistics from the recent judiciary report, there has been already an increase of 3% in alternatives to detention for juvenile. The trained judges have been assigned brief lectures on justice and alternatives in the Judicial Council. The NCFA Steering Committee issue reports at the end of the year which include statistics, data. The problem is the lack of institutions that provide alternatives to detention, it is costly. The judges are doing their best.- Comment: To measure the impact, there would need to be a collective assessment for the collective effort. - Q: What was the response of the participants on the first day of the training, have you noticed any change in the perception of the training itself by them?- Dr. Naela Sarayrah: The training was approached seriously, the training was marked, so the participants took it seriously as well. Some of them wanted to drop out, but at the end, they did an amazing job. We had to work on their mindset, so that the judges would recognize the juveniles are often very vulnerable, victims. - Q: Were the participants coming only from Amman?- Dr. Naela Sarayrah: Participants were coming from different areas, only the military judges were all from Amman because they are all based there. - Q: Do the trainings reach other governorates?- Dr. Naela Sarayrah: The ToT was done only in the South, it's costly and it takes time.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q: The alternatives (vocational trainings), as already mentioned can be costly, how is it funded? - Dr. Naela Sarayrah: The vocational institute for the AF is free of charge. NCFA has a MoU with the MoSD and the Judicial Council; referral of children is free of cost. - Q: You are working with the training center relevant to the AF, would you consider working also with the other one? - Dr. Naela Sarayrah: We already have a MoU with MoSD but the military judiciary is very active and like to work. There are specific standards on referring to vocational trainings. - Q: Is the situational analysis available online? - Dr. Naela Sarayrah: It is available on the website, all NCFA manuals are on NCFA website. - Q: Will you work also with the parents? - Dr. Naela Sarayrah: NCFA works on the policy level, we don't go into the families. 	
<p>Presentation on Step Together by AVSI, Ms. Jessica Verdelli</p>	<p>Presentation of the Step together intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Step together is a multi-sectoral intervention to strengthen community systems and resources for the protection and social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups among the refugee and host communities in the governorate of Ma'an, Aqaba, Zarqa, Mafraq. - It is funded by AICS Amman, implemented by the Consortium of AVSI and TDH Italy. Partners are MoSD, MoH, DOH, MoY Youth Centers. - The project duration is 17 months, it will be going until November 2025. - The primary sector of the intervention is child protection, other sectors included are also social protection, education and health. 	 <p>Step Together, AVSI.pdf</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The general objective is to promote the well-being and social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups among refugee and Jordanian host communities, within an integrated framework of empowerment, protection and assistance. It is done through strengthening systems and community resources for the protection and social inclusion of the most vulnerable groups among refugee and host communities in the governorates of Ma'an, Aqaba, Zarqa and Mafraq, as part of a multi-sectoral protection, education and health intervention. - Through numerous diverse activities, the project aims to increase access of target groups to an inclusive network of protection, education and health services; improve the ability of vulnerable individuals and families to meet their essential needs; strengthen the capacities of community members in responding to protection needs and promote a culture of active and inclusive participation. - The participants are both refugees (70%) and Jordanians (30%), 67% are women and 10% PwDs. - TDH Italy works on two main components – protection and health. Regarding the health component, TDH is working through a mobile unit. <p>Discussion</p> <p>Questions for Ms. Jessica Verdelli</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q: Are you open to referrals? - Ms. Jessica Verdelli: Yes, TDH for health referrals and AVSI for protection. - Q: Could the intervention be converted into programming? Could the time frame be extended? - Ms. Jessica Verdelli: This intervention is a continuation of 4 previous ones, it started in 2017 with the first protection intervention and it has become a program; every time we get the funds, we build on the 	
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	<p>previous interventions. Since the beginning, we are working with TDH, we have been also integrating different local partners and institutions. We found a way to make it sustainable, our participants also participated in different phases of the project. We have been working also with communities, community leaders, and we integrate new locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Q: How is your experience working with MoSD and MoH regarding the complexity of cases? - Ms. Jessica Verdelli: We receive a lot of referrals, especially by MoSD, sometimes single, urgent serious cases. We always try our best to serve them, sometimes we refer to specific external services 	
Partners Updates	<p>ARDD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regarding juveniles, this year, in September, ARDD started a collaboration with MoSD to conduct legal awareness sessions for juveniles in all MoSD rehabilitation centers as well as training sessions for staff working in the centers. The project will continue until next year. - Recently the ARDD lawyers conducted a field assessment to capture challenges related to service cards issuance. The report was shared with the UNHCR Legal unit for their attention and follow up. - Another recent field assessment was conducted on the issue of birth certificates. The information could be used in awareness-raising messages for refugees. The report will be shared with the UNHCR Legal unit. - ARDD is preparing more advocacy papers that will be published until the end of the year. <p>CARE Jordan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CARE started to implement a new localization strategy. CM and PSS services will be implemented by IFH. In the Q4, CARE will start the process of engaging, training, and shadowing IFH. 	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cash for protection will remain to be provided by the CARE team for now. <p>CBM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- CBM is an international organization that has been in Jordan for many years, works with local partners. CBM focuses on inclusion, PwDs.- Jordan has been chosen as a pilot country for social protection.- CBM doesn't accept referrals but can share their local partners' referrals focal points. <p>CVT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- CVT is providing PSS counselling, physiotherapy, trauma resilience workshops for individuals and families who experienced trauma. CVT conducts sharing information sessions and capacity building trainings to raise awareness on trauma symptoms and how it effects our bodies. CVT also teaches parenting skills.- CVT recently included a new component, peer-to-peer sessions for GBV survivors. It is open to all nationalities.- CVT is working in collaboration with other organizations that provide PSS, health, and legal services.- CVT is accepting referrals and can provide transportation for clients outside of Amman. <p>IMC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- IMC is still working on CP CM, PSS activities, prevention. The prevention component has been extended to Zarqa and the South, in addition to Irbid, Mafraq, Zaatari, Azraq.- IMC is working on relocating from Karak to Al Quweira to be able to serve more cases in the South. <p>IOCC</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IOCC is working on a project for PwDs, refugees and Jordanians, funded by PRM. Most activities are implemented in partnership with IFH/KHF. - IOCC is providing rehabilitation services (occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, special education), assistive devices. IOCC is also providing PSS to PwDs and their caregivers, in addition to awareness sessions. Part of the activities are implemented directly with the MoH. IOCC is providing a sign language training for the MoH staff. - IOCC would be happy to receive referrals, also, people who would like to learn the sign language can attend the training. <p>IOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For 5th year, IOM is continuing the refugee response project. The project has two components; cash for basic needs and protection. - Cash for basic needs is implemented closely with UNHCR, all cases come from UNHCR, IOM doesn't accept referrals. - Protection has two parts; CM for vulnerable refugees (internal, no referrals) and cash for protection. Cash for protection is designated exclusively for external referrals, all nationalities of UNHCR registered refugees from all Jordan are eligible, it is a complementary service to CM. <p>IRC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IRC continues to provide PSS services and CM (for GBV, woman at risk) in IRC centers in Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, and in other locations through partners. There are no direct legal services provided by IRC this year, only through partners. - IRC has a new curriculum, Women & Girls. - IRC signed a contract with Careem to start covering the transportation for women in Amman and Irbid. Careem is used to bring women from their homes to the IRC centers (IRC is providing women-only spaces). The partnership with Careem had a positive impact, the number of women 	
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	<p>coming to the centers is increasing, more women feel safer. There is no contact between the driver and the beneficiary, IRC books the car, everything is confidential.</p> <p>JRF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Recently, JRF conducted a training for MoSD staff, CBO staff, related to self-care, stress management, safe referrals. JRF covered Amman, Mafraq and Irbid, and hopes to cover Ma'an and Aqaba. Trainings will be continuing in the next quarter.- JRF is open to have a presentation related to the youth program, youth could even join the meeting.- JRF accepts referrals. Helpline (110) is receiving calls nationwide. <p>LWF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- LWF continues to provide protection, livelihood, advocacy services. LWF continues the recreational activity in the Community Center. LWF is providing cash assistance in Zarqa.- Last month, LWF provided a training to MoSD staff in Zarqa. <p>NEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- In Jordan, NEF is working mainly on livelihoods but also climate change resilience or peacebuilding.- The implementation of protection hasn't started yet, but NEF is moving towards it. Hopefully, next time, there will be updates on protection. <p>UNICEF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- UNICEF is currently tackling the issue of child marriage at the camp level in Zaatari and Azraq. <p>CP SWG</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Gap analysis has been conducted, the report with the findings will be soon finalized. - CP SWG meeting takes place on 26 September. - There will be a joint CP-GBV SWGs session in November. <p>DA SWG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DA SWG had a meeting on 11 September. DA SWG meeting was hosted by the IFH/KHF who also presented a success story. There were more presentations from colleagues, and a discussion on work permits updates. <p>Irbid PWG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the September monthly Irbid PWG meeting, the workplan was reviewed and updated. - Irbid PWG conducted three trainings (on BIPs; MH education and PSS support for relief workers; inclusive education) to enhance the capacity of staff. 	
AOB	None.	



PWG Meeting Attendance Sheet

September 18, 2024

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