PWG Meeting Minutes

April 28th 2025, 11:00-12:30

Location: Hybrid: UNHCR office and Online, MS Teams

Agenda

- UNHCR's Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) Survey 2025.
- UN Women's Presentation on Gender and Protection Mainstreaming within the Returns Process.
- Brief on key Protection Sector priorities and critical activities with input and feedback from partners.
- Updates on returns
- Partners' updates

Agenda items	Discussion	Action points
UNHCR's Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) Survey 2025.	Brief presentation of main findings from 2023 (compared to 2021), as a starting point for 2025 VAF considerations. Based on sectors' feedback, in 2025 new sections will be included, such as use of coping strategies, more on Child labor, Access to justice, Perceptions on violence against women, Awareness on where to access GBV services, Perceptions of safety at night. Members are consulted on the identification of additional coping strategies in addition to those already in the list, More analytics on FHH (planned with UN Women), Deeper analytics on Elderly, Analytics on persons with Disabilities or Chronic illnesses, Other changes and trends to capture. A section related to returns will be also included. Discussion on how to reflect GBV in the VAF: to not go in the types of GBV incidents due to confidentiality, reflect more on awareness on access to GBV	PWG and sub working groups to re-share with members the Survey PWG to share inputs of members with VAF team by 8th of May

	services and perceptions of VAW in the community. The interviews will try to capture not only the answers of the Focal Point, but also other members. GBV SW will collect feedback from members of the WG in the next meeting. Elderlies: highlight access to services and access to information. Persons with disabilities: consider the possibility to have online interviews to facilitate access for those with specific limitations. CP: Various questions raised referring to child labor.	
UN Women's Presentation on Gender and Protection Mainstreaming within the Returns Process	Presentation on Gender And Protection Mainstreaming Within The Returns Process Presentation attached. Questions to UNWomen: - Do you have the number of CP and GBV incidents during returns? The number is not available as the main source of data collection is the community pulse and not quantitative sources of data collection. - What is the frequency of the Gender Analysis? TBD with the Solutions working group. - How do you plan to respond to recommendations provided in a moment of decrease of funding? The Solution WG will conduct an exercise of prioritization within the recommendations. - Specific challenges and concerns of women and girls with disabilities are not reflected in the analysis.	

	The analysis is the result of the community pulse collected. There was no specific issue related to disabilities. However, the WG will try to follow AGD approach and highlight specific disability-related issues, as well as focusing on the intersectionality between gender and disability. - It is suggested to focus the attention on the specific needs/challenges of boys and girls, as it is a sensitive age. A part of the analysis already highlights specific concerns of youth, for example those grown up in Jordan that are reluctant to return, are afraid not to be able to integrate in the social texture in Syria, etc.	
Brief on key Protection Sector priorities and critical activities with input and feedback from partners.	The Protection Advisory Group met to discuss the prioritized and de-prioritize activities within the sector to be presented to JOSH and taking into consideration budget reduction. This was presented to the group to collect additional feedback. Prioritized activities: - Registration and documentation across Jordan. Measure of cost-saving in view of sector budget reduction are Use of technology (Self-renewal kiosks); Differentiated case processing modalities, Centralization of urban registration centres. - CP case management: Prioritization of the most vulnerable cases and those exposed to severe and immediate protection risks, while referring to government cases of begging, child labour and cases with lower protection risks. Note that all prevention activities, including awareness and capacity development, have been de-prioritized to focus on response. - GBV case management: Prioritization of the most vulnerable and complex cases (such as LGBTIQ cases or survival sex), while referring the less complex cases to FPJD. Note that all prevention activities such as awareness raising, and capacity development have been fully de-prioritized. - Access to protection sensitive complementary pathways.	

	- Advocacy for asylum related issues and refugee rights. - Legal assistance, legal aid and legal representation facilitated, including legal counselling, legal mediation and awareness raising sessions prioritized but downsized as budget is reduced. - Visits in detention, advocacy for non-penalization and to prevent deportation, cooperation with camp authorities and with SRAD, PSD, and other authorities at field and central level for freedom of movement. - Returns information and counselling.	
Updates on returns	Total number of UNHCR-registered refugees who returned to Syria between 16 and 22 April: 1,768.	
Updates from Partners	UNHCR Irbid FO: On 9th of April, the Irbid Protection Working Group (IPWG) included UNHCR, ICRC, LWF, IFH CP, Idoun CBO TDH, IFH GBV, IOM, JOHUD, Medair, UMR, HI, WV, Intersos, SAMS. Discussions focused on Return updates, Members' observations on the impact of the fund suspension, discussion around Irbid Age and Disability gap analysis 2025 and 2025 VAF survey.	
AOB	None.	

Protection
Working Group

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