PWG Meeting Minutes

May 28th 2025, 10:00-11:30

Location: Hybrid: UNHCR office and Online, MS Teams

Agenda

- Opening from the co-chairs
- UNHCR Briefing on Legal Identity
- Updates on returns
- Updates from partners
- AOB

Agenda items	Discussion	Action points
UNHCR briefing on Legal Identity	Presentation from UNHCR Legal Unit included the definition of stateless person, right to nationality (Hague Convention 1930), international legal framework. Referring to Jordan, UNHCR every year train and capacitate different governmental stakeholders to prevent statelessness and maintain legal identity. UNHCR is involved in 'I Belong Campaign', it has 10 action points and Jordan operation focuses mainly on #7 – ensuring Birth Registration; and on #10 - Improve quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations. UNHCR has a small Legal Identity Project, a project aimed at identifying in the registered Syrian and non-Syrian population, how many people are lacking documents (ending in May 2025, with a target of 1400 people).	Partners asked if UNHCR is available to provide training on Legal Identity to external partners. UNHCR can provide trainings under its mandate.

Updates on returns	UNHCR is tracking movements at the border. The majority of Syrians returning are not registered with UNHCR. They are not calculated in the data UNHCR is sharing, which is referred only to refugees returning. As of the 24th of May, around 78,000 Syrians registered with UNHCR returned (since 8th of December), average of 430 per day. Before and during Ramadan a peak in returns was recorded. 91% of them are going to Syria for the first time since the displacement, while 10% have been to Syria before and came back. Only in May, 10,446 Syrians returned. 41% are children, 53% are full household. UNHCR is monitoring who is remaining, with particular focus on specific profiles to see if they are facing challenges. So far, no particular issues have been identified, only some individual cases of people left behind. Based on discussions with refugees, safety remains a concern. The UNHCR bus service is still ongoing and UNHCR team is on daily basis at the border. Q: EJC is closing. Are people deciding to go back to Syria or relocate to Azraq camp? A: Few hundreds are returning. Q: Have they already started to move? A: They did, movements are ongoing to Azraq as well. It's refugees' choice. Q: Can you provide information about the reasons behind the camp closure? A: The decision was taken by the Emirati, as the camp was not managed by UNHCR. They communicated to the GoJ that they will no longer provide services, and UNHCR conducted several group discussions with refugees, so they were provided with all necessary information. EJC is different from Azraq and Zaatari because UNHCR does not manage the camp but has a presence only for PRT purposes. Q: When the camp will be officially closed? A: there is not a specific indication yet. Azraq colleagues reported that they plan to finalize arrangement and movements by the 30th of June. Azraq camp	

	management also mentioned that the percentage of people willing to return increased from an initial 30% to a 70%, after conducting a survey through Infoline.	
Updates from Partners	**COOPI**: New project of Child Protection project ongoing, provision of case management services in Amman, Sahab, in Madaba and in Zarqa. Provision of cash for protection and cash for education. Provision of psychological sessions for children and caregivers. For Health services no more referrals are accepted. Services are provided to registered refugees and Jordanians. **AVSI**: 3 protection projects. One ongoing until November 2025, and 2 about to start. The ongoing is in Mafraq (Rehap village), Zarqa, Aqaba, Gwerah, serving registered refugees and Jordanians. The new project will have same locations except Zarqa, replaced with Ajloun. Services provided: cash assistance (cash for health/cash for protection), CBP, case management, counselling, SGBV component. Distributions of dignity kits in coordination with health centres in South, in the North through the mobile unit. Referrals are accepted. **INTERSOS**: 3 projects. one ending in May, one in October. Covering Maan, Tafileh, Mafraq. The third project recently started and covers Irbid, Amman, Maan, Karak. Provision of case management to refugees (registered and non) and Jordanians (CP, GBV, people at risk of detention), cash for protection, PSS, legal counselling, legal representation for GBV cases, Cash for rent ended, Awareness sessions. Target of 2000 for case management. Opening 3 community centers for CBP activities in Mafraq, Tafileh and Maan. **GIZ**: first participation in PWG. **AWO**: 3 community centers in Zarqa, Zaatari camp and Irbid. Protection: case management, MHPSS (resilience groups with psychologists and psychiatrists), educational activities in community centers. Case	

	management target around 1000 but there are a lot of cases in waiting list due to closure of many NGOs' projects. **ICRC**: regular activities ongoing. Focus on families with missing members. Family tracing, MH support for families with missing persons. Q: We are finding cases of men that left to Syria without informing their wives/families. Can we refer these cases to you? A: you can refer cases as long as the family lost contacts with them. **IRC**: Irbid centre is active again providing Case management and GBV case management. In East Amman will be provided an adolescent girls protection program; in Amman and Irbid 150 cases will receive emergency cash; PSS sessions. Recreational activities are provided in both centers. All nationalities are served, both registered and non-registered. The amount of emergency cash is 708 USD per GBV case (from June to September). Q: do you use RAIS? A: not for emergency cash. **IOM**: one PRM project is currently paused and being revised, for provision of cash assistance to refugees out of camp; case management and small number receive emergency cash. **UNHCR Irbid**: Irbid Protection WG is planning to conduct a survey on the WG structure and performance. The Child Marriage Prevention network is planning to conduct a joint awareness session with the Yarmouk University. **IFH**: Launch of 3 centers of excellence for services for GBV survivors in collaboration with NCFA (Tafilah, Zarqa – CBOs, and Irbid - IFH). In camps, case management and PSS are ongoing for GBV but all prevention activities have been stopped due to funding. **UNICEF**: Case management ongoing in camps and host communities. UNICEF and UNHCR are coordinating to develop materials on mine risk awareness to be distributed to those planning to return.	

	UNHCR GBV: GBV SWG compared the 2024 and 2025 4Ws – big reduction in number of agencies and target (-20,000). The 4Ws will be extended through members to CBOs providing CP/GBV services. **UNHCR Inter-Agency**: the results of the Prioritization exercise conducted within the protection sector will be shared in the next JOSH meeting.	
AOB	None.	

Protection
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