

# Protection Working Group Beirut



Meeting Minutes & Report			
<b>Chair person</b>	Claudio Delfabro	<b>Venue</b>	UNHCR, LEA building
	Elisabetta Brumat (incoming sector coordinator)	<b>Date</b>	29 January 2014
<b>Minutes/report by</b>	Toni Ayrouth / E. Brumat	<b>Time</b>	10:00AM - 12:00AM
<b>Main Organisations attending</b>	ALEF, CARE, CCP Japan, CMLC, DRC, ECHO, HI, Heartland Alliance, ICRC, Intersos, IMC, IOM, IRAP, MC, MOSA, NRC, OCHA, OHCHR, Oxfam UK, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, Proud/Whisper, WVI, WRF, URDA		

**Participants:** (see attached annex A)

Introduction / Administrative matters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The outgoing sector coordinator introduced Ms. Elisabetta Brumat, the incoming Beirut-based Protection Coordinator.</li> <li>▪ <b>Harmonization of practices/ tools:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A revised template is now used for PWG minutes and reporting in Beirut and in the field, developed and agreed upon with the field PWG Chairs during the previous month. The intent of this unified template is to harmonise the format of the meetings, facilitate follow up and coordination at field level and between the field and national WGs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The opportunity to improve information sharing on the main developments at field level was discussed, with the suggestion to have a short summary on main field developments/ issues of concern from the WG Chair as a standard point in the agenda. To be attempted in the next meeting.</li> <li>▪ Standard point for UNRWA to share information on Palestine Refugees from Syria</li> <li>▪ The agenda point on “Arsaal Lessons learnt” deferred due to conflicting meeting of UNHCR I/A Coordinator</li> <li>▪ <b>ACTIVITY INFO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Imminent roll-out of the training session for NGOs AI focal points (including: Overview on Activity-Info; Roles and responsibilities; Data entry; Reporting; Advantages and challenges). Training sessions will be rolled out in all field locations from 31<sup>st</sup> January to 4<sup>th</sup> February and support/ on-the-job training will be available throughout February from the IMOs.</li> <li>- The PWG Chair (outgoing) recalled that the 13 indicators for the RRP6 have agreed upon by the sector in December. Additional indicators beyond the RRP6 should be discussed in the next PWG. The first inputs are due by 7<sup>th</sup> February.</li> <li>- Discussion on the challenges posed by the level of territorial disaggregation (cadastral level) in certain sector indicators. Considering the existing disaggregation by population groups, by gender and by age, some participants observed that a disaggregation at cadastral level may translate in a very high number of entries and suggested to enable actors to enter information at broader geographic levels if that was the only information available to that actor.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Next PWG meeting:</b> Wednesday 19 February 2014 10:00 to 12:00AM 1<sup>st</sup> floor Lea building.</li> <li>▪ PWG members proposed a discussion on the next steps in the targeting of assistance and a discussion on how to strengthen the links between the protection and the health sectors.</li> </ul>

<b>Topic of the Month (thematic presentation):</b> Situation	<b>Presenter:</b> Bertho Makso, Project Manager Whispers,
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of LGBTI refugees in Lebanon	Proud Lebanon.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The NGO partner Proud Lebanon provided an overview on the situation of LGBTI refugees in Lebanon, based on qualitative field assessments and matured field experience. In August 2013 Proud started some activities to answer the needs of vulnerable LGBTI refugees in Lebanon. The initiative is focussed on empowerment activities; referral to medical and psychosocial assistance, including existing UNHCR partners.</li> <li>▪ Proud outlined the major challenges in the legal framework, including in relation to the Lebanese Penal Code currently in force; the risk of being sentenced for up to one year of detention if charged; the risk of deportation; alleged discriminatory practices from Law Enforcement Officials.</li> <li>▪ According to Proud, the refugee LGBTI community is reportedly exposed to stigma and discriminatory attitudes. Marginalisation leads to negative coping mechanisms (drug addiction, survival sex), prominently in urban settings, where the majority of the LGBTI community is believed to be concentrated. According to Proud field assessment, LGBTI refugees face legal and security challenges, including in renewing residency permits, and challenges in fulfilling basic needs (shelter, food, education) as barriers on access to services and assistance may be aggravated by discrimination and exclusion.</li> <li>▪ Proud highlighted the importance of enhancing awareness and sensitisation on the LGBTI situation, the rights and the specific needs of LGBTI refugees amongst humanitarian workers at all levels, including enhancing reach-out to these specific social groups. Proud stressed a prioritization in food, shelter, and other forms of assistance; dedicated interventions through specialised trained workers, especially expanding mental health and reproductive health services; the full integration of LGBTI into existing livelihood services (e.g. vocational training, job placements, literacy classes.); attention on access to information; prioritization in resettlement programmes.</li> <li>▪ On the latter, UNHCR highlighted existing efforts to fulfil specific protection needs of LGBTI, with resettlement activities already considering this typology of cases in light of the specific protection situation and needs.</li> </ul>	

<b>1) Access to Territory (new arrivals, border monitoring)</b>		
Follow up on previous action point		
New Issues & trends Action taken		
Follow up required: Concrete Intervention Advocacy	For PWG	
	For PWG national level	

<b>2 ) Access to Registration (UNHCR, Municipalities, others)</b>	
Follow up on previous action point	Regular update from UNHCR Registration
New Issues & trends Action taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Statistics</b> (January 28, 2014) Registered: 849,565 Awaiting: 48,040 Total: 897,613 As of 28 January 2014, the country-wide average waiting period for registration is 23 days, with variations according to the geographic areas and the specific situations. This is in line with the target of &lt; 30-days.</li> <li>▪ <b>The current registration trends</b> (end year 2013) <b>indicate:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase from 124,000 Syrians registered in 2012 to 695,000 in 2013.</li> <li>- Increase from 11,000 appointments requested in 2012 to 197,500 in 2013.</li> <li>- Total registered by end 2013 over 858,500 (14% less of 1million as projected in RRP5)</li> <li>- Gradual decline in registration &amp; request for appointments in last 3 months of 2013.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 64% decrease in Registration Backlog from its highest in March (145,500) to lowest in December (53,000).</li> <li>- 35% decrease in waiting period by Dec. 2013, in line with the target of &lt; 30 days</li> <li>- Almost 60% of Syrians are new arrivals (i.e. arrived within 4 months or less from registration date).</li> <li>- Syrians are estimated to wait an average of 2.5 months from their arrival before requesting an appointment for registration from UNHCR.</li> <li>▪ <b>UNHCR continues the Iris scan of newly registered refugees</b>, which is on track in all locations. More training has been provided to the registration staff. The scanning is conducted on all individuals above the age of 3.</li> <li>▪ <b>UNHCR has also started the verification of the previously registered refugees applying the iris scanning</b> to better track moves and possible duplicates (accuracy).</li> <li>▪ Current iris scanning statistics by location: Beirut: 21,584; Zahle: 23,279; Tyr: 8,859; Tripoli: 16,594; Total - 70,316 Few cases so far failed to pass the iris scan test, largely due to disability/ physical reason and with declining trends during January.</li> <li>▪ <b>Progress is ongoing on mobile approaches.</b> Mobile registration has been traditionally in place for identified persons with specific needs (e.g. hospitalized individuals, persons with disabilities). Solutions continue to be developed at field level, according to the specific situation in the areas (e.g. South and Bekaa), to improve reach out and facilitate access. This has already taken the form of hotlines for information, transport assistance to the registration Centres (e.g. South). Solutions are developed considering the estimated number of backlogs, the particular locations of the reported unregistered refugees, human capacity in registration, security considerations (e.g. movement restrictions for staff in the areas). More information was requested from the UNHCR Registration team about the procedures to access mobile information so that protection actors could provide the necessary information to beneficiaries in each field location UNHCR noted that some problems with the hotline number in the Bekaa will be addressed.</li> </ul>	
Follow up required, Concrete Intervention, Advocacy	For PWG _____	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need for continuous partnership (UNHCR and sector partners) to highlight obstacles to registration and detect unregistered populations, with accurate supporting evidence, and develop solutions, including mobile registration, according to the specific situation in the areas.</li> </ul>
	For PWG national level	

3) Civil status documentation (birth registration, statelessness, residency permit)		
Follow up on previous action point		
New Issues & trends Action taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>NRC shared with the PWG an updated report on trends and challenges in birth registration for refugees from Syria.</b> The report highlights the legal requirements and administrative steps involved in the process of birth registration for non-Lebanese; the results of some field cases studies conducted; an update on NRC ICLA activities on Birth Registration awareness and facilitation; a summary of the major challenges with some recommendations. Downloadable on <a href="http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&amp;LocationId=122&amp;Id=25">http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&amp;LocationId=122&amp;Id=25</a></li> </ul>	
Follow up required, Concrete Intervention, Advocacy	For PWG _____	PWG in the field to ensure circulation amongst partners to improve knowledge and capacity to advise refugees.
	For PWG national level	PWG Beirut to ensure circulation of the report at field level.

<b>4) Freedom of Movement / Detention (curfew, check points, arbitrary detention)</b>		
Follow up on previous action point		
New Issues & trends Action taken		
Follow up required, Concrete Intervention, Advocacy	For PWG	
	For PWG national level	
<b>5) Physical safety (treats violation, security incidents, minorities, exploitation not covered under SGBV and Child Protection)</b>		
Follow up on previous action point		
New Issues & trends Action taken		
Follow up required, Concrete Intervention, Advocacy	For PWG	
	For PWG national level	
<b>6) Sexual and Gender Based Violence (update from SGBV Task Force)</b>		
Follow up on previous action point		
New Issues & trends Action taken	<p><b>Heartland alliance, partner of the SGBV Task Force, announced a planned training for SGBV case managers on relevant aspects of the Civil Law in Lebanon.</b> The sessions will aim at better informing Social Workers and Case managers in the field about legal and judicial mechanisms of protection for SGBV survivors in Lebanon. It will be conducted in Arabic.</p> <p>Target 20 participants (social workers and case managers) per region on the following dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tyre/Feb 4th</li> <li>- Beirut/Feb 5th</li> <li>- Chtaura/Feb 6th</li> <li>- Tripoli/Feb 7th</li> </ul>	
Follow up required, Concrete Intervention, Advocacy	For PWG	
	For PWG national level	
<b>7) Child Protection in Emergency (update from Child Protection in Emergency Task Force)</b>		
Follow up on previous action point		
New Issues & trends Action taken		
Follow up required, Concrete Intervention, Advocacy	For PWG	
	For PWG national level	
<b>8) House, land and property</b>		

Follow up on previous action point	<p>▪ <b>Evictions/ Rental Contract Template</b></p> <p>NRC shared a quick update on their pilot project related to the issue of evictions of refugees. A joint committee on preventing evictions has been established in the Bekaa (including UNHCR, NRC, DRC, CLMC, Intersos) to collect and analyse information and agree on strategies for the most appropriate way to intervene in potential or actual eviction cases. NRC legal team has developed a draft template of a lease agreement, which will be piloted during counselling sessions, initially in the Bekaa area. An assessment of impact and results of the pilot initiative will be conducted, including on the relations between the landlord and the tenants through a number of case studies. It was highlighted how practices, disputes, and risks of eviction vary, with challenges linked to non payment of rents, simple misunderstanding between landlords and tenants etc. Given the practice of verbal agreements, the importance for legal teams to raise awareness amongst refugee population on basic HLP principles, including the importance of agreeing on lease or rental arrangements, to improve safeguards was highlighted. Refugees will also be able to refer cases to NRC lawyers for support (in all field areas). The lease agreement template will be shared after the pilot project. A new tracking tool for eviction monitoring is under development and will be used in the field. For any further information about the pilot project or HLP issues for refugees, NRC can be contacted.</p>	
New Issues & trends Action taken	<p>▪ <b>HLP assessment undertaken by UNHCR Protection on in cooperation with UN Habitat</b></p> <p>The assessment, conducted by a team of three consultants, started in December and results will be possibly shared by the end of February. The assessment touches upon different dimensions: Shelter Solutions/ HLP risks / Land use and land development/ Market analysis and housing stocks analysis.</p>	
Follow up required, Concrete Intervention, Advocacy	For PWG Bekaa	<p>▪ Information/ TOR of the pilot project to be circulated to other NGO's working on evictions. NRC will share the contact of the lawyers with actors in the field.</p>
	For PWG national level	<p>▪ Strengthen the information sharing and the liaison with the shelter WG on eviction issues.</p>

## 9) Social Cohesion (Relation with host community)

Follow up on previous action point	NSTR	
New Issues & trends Action taken		
Follow up required: Concrete Intervention Advocacy	For PWG	
	For PWG national level	

## 10) Access to services and assistances ( discriminatory practices, access information, PWSN)

Follow up on previous action point		
New Issues & trends Action taken	Please refer to the highlights of the month on LGBTI on page 1	
Follow up required: Concrete Intervention Advocacy	For PWG	
	For PWG national level	

11) Refugee outreach and Mass Information		
Follow up on previous action point		
New Issues & trends Action taken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MI Presentation (UNHCR) aimed at presenting the importance of mass info as a protection tool and the need to coordinate among actors to avoid duplication and confusion The objective of MI goes beyond the simple communication, i.e. as an activity with accent on social and behavioural change of the targeted population. Objective of proper MI is to improve reach-out to persons of concern, increase consistency in messaging, resulting in smooth and equitable delivery of aid. With large population groups in situations of crisis, delivering vital information through multiple dissemination practices is required to be able to reach out to the dispersed refugee population, according to the main sources of information used by the population.</li> <li>No accurate statistical information is available on sources of information for refugees. MI field assessments indicate word of mouth as the main source, followed by television, social media and radio. MI activities need to reflect these findings.</li> <li>SMS systems and Help-Lines are already in place, but there is a multiplication of numbers and hot-lines are not always operational. Increased accent may be put on TV as media.</li> <li>Partners highlighted the importance of including all population groups in MI efforts and of harmonising messages, particularly for the numerous field-outreach workers in contact with persons of concern.</li> <li>At interagency level, MI is planning to engage sectors in the development of a living Q&amp;A including key messages from the various sectors on relevant topics and a directory of services. The content of such document will have to be produced and endorsed by the WG members. A number of comments were shared about the initiative, including taking note of previous information initiatives for refugees in Lebanon, such as lessons learned from the information provided on targeting which resulted in confusion and lack of understanding by many actors and beneficiaries; complementing mass information with other information modalities that have been identified as important for the context in Lebanon and aiming for consistency of information which does change on a regular basis.</li> </ul>	
Follow up required: Concrete Intervention Advocacy	For PWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commitment from organisations to maintain Hotlines operational in the field once they are activated.</li> <li>Coordination of information initiatives and content of information amongst actors working on similar issues.</li> </ul>
	For PWG national level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow up on the initiative of MI and contribute as sector.</li> <li>Commitment from organisations to maintain Hotlines operational when activated.</li> </ul>

12) Protection mainstreaming and capacity building		
Follow up on previous action point		
New Issues & trends Action taken		
Follow up required: Concrete Intervention Advocacy	For PWG	
	For PWG national level	

