

Livelihood Working Group

Amman, Jordan

29.03.2016

Meeting Location	EMOPS Room UNHCR Khalda	Meeting Date	29.3.2016
Facilitator	Anna Gaunt (LWG chair)	Meeting Time	9:00– 11:00
Minutes Prepared by	Ruba Saleh UNHCR		

Agenda

- 1) Updates on newest information about livelihoods (Developments after the London Conference, discussions with the Ministry of Labour, etc.).
- 2) Dissemination of the draft Terms of Reference for the Livelihoods Working Group (attached).
- 3) Discussion on the election process for a NGO co-chair.
- 4) Presentation of preliminary mapping of livelihoods related activities based on the Activity Info (refugee) database (by UNHCR).
- 5) Presentation of the draft list of occupation and educational backgrounds of refugees (by UNHCR).
- 6) A.O.B

Updates on the livelihoods issues (Developments after the London Conference, discussions with the Ministry of Labour, etc.)

- An update was shared by UNHCR Deputy Representative about the recent development after London conference (Jordan Compact), as the government policy towards livelihoods activities for Syrian Refugees seems to have shifted.
- GoJ is now actively encouraging Syrian refugees to obtain work permits and MoL has announced that restrictions on economic activities in the camps will be lifted.
- A joint MoL and UNHCR Messaging Campaign was discussed to encourage refugees to obtain work permits. UNHCR is awaiting final information prior to the launch of the campaign.
- In light of the previous restriction on the documentation needed to issue a working permits, a new procedures have been agreed with MoL. MoI registration card and Asylum seeker certificates (for refugees) are now accepted as basic documents, while entering Jordan legally and imposition of a valid passport are no longer a requirement.
- MoL will consider the health certificate a Syrian refugee obtained for the MoI card valid, if it's not over than a year old.
- MoL reduced the 14 days waiting period required for issuing a work permit to 5 days for Syrian refugees with intention reduce it further to 48 hours. The government agreed on a 3 month grace period instead of one week, before

ACTION POINTS

- To share the list of work permit fees for each sector
- To liaise with MoL to present solutions for cash for work projects

sanctioning a penalty against refugees without valid work permit caught working.

- The penalty fees businesses hiring illegal workers have been increased as the following: 1) instead of 200 a fine of 500 JD, 2) the fine of 1000 JD increased to 1500 JD, and 3 close down of the business. 73 businesses have been closed for employing Syrian refugees illegally, with a consequences of deporting the Syrians to RAS then to Azraq camp.
- UNHCR will lead an awareness raising campaign to support MoL, UNHCR mass information tool (ex. SMS, applications and info line) will be used in addition to sharing a FAQ to guide refugees on the new working permits procedures. A basic contract will be drafted for the use of Syrian refugees as well.
- Work permits should be obtained by the employer as they need to apply for it in the labour directorate. Businesses created after the London conference with foreign funding should receive a quota of 50% Syrian workers and 50% Jordanians, as announced by MoL in the last food security and livelihood meeting.
- Syrian refugees are welcome to apply for jobs in sectors with high migrant Quota (Ex. agriculture, construction, food and beverage, wholesale in addition to factories with a high migrant quota in the qualifying industrial zones).
- ILO shared their experience during their previous project of enhancing employment and livelihood of Syrian refugees and host community that was established since 2013, ILO outlined the way forward for their project based on several assessment they conducted previously on the labour market as the following:
 - ILO plan to upscale their project to reach a target of 5-8,000 job opportunities for Syrian workers and will work to provide apprenticeship to refugee to link them to employments in the future.
 - A discussion is ongoing in regards of the camp refugees who wish to work in the urban due to the limited opportunities in the camp. A special requirement will be needed for such cases.
 - ILO is planning to work closely with MoL to build the capacity of the current inspectors and to increase their number, and to guide them in the process of monitoring the employability condition of Syrian workers to avoid abusive working environments.
- UNHCR provided an updated regarding the work permits pilot project:
 - 4,000 Syrians to receive work permits (2,000 in the garment sector and 2,000 in the agriculture sector).
 - A trial period of two week is agreed by MoL between the employee and employer prior to the commitment of issuing work permit as the fees can't be waived and the work permits are non-transferable.
 - The criteria for selecting the Syrian refugees in the garment sector are company driven based on companies criteria and job requirements.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues arising with regards to obtaining work permits for the agriculture sector are under discussion with MoL and ILO to find an ideal solution. • The project time frame consist of 6 month intensive phase to have the target refugees issued work permits and in jobs, and a longer monitoring and evaluation phase afterword's. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some INGOS expressed their concern regarding their urban cash for work/cash for training activities, they have been advised to arrange an appointment with MoL to ask for their guidance and input in order to reach a suitable arrangement. UNHCR will liaise with MoL to explore the potential solutions. - Changes in project and planning to accommodate the new changes have been discussed as one of the purposes of establishing a LWG is to feed in the JRP livelihoods component. 	
<p>Dissemination of/ feedback to the draft Terms of Reference for the Livelihoods Working Group (attached).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Terms of reference have been drafted as the need to establish a livelihood working group has arisen due to the policy changes with regards to livelihoods after the London conference. These focus on advocacy and the identification of beneficiaries - The TOR have been shared with the IATF for their review. The TOR will be circulated again with the livelihood working group for their feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To circulate the TOR with the livelihood working group members for feedback.
<p>Discussion on the election process for a NGO co-chair.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was agreed that the livelihood working group will select their co-chair in a fashion similar to the other sectors, and a co-chair ToR to be shared with NGOs. - The NGOs have been encouraged to express their interest during the coming 2-3 weeks, by sharing a paragraph about the NGO and the representing staff with the livelihoods chair. - The election of the co-chair will take place in the next livelihood working group meeting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To share a co-chair ToR with the NGOs. - NGOs to express their interest in the selection of a co-chair during the coming (2-3) weeks.
<p>Presentation of mapping of livelihoods related activities based on the Activity Info (refugee) database (by UNHCR).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A presentation of livelihood activities that have been extracted from Activity info based on general taxonomy, reflected that these activities fall mainly under four sectors; Basic needs, Education, food security and Protection. - INGOS expressed their concern regarding the mapping of livelihood activities and it was agreed to work on the mapping on a later stage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The INGO forum requested to postpone livelihood mapping until later stage and to keep information confidential
<p>Presentation of the draft list of occupation and educational backgrounds of refugees (by UNHCR).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A draft lists of occupation and educational backgrounds of Syrian refugees that have been extracted from UNHCR internal data base (Progress) have been shared with the group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lists of occupation and educational backgrounds to be shared with the group members.

- A suggestion was made to segregate the list based on refugee's location (Azraq, Zaatari and Urban), Gender and geographic distribution (based on governorates).	- The lists to be segregated based on gender, location and geographic distribution.
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Next meeting date: 5th of May 9-11 EMOPS Room UNHCR

Next Meeting Agenda:

- 1) Updates on Livelihoods discussion with GoJ
- 2) The election of the co-chair for the LWG
- 3) Feedback on INGO preference for the mapping of livelihood related activities.
- 4) Meeting with a representative from PMU unit in MoPIC
- 5) Vulnerability criteria and discussion on if this affected the amount of Mol cards
- 6) Livelihoods definition (Refugee and resilience perspective)
- 7) Updated list on Occupations and Education

Agenda of the Future meeting:

- 1) Roll out criteria for Syrian refugees who received work permit and how that will affect services provision.

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