



Protection
Working Group

Meeting Minutes 02 November 2016

Protection Working Group Jordan

Agencies present: ACTED, ARDD-Legal Aid, APS, AVSI, Care, CVT, DRC, FCA, IRC, JIF, JRC, JPS, NEF, IFH, NICCOD, NRC, TDHL UNFPA, UNOPS, UNICEF, UPP, WFP, PU-AMI, Vento Di terra and UNHCR

AGENDA:

- **PWG member announcement and updates, approval of minutes**
- **2016 Urban assessment – Care**
- **Protection LGBTI – UNHCR**
- **JRP and 3RP Updates**
- **AoB**

1. PWG member updates and announcements:

- **NRC - launch of the report ‘Securing Status - Syrian refugees and the documentation of legal status, identity, and family relationships in Jordan’:** the report is produced by NRC in partnership with Harvard’s International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC). The report considers the experiences of Syrian refugees with the Urban Verification Exercise (UVE) and focuses on the impact and obstacles faced by some refugees throughout the process. The launch will take place on Wednesday 9 November 2016 from 10am to 12pm. Report will be shared with PWG members when finalized. [Report available on Syria Portal now].
- **UNICEF:** In September, schools nationwide opened their doors to welcome all children, including approximately 165,000 new and returning Syrian students. This represents a 14% increase in enrolment amongst Syrian children since last year. So far, 92 new double-shifted schools enrolling approximately 20,000 children are operational in 27 directorates across 10 governorates. Ten additional double-shifted schools are under consideration to open later in October, reaching the target of establishing 102 new double-shifted schools. The Learning for All campaign kicked off on 1 August, encouraging families to enroll their children in schools. By end of September, 56,119 children (47 per cent girls) across all governorates were registered through the campaign. UNICEF and partners’ staff and volunteers discussed the importance of education with 90,515 individuals from 18,103 households conveying the single message to register all children in school. Ninety-three per cent of children reached through the campaign were Syrians and five per cent Jordanian while the remaining two per cent were from other nationalities, including Iraqis, Palestinians, Yemenis, Pakistanis, Egyptians and minority groups such as the Dom.

PWG members discussed non-Syrian access to schools at length, including the fees still applied to non-Syrian refugee students, and the high cost of books and supplies. While access appears to have improved in the current semester, with non-Syrian students more easily able

to join schools despite lack of residency, costs for fees and supplies remain high, and are covered for only a small portion by humanitarian actors.

- **Borders/berm:** Government have accepted to allow humanitarian access to provide humanitarian assistance on the boarders with no clear modalities yet. Discussion continuous about next step on how to provide lifesaving assistance on the berm. Agreement to distribute food in a specific distribution point at the Berm, this has to be done through contracting relationships with other parties, and only on the Syrian side at the northern berm, several kilometers to the west of the current site. A commitment to establish a health clinic that provide services that will be facilitated by the Jordanian Authorities.
- **Urban verification exercise:** The return of Syrians' documents was on-going during October. As of end of October 185,806 documents were returned, while approximately 36,922 documents remained to be delivered. By the end of July 2016, some 398,504 MOI cards have been issued in total: 370,732 to Syrians registered with UNHCR, and 27,772 to individuals not registered with UNHCR.

Action Point:

Sector Coordinators to request 2 members to be the new Protection Working Group Sector Gender Focal Points.

2. **Protection LGBTI – UNHCR:** UNHCR Protection Officer gave a presentation on their work with trainings and protection tools for LGBTI POCs in Jordan. In 2016 UNHCR Jordan organized and conducted 17 trainings on the subject of “Working with LGBTI Persons in Forced Displacement” and “Interviewing LGBTI Asylum-seekers and Refugees” in Arabic and in English. A total of 307 staff from UNHCR, IPs and NGOs were trained. The IPs and NGOs that were trained were amongst others: NRC, IMC, JEN, IFH, JHAS, IRD, IOM, ICMC, WFP, Save the Children Jordan, CARE, DRC, RI, ACTED, MSF, SOS, FPSC, PU-AMI, MECI, INTERSOS, Mercy Corps, OXFAM, MPDL, Islamic Relief World, UPP, TDH Italy, Action Aid and JCLA. 13 trainings were conducted on the subject of “Working with LGBTI Persons in Forced Displacement”, which is an LGBTI awareness and sensitization workshop. The training focused on raising awareness on the correct terminology in regards to the LGBTI vocabulary in Arabic and English. 4 trainings were conducted on the subject of “Interviewing LGBTI Asylum-seekers and Refugees”, these four trainings were concentrated on interview techniques in specific when interviewing LGBTI Asylum-seekers and Refugees. UNHCR also mentioned that they have LGBTI focal points, an in-house network, work in the registration, community service, protection and field staff in Amman, Irbid and main camps to ensure that registration is non-discriminatory for LGBTI persons of concern and that a proper welcoming environment is set up.

The focal points have been trained on LGBTI awareness trainings to be sensitized, this network was created in 2014. These staff members received additional trainings. They serve as frontliners within field offices and be easily identifiable by LGBTI persons of concern (using low-profile visibility material as LGBTI pins). Their responsibility as focal points is to provide a proper counselling, refer cases internally and to refer cases sometimes for partner organization for financial assistance (DRC), for health care (IMC) and sometimes to NHF for PEP kit, and sometimes to focal point at FPD for certain cases. UNHCR can provide other than counselling, resettlement as a durable solution. LGBTI persons are a very vulnerable group with high protection concerns in Jordan, and therefore they can be referred for resettlement to third countries.

Action Point:

In light of the serious protection risks frequently associated with LGBTI status, UNHCR encourages the referral to UNHCR of any case identified, for counselling and possible intervention as appropriate.

3. 2016 Urban assessment – Care:

Care gave a brief presentation on their latest assessment Six Years into exile that findings were published recently.

The new report is based on interviews with 1,603 Syrian refugee households in urban areas of Jordan, as well as 471 Jordanian citizens. Building on annual assessments conducted since 2012, the report identifies trends in the challenges facing refugees, their priorities, coping mechanisms and relations with host communities. For more information about the assessment please click the below links to the Portal and CARE presentation:

[Full report](#)

[Summary of the assessment](#)

[Presentation](#)

4. JRP/3RP Update:

Sector chair briefed members – very briefly - on the latest updates and changes on the Project Summary Sheets between 2016 and 2017 and explained the changes. Organizations that wants to do activities should enter their planning figures (Budget/Targets) on ActivityInfo 2017 DB. Sector Chair will be reviewing members' submissions and getting back to them if any comments/modifications are needed. The overall submission should not exceed the JRP budget ceiling of each project, members that face any difficulties to contact Sector Chair or Coordination Associate.

5. AoB:

UNHCR encouraged the referral to UNHCR of cases facing unusual documentation or legal protection concerns, such as smuggled cases, people without any form of identification, and other concerns. Many such problems can be resolved successfully, but they do require careful analysis and advocacy to avoid putting individuals at risk.

Next Meeting: 18 December 2016, 10-12 am, UNHCR Khalda, EMOPS Room

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