



Protection
Working Group

Meeting Minutes 11.07.2017

Protection Working Group Jordan

Agencies present: ARDD-Legal Aid, AVSI, CARE, CVT, DFID, DRC, ECHO, FCA, IOCC, IMC, INTERSOS, IOCC, IOM, IRC, IRAP, JIF, JRS, JPS, MC, MPDL, NHF-IFH, NRC, PU-AMI, Questscope, TDHL, UNHCR, UPP, UNICEF, UNRWA, BPRM, VdT, War Child UK, World Relief Germany, Oxfam, WFP, ICRC and ONG Rescate International

AGENDA:

- PWG member announcement and updates, approval of minutes
- Standing Updates - Northeastern Border; Urban Verification Exercise/MOI Cards, Deportations
- Information Product introduction: Sector Dashboards, Project Location mapping
- Return Movements: Recent Developments, Durable Solution Principles and Process
- Jordan Response Plan – Briefing on Way Forward, First Steps in Preparation
- Jordan Humanitarian Fund – Priorities for planned September call

1. PWG members updates and announcements:

N/A

2. Standing Updates - Northeastern Border situation; Urban Verification Exercise/MOI Cards, Deportations

- **MOI Card/Urban verification exercise:** As of end of June 421,369 MOI cards were issued. Out of those documents 390,999 MOI cards issued for individuals registered with UNHCR. The trends shows that 1000-2000 MOI cards are issued each month.
- **New Developments In MOI Card Issuance in Urban Areas:** Persons who: a) left the camps without bailout AND; b) already registered with UNHCR before March 8 2015 are deemed to have correct permit to reside in urban and can issue MOI service cards [i.e: a person who escaped the camp before March 8, 2015 but did *not* register with UNHCR before this date is not permitted to reside in urban and has to return to the camp]
- For persons who do not possess ID documents from Syria/lost all documents, MOI cards are issued based on UNHCR's Asylum Seeker Certificates (ASCs)
- Children born in Jordan and who do not have a Jordanian birth certificate will be referred to UNHCR to assist them to issue a birth certificate.
- Children born in Syria and who do not have documents to prove their identity may be issued the MOI service card, based on UNHCR ASC.
- All bailout documents issued by Ramtha are considered cancelled by the GOJ. However, persons holding such bailouts and urban ASCs from UNHCR are deemed to be permitted to reside in urban (i.e: they do not need any further action to be regularized). Based on that the police stations will

issue them with the new MOI cards. If they have the Ramtha bailout and were not registered with UNHCR, the police station will refer them to UNHCR for registration.

Action Point: Given the numerous recent updates on the requirements for the UVE process, UNHCR legal department will update the FAQ that is used as a reference document by partners providing legal advice on legal and civil documentation.

- **Northeastern Border:** The continuation of the second cycle of humanitarian aid deliveries to the populations in the north-east Jordan-Syria border is expected to resume in the first week of July. An estimated 45,000 - 50,000 people are stranded at two remote locations – Hadalat and Rukban – at the berm. A variety of factors including security, crowd control and sand storms has resulted in irregular deliveries to the Rukban area. Between 7th May and 15 June, when the last deliveries were possible, 35,451 individuals received aid including food, hygiene kits, dignity kits, solar lamps and jerry cans. Some 72 per cent of those in receipt of assistance were women and children. The humanitarian situation is dire and is exacerbated by extreme seasonal temperatures and a volatile security environment.

An innovative aspect of this distribution has been the introduction of biometrics; the iris scan of individuals has been captured, avoiding the duplication of assistance and ensuring that assistance is going to each head of household.

An emergency vaccination campaign was successfully concluded during the first week of June. The campaign was undertaken by UN agencies in coordination with the Ministry of Health. The campaign reached over 15,000 children and infants with polio vaccinations and vitamin A to counter the threat of vaccine-derived polio viruses, recently reported in Syria. The vaccination campaign was conducted by Syrian health workers operating north of the Jordanian berm. A second round of vaccinations is to be conducted at the health clinic. The campaign is scheduled to begin in mid-July and will cater for measles and tetanus vaccination.

- **Deportations:** Numbers show a consistent decline from highs of January-February this year, with continued broad-based advocacy efforts ongoing during the period. Confirmed deportations have reduced by 77% from Jan-Feb peak, at 130 for June. While reduced, in some cases family members are included in deportations, and procedural protections are lacking.
- **Spontaneous Returns:** Spontaneous (voluntary) returns were low in June, at 140 individuals. Primary reason for return continues to be overwhelmingly desire to reunify with family in Syria.

3. **Inter-sector Coordination Information Product introduction: Sector Dashboards, Project Location mapping** – Ghassan Shehadeh, Protection Sector Coordination Associate presented the newly developed Protection Sector Dashboard and Project Location Mapping to members of the PWG. Protection Sector dashboard demonstrate the achievements/progress that have been reported through ActivityInfo by different agencies each month using demographic and automated charts using different filters. The dashboard will assist different parties to assess the performance on the sector/agencies and helps to identify the gaps along with other tools that was developed by UNHCR information Management team such as Financial Tracking System and Services Advisor. Additionally Coordination Associate presented the Project Location Map that shows all the projects that were submitted on ActivityInfo by members on the Map of Jordan, specifying their activity per location. In order for this tool to be useful, we strongly encourage all partners to make sure that their activities are updated.

Protection Sector Dashboard can be reached through the following link <http://scs.raisunhcr.org/dashboards/Protection.aspx> or www.data.unhcr.org/jordan

Project Location Map can be reached through the following link <http://scs.raisunhcr.org/ProjectLocation/Default.aspx> or www.data.unhcr.org/jordan

4. Return Movements: Recent Developments, Durable Solution Principles and Process

UNHCR considers that conditions for refugees to return in safety and dignity are not yet in place in Syria. UNHCR is not promoting or facilitating returns. It is vital that the asylum space for Syrians who have fled the country or those who may do so in future is maintained. There remain significant risks for civilians. The minimum 'thresholds' for voluntary, safe and dignified returns are therefore not met. UNHCR in Syria is responding to choices being made by internally-displaced Syrians and a smaller number of refugees who have decided to return to their homes. As the PWG, we emphasize the need to ensure the voluntary nature of returns, noting that coerced or forced return is a violation of refugee rights and the principle of non-refoulement.

Action: Distribute UNHCR Post-cease Planning Syria, Return-Related Messages for Refugees

5. Jordan Response Plan – Briefing on Way Forward, First Steps in Preparation

PWG Coordinator mentioned that the Government of Jordan started the JRP planning phase recently, and it is expected that JRP Social Protection Task Force and Justice Task Force chairs will start to call for first meetings with partners including UN agencies, NGOs and donors in coming days. Sector Coordinator brief members on the process that involves preparation of the Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment (CVA), Sector Response Strategy, and Project Summary Sheet (PSS) which determine the financial ceiling for the Protection Sector projects after discussions with the government. After finalizing the PSS the Inter-Agency Appeal process (3RP) starts by requesting members who are interested to be part of the 3RP to submit their planned activities they want to implement using ActivityInfo.

Sector Coordinator emphasized on members commitment and cooperation through the JRP process, the PWG will start requesting partners to start planning their activities/budgets/targets in order to be prepared for the JRP process and have a concrete vision on the required resources needed to be negotiated with the Government.

Action Point: Template to be sent to PWG members that intend to participate in the 3RP appeal/JRP process for 2018-202. Members to fill out their initial planning for 2018 and send out the template by deadline TBC.

6. Jordan Humanitarian Fund – Priorities for planned September call

Sector Coordinator briefed members on the second call for the proposals, which is expected to be announced in early September. The maximum funding for one project is US\$ 400,000. The Fund is meant to meet the emerging needs and to fill in humanitarian gaps. The thematic focus of the second call for the proposal will be "winterization". Members were requested to identify and suggest sector priorities that is related to winterization or a gap to be considered as a priority with justification. The JHF priorities are more specific than the broader programme priorities, and this mainly due to:

- 1) the short term nature of the JHF-funded projects: the need to identify projects that can pass the projects' review processes quickly and be implemented or scaled up within a short-space of time

- 2) the relatively small amount of funding involved in the JHF, and the need to select projects that can have a meaningful impact/are suited to smaller scale programming;
- 3) the principle that NGOs should be prioritized as the recipients of JHF funding over UN agencies

Action Point: Members to identify and suggest Protection sector priorities for the second round of JHF.

Next Meeting: 08 August 2017, 10-12 am, UNHCR Khalda, EMOPS Room

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