



## **Child Protection sub-working Group Meeting minutes**

**03.10.2017**

**Agencies Present: JNCW, SJD, NHF-IFH, Islamic RW, IOCC, IRC, War Child UK, NRC, DRC, Plan International, Save The Children, Mercy Without Limits, Intersos, UNHCR, Questscope, TDHL, CVT, NCFA and ARCS and UNICEF.**

### **Agenda:**

- 1) Early Marriage Instructions**
- 2) Update on Birth Registration**
- 3) Introduce the MENA Civil Society Network for Displacement and a brief on youth report**
- 4) Update on Inter Agency SOP**
- 5) Update on JRP child protection project summary sheet**
- 6) UNICEF PDM exercise - Rapid Assessments at al Rukban**

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action Point	Responsible Agency
<p><b>Early Marriage Instructions</b></p>	<p>Consultant of Chief of Justice in Shariah Supreme Court was invited to brief members on new Early Marriage instructions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackling Early marriage issue among Syrians refugee community needs collaboration and holistic approach from different concern entities not only amending the law or restricting the court authority in this regard. He added Syrians parents accept to marry their daughters in early age for different reasons, these reasons refer to Social, economic, educational background and traditional.</li> <li>• In early marriage cases, the Sharia Judges are applying the instruction of the early marriage that issued by the Chief of Justice. Which as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1- The fiancé shall be eligible in terms of the competency elements stipulated in article (21), clause (A) from the Personal Status Law.</li> <li>2- The judge shall verify the full consent of the couple.</li> <li>3 - The court shall verify the necessity and best interest which result from this marriage contract, whether it's economic necessity, social necessity, or for security considerations, or any other necessity which achieves benefits and prevents harm. (it is a group decision among experts deciding on best interest and doesn't depend</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

	<p>solely on the decision of an individual judge).</p> <p>4- The court shall verify that there is an obvious interest that will result from this marriage, such as (no big gap in the ages of the couple, the marriage will not prevent any of the couple from education, the couple be marrying for the first time)</p> <p>5- This marriage contract shall be approved by the Guardian, according to articles (17, 18, and 20) from the Personal Status Law.</p> <p>6- The court shall organize an official file which includes the court verification and consideration based on all the prescribed requirements which are necessary to approve the marriage; such file shall be sent to the Supreme Judge Department of the Shari'a Court for study, and to give a final decision.</p> <p>7- After receiving approval of the Supreme Judge, a marriage permission will be issued officially.</p> <p>8- The marriage contract will be registered after checking the eligibility elements.</p> <p>In addition to, (i) The age gap between the newly-weds cannot exceed 15 years.(ii) in order to conduct a marriage for a minor <u>male</u>, the judge should receive consent from the concerned department (Section of Minors) in Sharia court HQ.(iii) Couples about to be married must attend course for newly married couples (not available in all</p>		
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	<p>courts; therefore the Supreme Shari'a Court will later determine which courts will offer these courses/implement the new requirement). However, While the sharia court judges are applying the new instructions for early marriage, they noticed that most likely the underage fiance and fiancée are always willing to get married, and in case the judges refused to conduct the marriage, they would seek marriage out of court.</p> <p>(iv) The court shall provide an explanation for the fiancée about her right to put her specific conditions in writing on the marriage permission issued by the Judge for the purpose of safeguarding her interests and benefits.</p> <p>(iiv) The fiancés should provide a certificate proving that they passed the course for newly married couples, which is organized by the Section or any other entity approve by the Supreme Judge. The Supreme Judge shall determine the courts that are included.</p> <p>(iiiv) The Court may refer any marriage request for persons who are under 18 to the Family Reconciliation Office to get their opinion regarding the submitted marriage request. Family Reconciliation Office shall study the referred request and provide the court with its opinion regarding the request.</p> <p>(ixv) In order to receive the permission for marriage, the fiancé (male) who is below 18 years old shall submit an approval issued by the Department of Minors at the Supreme Judge's Department. In addition, the applications that do not meet the above mentioned</p>		
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	<p>requirements shall be referred to Department of Inheritances and Minors for study and giving an opinion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Jordanian Personal Status Law is completely prohibited conducting marriage for who is under 15. Dr. Ashraf assured.</li> <li>• The Sharia Courts are applying the Personal Status Law regarding imposing fine against those who involved on undocumented marriage (Marriage conducted by Shaiek out of the court)".</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Update on Birth Registration</b></p>	<p>UNHCR Protection Legal Associate updated members on the new procedures for the Birth Registration as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issuing birth certificate for children born in Jordan and their age exceeding one year requires a lawsuit verdict from competent court. UNHCR through legal aid partner, ARDD- Legal Aid, assist persons of concerns to file such lawsuit in the courts in the country wide covering the required legal fees as well.</li> <li>• Issuing birth certificates for children who exceeding 30 days requires paying ten JD fines. In camps exclusively, there is an exemption effective till the end of 2017 of paying such fine.</li> <li>• According to the new instruction of issuing Ministry of Interior Service Card, Children born in Syria and lack of documents are entitled to issue MOI service cards based on UNHCR's registration.</li> </ul>	<p>One pager document by UNHCR legal unit to be prepared.</p> <p>Document can be found <a href="#">Here</a></p>	

<p><b>Introduce the MENA Civil Society Network for Displacement and a brief on youth report</b></p>	<p>Sector Coordinator briefed members on the MENA civil society network for Displacement.</p> <p>UNHCR together with key national civil society actor established the Jordan civil society network for displacement. At this stage It includes national NGOs , academia and think tanks aiming at expanding membership to other key actors. The network aims to provide a platform for NGOs and others in the region to strengthen their individual voices and actions towards the protection and assistance of displaced persons through: Aligned messaging, Joint advocacy, Training and development.</p>		
<p><b>Update on Inter Agency SOP</b></p>	<p>IA Sops was shared with CPSWG and SGBVSWG for their comments. It was explained during the meeting that a follow up round table discussion will take place for representatives of working groups with the consultant and NCFA (working on developing the national SOP to further provide an opportunity of including comments from all relevant actors).</p>		
<p><b>Update on JRP child protection project summary sheet</b></p>	<p>Following the Deadsea JRP planning workshop for the Social Protection Taskforce, All protection project summary sheets including CP are being finalized after receiving comments from participants, final PSS will be shared with members once</p>		

	<p>finalized</p> <p>Protection Working Group will hold a workshop on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of October to train agencies who are appealing for projects for 2018 on submissions on ActivityInfo for the 3RP (Inter-Agency) Appeal, members were notified that they need to prepare their data prior to the workshop as it is planned to have a live uploading of activities session on both resilience and refugees components. The workshop will consist of training, review of the 2018-2020 JRP projects (Including activities and indicators) and live upload of services. Deadline for partners to submit their 3RP data is the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.</p>	<p><b>Workshop invitation to be shared.</b></p>	
<p><b>UNICEF PDM exercise - Rapid Assessments at al Rukban</b></p>	<p>UNICEF presented the protection-specific findings of two Rapid Assessments at al Rukban that were conducted in June/July and August/September. Some 6380 respondents were reached through a number of UNICEF trained community members who conducted the assessments using KoBo (an online-offline data collection tool). This was complemented by 3 focus group discussions with teachers, community-health workers, and community leaders. The assessment looked at a number of sectors, including health, WASH, and education. The results presented focused on protection issues related to children associated with armed conflict, children with disabilities, unaccompanied and separated children, and psychosocial issues.</p>		

**Next Meeting: 23 November 2017, 1200-1400 am, at UNICEF**

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