

PROTECTION WORKING GROUP MEETING

MINUTES

1 APRIL 2021

VENUE: Yerevan, ARMENIA (via MS Teams)

Participating organizations:

On 1 April 2021, 28 participants from UN agencies, other international organizations, Government, and international/local NGOs attended the nineteenth meeting of the Protection Working Group (PWG).

Meeting agenda:

- Updates by Child Protection Sub-Working Group (SWG) on protection activities and issues
- Updates by Education SWG on protection activities and issues
- Updates by participating organizations on protection activities and issues
- Updates on departure monitoring and presentation of the dashboard by UNHCR
- Presentation of the findings on Protection Monitoring by UNHCR
- Updates on 5W-s matrix and service mapping tool by UNHCR
- Miscellaneous updates and issues.

Updates by Child Protection SWG on protection activities and issues:

Child Protection SWG did not have updates as the regular meeting had not taken place. As soon as the meeting is conducted, minutes of the meeting would be shared with the PWG. Mine Awareness Assessment was conducted jointly by UNDP, UNICEF and CHDE (Centre for Humanitarian Demining and Expertise) in Syunik marz. As a follow up, a request was received from CHDE to support in conducting demining missions in 3 other provinces: Tavush, Vayots Dzor and Gegharkunik.

Updates by Education SWG on protection activities and issues:

No major updates were provided by Education SWG. It was mentioned that the Ministry of Education of Armenia is monitoring the school attendance of children from NK. No major gaps were reported. Partners of Education SWG continue to provide support directly or through implementing partners. They are supporting and ensuring education continuity through psycho-social support to children, students, and their parents.

Updates from the participating organizations:

Save the Children International:

- Activities are continued in Armavir, Syunik, Gegharkunik, Ararat, Kotayk marzes and in Yerevan.
- Four child-friendly centres continue to operate in Goris and Armavir marzes providing recreation and education activities to children aged 3-18. 480 children benefitted from child-friendly services in the past month. They also participated in English classes organized in cooperation with the American University of Armenia. Computer classes were also provided.
- Psycho-social support was provided through group work and individual consultations.
- More than 80 parents and caregivers participated in positive parenting sessions on child health care and GBV.

- 125 children were provided with tablets and internet connectivity in Goris and Armavir and 100 more children will be provided during April.
- Ongoing monitoring of the situation by the partners is undertaken on a weekly basis, including identification of out of school children, support with referrals to appropriate services (state employment services, health facilities, social support, and specialized psychological services). Four out of school children were identified in Goris and two in Armavir. The main reasons for being out of school was uncertainty as the parents did not know where they would be in the coming months. As a result of follow-up actions, currently all these children attend school.
- 42 home visits were conducted by social workers of partner organizations for identification of the needs of displaced families.

IOM:

- In cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) renovations will be conducted in one child support centre (Zatik) and three elderly houses. In one of the facilities the renovations have already started. As clarified by the representative of MoLSA, the facilities being renovated by IOM are not included in the list provided to UNHCR. Further information will be shared with the PWG.
- NFI-s and hygiene kits will be distributed to 2300 beneficiaries. MoLSA will help with identification of beneficiaries.

Mission Armenia NGO:

- 503 persons applied to Mission Armenia with issues related to health care, cash assistance, and first necessity items. Referrals were made to local self-government authorities, NGOs and polyclinics.
- 696 families received NFI assistance in the form of bed linens, school and hygiene items. 347 families were provided with food parcels. 160 families received gift cards (AMD 15,000) for purchasing clothes and shoes.

Armenian Round Table Foundation:

- Jointly with ACTED, People in Need, Armenian Association of Social Workers, "Multisectoral emergency assistance to vulnerable conflict-affected population in Armenia" project is being implemented. The project is aimed at promoting the wellbeing of the vulnerable displaced persons and host communities in Armenia.
- By the end of the month distribution of winterization kits to 2085 persons from both displaced and host communities will start. Distributions will be organized in coordination with local authorities in Gegharkunik, Kotayk, Tavush, Shirak, and Lori marzes.
- Recreational activities, psychosocial support and stress management sessions will be conducted for around 2000 persons in the same marzes. The project end date is 30 June 2021.

Updates by UNHCR on missions to marzes; departure monitoring and presentation of the dashboard:

- UNHCR conducted missions to Syunik and Kotayk marzes. Meetings were conducted with local authorities, management of collective shelters, NGO partners, community-based organizations and with persons of concern. In Syunik marz there is an efficient mechanism of coordination including the representatives of NGO-s and local authorities and UNHCR will also be involved in this coordination channels. Another mission is planned to Syunik marz in the coming weeks for the implementation of the ideas resulting from the findings of the previous mission. The missions revealed the willingness and openness of local authorities to support to the extent possible.
- UNHCR continues monitoring of departures. Updated information on departures was shared in a dashboard as of 31 March 2021. The dashboard was also shared with the PWG

in a presentation. It was highlighted that there was a drastic increase in departures in the recent days.

Presentation of the findings on Protection Monitoring by UNHCR and updates on 5W-s matrix and service mapping tool:

- UNHCR Armenia presented the findings from the first and second round of protection monitoring. The presentation was shared with the PWG.
- The partners were reminded to share their inputs for the 5W-s matrix and fill in the service mapping form. A dashboard on the 5W-s matrix would be shared with the PWG after receiving the inputs. UNHCR expressed readiness to assist the partners with the 5W-s matrix and the service mapping tool.

Miscellaneous updates and issues:

The next meeting will be held on 3 May 2021.

*UNHCR Armenia
April 2021*