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| **INTER-SECTOR WORKING GROUP***30th August 2021* | |
| **Chair/Co-Chair** | Silvia Terren (UNHCR)**;** Dr. KanarHidayat (MoP) |
| Participants | **Protection:** Gavin Lim (UNHCR)  **GBV:** Farid Gul (UNFPA)  **Child Protection:** Nawres Mahmood (Save the Children)  **Food Security:** Farid Al-Maqdsi (WFP)  **Shelter:**  Luay Ghassan Alalousi (UNHCR)  **WASH:** Jennifer Vettel (UNICEF)  **Livelihood**: Sadia Anwer (UNDP)  **Basic Needs**: Nizar Al-Muhyedin (UNHCR)  **Other**: Gabriela Bergan (IOM); Kawa Yahya (UNHCR) Marwa Hashem (UNHCR); Yousif Mahmood (UNHCR); Gavin Lim (UNHCR; Peter Kintu (UNHCR); Theodore Jasper (REACH); Star A Jami (MoP); Virginia Leape (Oxfam/CCLI); Muftah Etwilb (IFRC); Layse Farias (UNHCR); Mary Jones (iMMAP); Prshang Hamad (UNHCR); Halmat Najim (FAO); Hussain Al-Mulla (UNICEF) Roshna Abdulrahman (UNHCR) Mahmood Saeed (UNHCR) |
| Absences | **Health –** Yade Hadi (WHO)  **Education –** Munas Kalden (UNICEF) |
| Agenda | 1. Ministry of Planning Update 2. Sectors Update 3. Presentation on “Refugee Return Pathways: Iraq to Syria” from iMMAP/RCM 4. 3RP Updates |

**Ministry of Planning Update** – Dr. Kanar Hadayat

* The MoP reiterated the commitment to co-chair the ISWG and work collaboratively with 3RP partners on the refugee response to align KR- I planning with Sectors’ provisions, strategic directions and gaps identified.
* The MoP highlighted challenges faced by local public services to fully include refugees in service provisions due to more advocacy needed to increase budget allocation. This is reflected in the vaccination campaign and in the poor capacity of local municipalities to provide services to refugee camps, especially in relation to the gaps identified in the WASH sector.
* The MoH is issuing vaccination cards for those that have bene vaccinated and refugees will be included.

**Sector Updates**

PROTECTION – Gavin Lim (UNCHR)

* As of 31st July 2021, the total Syrian refugees registered are 247, 044 (62% in urban areas, 38% in camps).
* There has been a slight increase in registration trends in 2021. UNHCR is addressing the registration backlog accumulated due to Covid 19 restrictions in 2020 and doubled efforts since April 2021.
* Verified cases of spontaneous return to Syria in 2021 decreased compared with 2020 due to increased insecurity and economic downturn in the country of origin. 2020: 8,508 / 2021 (YTD July): 2,372.
* Ongoing increase of detention of Syrians in Centre and South remains a concern due to lack/ expired documentation resulting in violation of the GoI residency regulations (UNHCR registered 180 detention cases in Q1 and 70 in Q2).
* Ongoing UNHCR activities: protection monitoring, legal assistance, border monitoring, law and policy development, Participatory Assessments.
* UNHCR is supporting KRG-MoI with the draft of ministerial instructions on access to legal stay: no legal document yet but a positive development to harmonise procedures across governorates.

GBV: Farid Gul (UNFPA)

* A sector analysis conducted in Q2 highlighted a 6% increase in GBV incident (94% are female and 2.6% are related to child sexual abuse). The increase is related to the economic impact of Covid 19, movement restrictions and gender norms.
* GBV programming is mainly focused on provision of GBV case management and PSS for survivors, while major gaps remain in lack of available shelters for survivors, awareness on reporting mechanisms and access to livelihood opportunities. The Sub-Sector is aiming to increase mapping of livelihood actors and related referral mechanisms and integrate livelihood activities in GBV programming.

CHILD PROTECTION: Nawres Mahmood (Save the Children)

* Analysis conducted by the Case Management Working Group highlighted the top 3 child protection concerns: Neglect, Separate Children and Domestic Violence. These are followed by Physical Abuse, child mothers, unaccompanied children (the last one is specific to refugees). In 2021 the variety and types of concerns remain the same as 2020. Slight decrease of unaccompanied children due to less movements from NES.
* The sub-sector identified gaps in staff capacity and poor assessment skills to identify and respond to child protection concerns. 4 guidance have been produced to support partners to identify signs and respond to Child Labour, Child Marriage, Physical and Sexual Abuse (translated and available to be shared with partners).

SHELTER - Luay Ghassan Alalousi (UNHCR)

* UNHCR continued Shelter upgrade activities in all camps, including the upgrading of shelters in Arbat, Gawilan and Basirma camps.
* Infrastructure projects are ongoing as part of the strategy to integrate camps with hosting communities, including the construction of a PHC and a school Kawergosk.

WASH: Jennifer Vettel (UNICEF)

* A Taskforce to tackle the issue of water scarcity has been set up and includes 25/30 organizations focused on monitoring water scarcity and providing technical response and capacity updates.
* The Sector is prioritizing addressing funding gaps in the WASH sector by mapping gaps across all refugee camps and looking at more resource mobilization. The most urgent issue is in Bardarash camp where SI phased out in August and WLF took over at minimum provision till October 2021 only. An urgent call for funding is required to fill this gap after October.
* The sector is looking at long term plans which aims to focus more future programming under the resilience component of the 3RP and invest more in capacity building and infrastructure interventions to gradually integrate WASH provision in local municipalities, as a strategy to also attract more donors.

LIVELIHOOD: Sadia Anwer (UNDP)

* There are major gaps in KR-I (especially Duhok) in terms of livelihood programming targeting refugees due to a decrease of funding and livelihood partners.
* For the next 3RP planning, the Livelihood sector aims to include the following strategic directions: delivery of evidence-based livelihood programming through more focus on market and labour assessments; harmonizing targeting and increase referral mechanisms with other sectors, such as Education; linking with cash assistance programming for consumption support under the Graduation approach (Poverty Alleviation Coalition); prioritizing for cash for work and job referral mechanisms as livelihood assistance; welcome joined programming targeting both host communities and refugees.
* The Emergency Livelihood Cluster has now shared on their website a 4Ws dashboard for Livelihood, a list of vocational training centres across KR-I and SOPs for livelihood programming, including Cash for Work.

BASIC NEEDS: Nizar Al-Muhyedin (UNHCR)

* Distribution of Multi Purpose Cash Assistance is ongoing: refugees receiving $250 a month for 12 months. The amount was also increased due to the devaluation of IQD.
* UNHCR has been distributing cash for COVID 19 (24000IQD) to 11000 refugees and will continue in the Q3 and Q4.
* Winterisation support is delivered through cash assistance in and out of camp ($400 in winter months). Distribution of CRI was provided for 1060 individuals but decreased due to less new arrivals.

FOOD: Farid Al-Maqdsi (WFP)

* WFP continued food assistance to refugees across the 10 camps in KR-I in 2021 and included an additional 35000 cases.
* The review is still ongoing of the complaints submitted by refugees through feedback mechanisms in relation to their exclusion from assistance. CRC mechanisms have been activated at camp level to evaluate the cases.

HEALTH: written update - Dr. Mohammed Marzoog (UNHCR)

* MOH-Baghdad has provided MOH-KRG with 35k vaccines for the IDPs and Refugees inside the camps. (10k Erbil, 10k Suli, and 15k Duhok). Also, according to MoH-Baghdad, they increased the total doses of COVID-19 vaccines to KR-I by 2.5 – 3% to cover IDPs and refugees.
* The positivity rate has dropped down in KRG to 13.8 from 17.7.
* MoH is discussing initiating mass vaccination. Further information will be shared soon.
* Total number of COVID-19 cases among refugees (cumulative since the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic) was 801 by the 25th of August. 22 cases died, 420 cases were recovered, 289 active cases, and 70 with unknown outcome.
* The number of COVID-19 cases continued to increase in Erbil refugee camps, Duhok IDP camps, Sulaymania IDP and refugee camps.

EDUCATION

* The Education sector, together with the MoE and UNHCR, set up a Taskforce to monitor the endorsement of the Refugee Integration Education Policy and support the MoE with the implementation strategy and planning.

**3-Presentation on “Refugee Return Pathways: Iraq to Syria” – Mary Jones (iMMAP)**

* Presentation shared with the minutes.

**4 – 3RP Updates (Silvia Terren/UNHCR)**

* Provided update on the revised ToR for inter-agency coordination. The ISWG will remain an info-sharing platform, while it will work in conjunction with the following additional coordination platforms: Information Management quarterly meetings to validate Activity info data, conduct sector analysis and improve the overall M&E framework at country level; Briefing sessions for donors/development actors and private sector; Comms focal points meetings to increase external relation tools for donor engagement.
* Sectors/UNHCR conducted quality checks on Activity info for the Midyear report which also helped to finalise the new Activity Info Dashboard. The Dashboard will be shared internally with sector leads for the purpose of decision making for planning and will be shared publicly after more validation of the data with the sectors. Discrepancies have been identified effecting both 3RP indicators and funding reports.
* A training for implementing partners was delivered in June 2021 on how to enter data on accessible services for refugees on the Service Advisor Platform. Following the pilot, the Platform has been finalised and a new training will be arranged on the updated Kobo form.
* The planning phase for the 3RP Planning 2022/23 will start in September and instructions will be shared with sectors. Sector leads will be required to contribute on the 3RP strategic direction, indicators, and funding requirements by sectors. As part of the process, sectors will also feed into the Inter-Agency Solution Strategy.
* The Questionnaire for the MSNA 2021 was finalised through feedback from each sector between June and July. Data collection has started in August and feedback sessions on the early findings will be organised in November 2021 to feed into the overall planning.

**A separate Action/Follow Ups sheet is shared together with the minutes.**

**The Next ISWG will take place on the last week of October 2021. Date TBC**