

CHILD PROTECTION in EMERGENCIES WORKING GROUP – LEBANON

Minutes of Meeting

DATE : 10 May 2013 @ 11:00 -13:00

LOCATION : Unicef Office

CHAIR : Natacha Emerson, CPIEWG Coordinator

PARTICIPANTS: 22 participants representing 17 organisations (ABAAD, AVSI Foundation, Blue Mission Organisation, ICRC, Islamic Relief, Mercy Corps, Mouvement Sociale, NRC, OCHA, Save the Children, SFCG, UNFIL, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOCHA, War Child Holland, World Vision) including field coordinators from North Lebanon (Unicef and UNHCR) and Bekaa (Unicef)

Cat Jones, Unicef and Elsa Laurin, UNHCR were introduced to the CPIEWG members as representatives of the respective co-leads. Field coordinators from Bekaa and North Lebanon were also present in the meeting.

I. Review of Action Points

Update on action points:

- ✓ A meeting to review the report on the Lebanon CP assessment was held on 25 April. Steering Committee members present agreed that the report should be redrafted with an aim to share the assessment with a broader audience;
- ✓ Syrian Remote Child Protection Rapid Assessment – Assessment in Bekaa was completed on 26 April. 113 questionnaires were collected by 8 surveyors in 10 towns/villages across Bekaa (Zahle, West Bekaa, Baalbeck). The assessment team included staff from Mercy Corps and World Vision. The assessment in North Lebanon is ongoing with surveyors from UNHCR, Caritas, World Vision and Save the Children. 109 Syrian refugees have been interviewed mainly from Aleppo, Idleb and Homs Governorates;
- ✓ Location of MOSA 27 Social Development Centers was circulated to CPIEWG members on 29 April 2013;
- ✓ Activity Matrix – 08 CPIEWG members have sent information of their activities for the 4W; remaining members are encouraged to also send their input so as to have a comprehensive overview of all CP activities within the sector.

II. Working Modalities

The Terms of Reference for the coordination forum on Child Protection is in the process of being developed. It outlines the function, leadership and structure of the WG in addition to member's role, working modalities and the confidentiality of information shared within the WG. Discussions are taking place amongst the three co-leads (MOSA, UNICEF and UNHCR) to finalise the draft before sharing with the broader membership. It was agreed that the Child Protection meetings would not serve as a forum for discussion on individual cases.

A CPIEWG workplan has been developed with action points on the CPIEWG management, assessments, strategy development, operations, monitoring & evaluation, information management, advocacy & communication and capacity building (see attached). Members are encouraged to provide feedback and actively participate in rolling out the workplan.

III. Update on CP issues

Child Labour – feedback from the field highlighted the increasing concern of children working long hours and at a young age (8-10yrs) to support their families in providing an income. In the Bekaa, boys have been solicited for labour particularly in the agricultural industry during the spring and girls are increasingly offering to work. In Beirut, it was noted that Syrian boys aged 14-16 yrs were the most affected. Concerns were also shared for children in the Palestinian camps and gatherings, however UNRWA interventions aims at preventing the risk of child labour (cash distribution, awareness raising).

No member is specifically addressing this concern (gap identified) yet members agreed that greater focus needs to be given to the issue, particularly on worst forms of child labour. To better understand the kinds of work and conditions in which children work, field coordinators agreed to commence profiling child labour cases. Preventative activities (including livelihoods and assistance programs; awareness raising) should be developed to reduce the risk of child labour.

Children associated with armed forces and armed groups – increasing numbers in Akkar (although cases not verified or confirmed). Should be considered an increasing priority for the CPIEWG.

Children with disabilities – lack of service providers to respond to the needs of children with disabilities and limited skills of case workers to handle such specific needs cases (response gap).

IV. ICRC Tracing & Re-establishment of Family Links by Christine Rechdane, ICRC Protection Assistant

The ICRC works towards locating people and putting them back into contact with their relatives. This work includes looking for family members (tracing), restoring contact, reuniting families and seeking to clarify the fate of those who remain missing.

To date there has not been a significant need for tracing and reestablishment of family links activities in Lebanon due to good telecommunications systems and other informal communication channels between relatives and friends ('telephone arabe').

ICRC works with UNHCR and host authorities in Lebanon to trace persons and with the Syrian Red Crescent (an auxiliary to the Syrian authorities) to trace persons in Syria.

For persons seeking to find a missing family member, it is recommended to first check with UNHCR as to whether the person has been registered as a refugee. If unsuccessful, ICRC will accept a tracing request if:

- The enquirer is a family member;
- The family member gives informed consent;
- Information on the missing family member (age, date and location of disappearance, circumstances of disappearance).

All information shared by the family member will be kept confidential.

For children, focus is on unaccompanied minors; 3 cases have been received to date. ICRC staff ensure that priority is given to tracing requests lodged by parents, as this can speed up the tracing process. Answers are given directly to families.

Other services provided by ICRC include travel documents for persons (not necessarily Syrians) who were resident in Damascus and need assistance to travel abroad and to enter Lebanon for transit purposes; and assistance in family reunification.

To refer tracing cases to the International Committee to the Red Cross (ICRC), please send the contact details (name, phone number & address) of the family member lodging the tracing request to the following ICRC staff:

Beirut	Christine Redchane	70156600			
Bekaa	Thouraya ben Youssef	03380139	or	Bechare Hanna	03888182
North	Fatma El Jack	71802335			

Tyre Riad Dbouk 07349711 or 70129560
Tripoli Samih Krabbara 70163252

For more information – www.familylinks.icrc.org

V. Content of Recreation and Early Childhood Development Kits

In an attempt to review and standardise the kits used in Child Friendly Spaces, Unicef shared product details of the content of their Recreation and Early Childhood Development Kits (sent to CPIEWG members on 11 May 2013). Members were asked to provide feedback on the list of supplies based on needs in the field and cultural relevance. During the next meeting, comments will be reviewed to develop a standard list of items so that every child attending a CFS will receive the same standard of service.

V. Mapping of Activities

An activity matrix (4Ws) has been sent to all members to fill out based on the response domains of the inter-agency Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action. The 4Ws provides us with an overview of what is being done and where, so as to identify gaps and consolidate efforts. The matrix will be used to produce maps and an analysis sheet for CP response, which will be made available on the UNHCR web portal. An example of the maps produced based on information received was shown to members.

VI. AoB

Training Survey - Given that various members have received concerns regarding the need to improve capacity of CP actors responding to the Syrian Crisis, the CPIEWG has developed a web-based training survey to identify the specific capacity building needs of actors working in child protection (at all levels) and training expertise amongst members of the CPIEWG. The survey will be sent around in the coming weeks and members are encouraged to complete the survey as well as circulate and encourage their colleagues working on CP to also fill it out.

Unicef and Save the Children PSS/CFS Training – An inter-agency training on Child Friendly Spaces will be held at the **Crown Plaza Hotel from 27th-31st May** inclusive. Experienced trainers from the global child protection working group will be joining to roll out this training as part of a longer term capacity building initiative for child protection actors in the region. Please contact Catherine Jones/ UNICEF at cajones@unicef.org for more details.

Unicef Mapping Exercise with their implementing partners will be held on 14th May at the Grande Plaza from 09:00 to 1700.

Next meeting: **24 May 2013**

ACTION POINTS

ACTION	BY WHO	BY WHEN	COMMENTS
Redraft CP assessment and send to Steering Committee	Natacha	20 May	
Send comments on ECD and Recreation Kits product detail sheets to cajones@unicef.org	Members	17 May	
Send activity matrix (4Ws) to CP coordination and IMO	Members	17 May	
Mapping of activities (based on 4W input)	Ketan, UNICEF IMO	24 May	
Identify hubs and fill in referral charts	Field-based Coordinators	End- May	
Finalise TORs, structure, communication lines	Co-leads & Natacha	End-May	Meetings with MOSA, UNICEF & UNHCR
Child Labour Profiling	Field staff	ongoing	To better understand the kind of work and conditions in which children are working
Enquire re: GoL and ILO strategy on child labour	Natacha Abir/UNICEF	24 May	
Identify and contact organisations working on children with disabilities	Natacha, co-leads	End-May	Eg. Handicap International, Arc –en-ciel, Lebanese Physical Handicapped Union, NPA
Fill in Capacity Building needs survey	All	End-May	Natacha to develop and circulate by 24 May

Next meeting: Friday 24th May at MOSA main building.

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