

Protection Working Group – 18 December 2013 – Beirut

Meeting			
Name	Protection Working Group	Meeting Date	18/12/2013
Meeting Location	UNHCR	Meeting Time	10:00 A.M
Chair person	Mr Claudio Delfabro, Protection Coordinator	Meeting Duration	2 hours
Minutes Prepared by	Anne-Marie Kerrigan-Deriche		
Purpose of Meeting	1. General Updates 2. Activity Info 3. RRP6 Indicators 4. PI and Media Stories 5. AOB		

Summary of discussions and action points

1.	<p>General Updates</p> <p>Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 85% of planned refugee figure (1,000,000) for 2013 registered or awaiting registration. As of December 16: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registered: 787,886 Awaiting: <u>57,972</u> Total: 845,858 - Backlog reduced considerably and waiting period is down to 32 days (target is 29 days). Verification and document renewals has begun with emphasis on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New protection concerns or changes in family composition; • Bio-metrics (also possible for mobile registration); • Filling gaps in information due to emergency registration earlier in the operation; and • Facilitating targeting of assistance. - Posters available at all registration centres and distribution centres informing refugees about renewal of registration certificates. Only those family members present during the verification interview will have certificates renewed. <p><u>Action Point(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Copy of registration ID to be sent to PWG partners to build awareness of registration certificates and know when documentation is not regular. <p>Aarsal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrival rate at the moment: 10-11 families per day. - Barcode reader piloted to scan passports. The reader uploads basic bio-data and thus avoid errors and enables migration of information to ProGres. This will also reduce registration interview time. - Cleared backlog allowing cross-checking to determine if people already registered. - Lessons learned:
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- There must be cross-checking databases from the beginning meant refugees registered prior to 14 November could have been re-registered.
- More care in use of technical terms – registering with the municipality and DRC is NOT the same as full UNHCR registration. Should not use same term to describe different processes.
- Information should be consistent – confusion over access to services and referral paths.

Action Point(s):

- Protection Coordinator to compile lessons learned and relevant forms/templates to help humanitarian workers operate effectively in the event of future similar situations. All forms, templates, and SOPs should be translated into Arabic.

Palestine Refugees from Syria

- UNRWA has seen a decrease in numbers of newcomers PRS recording with UNRWA.
- UNRWA has previously understood that PRS, similar to Syrian Refugees, are able to stay in Lebanon for a second year on payment of 300,000LL (200\$) fee to the General Security. In recent developments UNRWA has received reports from PRS that have been unable to renew their visa in country, despite payment of \$200. UNRWA was told that the payment of 200\$ allows the PRS to apply for a one year residency. The conditions of the residency are prohibitive; enrolled in a recognized Lebanese university, a Lebanese mother/spouse, have a work permit (PRS are not eligible for), or a bank account with 1 million LL. PRS who try to return to Syria after a year will still be expected to pay this \$200, either at the border (if they are leaving within the month their visa expired) or in Beirut if they have been here for more than 13 months.
- UNRWA continues to advocate with the authorities equal treatment with Syrian Refugees.

Birth Registration

- Leaflet explaining in pictures importance of registering the birth of a child.
- Videos also available that are short (5 minutes) and precise.
- Materials distributed widely in hospitals, schools, SDCs, CFS, etc.
- UNICEF and UNHCR working in partnership with CLMC, IRD, NRC.
- Partners interested in receiving materials (video, posters/leaflets) should contact UNHCR or UNICEF.

PWG in the Field

- PWG at the national level should support the field on strategy and technical advice. This includes the responsibility to address the issues raised by the PWG in the field.
- As of now, the PWG at the national level will include one agenda item called: PWG in the Field. Follow up from the minutes of the PWG in the field will be discussed and proper feedback should be sent to the relevant field location.
- SOPs and templates needed to assist field operations, such as refugee lease agreements and evictions.
- Need for stronger protection mainstreaming across sectors that is captured at the beginning of a process and not half-way through.

	<p><u>Action point(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make “feedback on Field PWG minutes’ action points/highlighted issues” a fixed agenda point at the national level so can determine action taken. - Template for refugee lease agreements tailored to Syrian refugees. NRC has expertise and will develop options for a rental template. Package should include referral pathways (factsheets) and training on legal issues. NRC to present options at the next PWG meeting (January 2014) - Protection mainstreaming: design protection mainstreaming module (1 hour training) to be presented to the other sectors - Ensure a PWG partner attends sector WGs to provide information and advice from the national level and vice-versa. - Mailing list to include Field PWG partners.
2.	<p>Activity Info</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on Activity Info, an on-line/off-line monitoring tool that acts as a reporting interface between actors and users. First established by UNICEF and OCHA for operations in the Congo (DRC), followed by Chad and now Jordan. The latter used it for RRP6 submissions. - It will not replace the obligatory reporting required through an IP agreement or a donor contract. However, partners are currently reporting many times in one month to many stakeholders (UN agencies, UNHCR offices, donors, sectors) and in various formats. Activity Info should reduce that to one report per month. All partners, including those outside RRP6, can report through Activity Info. <p><u>Action Point(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IM taskforce to agree on types of access for various users (humanitarian agency, UN agencies, government, donors).
3.	<p>RRP6 Indicators</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be harmonized across the region. <p><u>Action Point(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finalise indicators and other drop down menus to facilitate reporting. - Protection Coordinator will be in contact with partners over the holidays to work on the protection indicators.
4.	<p>PI and Media Stories</p>
	<p>Inter-agency weekly update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published every Friday. Main source of information to donors and the media (local and international). - The weekly reports feed into the monthly report and allow trends to be showcased. <p><u>Action Point(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information required from partners comprises highlights on problems, solutions and achievements in any format to be submitted before Thursday 3pm to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dana Sleiman sleiman@unhcr.org - Joelle Eid eidj@unhcr.org - Stephanie Woldenberg woldenbe@unhcr.org

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PI to provide a copy of an inter-agency weekly update to be sent to all partners to understand what is required. <p>Advocacy and public information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simple language to help others understand what is meant by Protection. <p><u>Action Point(s):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PWG to agree on priority advocacy messages to be used in the media - PI Unit can help partners reach out to the media.
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Attachments

Document	Location
Presentation	PWG presentation: http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=3797
Inter-Agency weekly	Attached
Registration certificate	Attached