

Inter-sector Working Group (ISWG) Syrian, African and Iraqi Refugee Response in Egypt Meeting minutes

Date: 19th October 2014

Time: 10:15 am-11:50 am

Venue: UNHCR Cairo- Zamalek Office, Conference Room

Chair: Sajal Gupta- **UNHCR** Operation Manager

Participants:

(Marios Buga), (Ragnhild Ek), (Clelia Watt), (Marwa Hashim), (Hany Fares), (Ashraf Azer), (Ziad Ayoubi), (Maria Bances del Rey), (Elizabeth Morrissey), (Amr Osman) – **UNHCR**, (Inas Hegazi), (Elisa Calpona) - **UNICEF**; (Hans Vikoler) - **WFP**; (Paul Bonaro) - (**UNDP**)

Agenda:

1. Review Agenda & introduce participants;
2. Present & discuss ISWG ToR & core activities;
3. Present & discuss coordination support work-plan;
4. Discuss progress on drafting 3RP country chapter, updates by SWGs in the lights of the comments received by RTC on annexes submissions:
 - I. Updates by Marios on 3RP indicators.
 - II. Updates by Paul (UNDP) on area based approach to resilience.
 - III. Quick Round table updates on 3RP by sectors.
5. AOB.

Summary of the Minutes:

1- Introduction:

Sajal started the meeting by welcoming the attendees from UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR. Sajal explained why ISWG is an important forum, which was missing during the preparations of RRP6. However, with the current support in coordination, UNHCR will be able to assist more in coordination among SWGs in this forum.

ISWG meeting will be convened every two weeks so that all the sectors have collective understanding and well informed about other sectors progress and activities.

Sajal introduced coordination support officer to present a PPT covering the purpose of the ISWG. The TORs have been circulated and sectors are requested to provide with feedback on the coming weeks.

2- Presentation on ISWG Coordination Support Work-plan:

- Main Highlights on the presentation:
 - ISWG role on the coordination structure, ISWG scope, focused areas & expected results.
 - Coordination work-plan objectives and explained categorization of activities and how activities on work plan categorized & prioritized.
 - Elaboration on monitoring areas on ISWG from inter-sector coordination prospective. It includes proposed coordination tools to cover the both monitoring streams in coordination:
(a) Monitoring of activities, i.e. (service delivery); (b) monitoring of sector coordination performance.
 - The need of discussion on the way forward on assessments. It was obviously important the need to agree on joined assessments approach. This was very evident during the ongoing 3RP exercise. "A possible" assessment approach has been highlighted which needed to be discussed.
 - Highlights on information management approach within ISWG. It explained main issues of:
 - The need to facilitate coherent information sharing. The current situation on contents uploaded to Syrian refugee response on information sharing web-portal;
 - Highlights on the need to agree on sectorial baseline-information to inform assessment. Explained why we need fundamental operational baseline information.
- Comments on coordination support work plan:
 - Inas Hegazy, UNICEF Education Officer, stated that the PPT was comprehensive and highlights the important steps forward, what needs to be done, purpose etc. However, the only thing that is unclear is the **how**? What are the mechanisms to be put in place in order to facilitate the process without adding more burden on the sector leads?
 - Amr Osman, Coordination support officer emphasized the fact that a consultative approach will be followed. ISWG- through this forum- aims to come up with an implementation plan after discussing possible Information Management tools/mechanisms which would facilitate this process (for instance, info sharing protocol, IM SOPs, etc.). ISWG coordination support team will consolidate those mechanisms together and it will be all reflected on a separate Information

management/assessments work-plan. The plan will be shared and discussed on the coming ISWG meetings.

- *Sajal (ISWG chair)* explained that t we will continue on discussing ISWG related issues, - including coordination support on assessments-, on the coming ISWG meetings.
- *Hans Vikoler (WFP, emergency coordinator)* mentioned that this plan is demanding and it needs man power and resources. He also asked about its relation with the 3RP. Hans also stated that there are a number of assessments that have been done so far, however, these assessments have not been consolidated or analyzed. Therefore, it might be duplication of resources and efforts.
- *Hany Fares (UNHCR Health Officer)* commented that the 3RP was a very good example on how there were no assessments & baseline information to plan accordingly. Therefore, inter-sectorial strategy would be very helpful in this regards, in addition to assessments and baseline information. Hany highlighted the importance of sharing the sectors' priorities in order to streamline the activities.
- In answering to Hans's question on coordination work-plan's relation to 3RP, *Marious Buga (UNHCR Senior Programme officer)*, explained that any humanitarian response is based on the sectors and partners inputs, 3RP is only one aspect of such response. ISWG would address several issues at the operational level, similar to the areas discussed on the presentation (assessments and baseline info).
- *Ziad Ayoubi (UNHCR Livelihoods officer)* briefed about the vulnerability & socio economic assessment which is currently ongoing, mentioning that it cannot be considered as "a joint assessment" while it lacks questions on education, health and protection issues.

3- Progress on 3RP:

- *Marious* briefed on:
 - o Amman 3RP meeting: the ongoing process at the regional level on harmonizing 3RP indicators & reporting which still remains a major challenge.
 - o Marious also explained comments received by the regional technical committee.
 - o Pointed that budget will be reduced around 30%.
 - o Marious added that synopsis on 3RP will be shared with the government.
- Paul (UNDP resilience focal point on 3RP) briefed on the area based approach in resilience (the document attached)

Summary of Action points:

- ✓ ISWG presentation on coordination support work-plan to be shared.
- ✓ Coordination support work-plan to be shared.
- ✓ Brief on the area based approach in resilience to be shared.
- ✓ ISWG members to provide feedback on ISWG ToR (if there is any).

Others:

Next ISWG meeting will convene on:

Date: to be communicated later

Time: -

Venue: UNHCR office in Zamalek.