

SGBV Sub-Working Group

Syrian, African and Iraqi Refugee Response in Egypt

Summary of meeting minutes

Date: 10 Nov 2014

Venue: UNHCR Cairo, Zamalek Office

Chair: UNHCR

Agencies present: UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, ACSFT, Care International, Caritas, Refugee Egypt, MSF, EFRR, Plan-International, St. Andrew's Refugee Services

1- Updates on SGBV activities/issues:

- [UNFPA](#) plans for the upcoming period a series of training sessions targeting health care providers and community workers; and further reported about the successful completion of a 'screening tool' for SGBV cases, developed in cooperation with the John Hopkins University.
- [MSF](#) is receiving 30-40 SGBV cases per month, with a recent increase of cases reported within the 72hours deadline. However, almost no Syrian or Somali refugees are approaching their clinic, which reflects the general experience that these refugee groups hardly access available service providers and outreach efforts need to specifically target these communities.
- [UN WOMEN](#) presented the 'Safe Cities' project, a global UN WOMEN project, implemented in cooperation with a number of national and international stakeholders in Cairo, and provided an overview regarding key project activities in the field of women empowerment and SGBV.
- [CARE and Caritas](#) are planning several awareness raising activities for December with the topics yet to be confirmed.
- [UNICEF](#) co-chaired with UNHCR the first meeting of the Early and Forced Marriage.
- [ACSFT](#), as member of the Early and Forced Marriage Task Force, is currently compiling an assessment of the national legal framework regarding early/forced marriage (to be shared with the SWG as soon as finalized).
- [EFRR](#) has conducted two workshops for the Syrian Women Association on legal procedures governing cases of sexual assault, birth and marriage certifications.
- [St. Andrews Refugee Services](#) organized a training session for UNHCR registration staff in 6th October Office on how to address SGBV survivors; and further informed that case management is done for adults and minors, that medical cases referred to MSF and cases requiring financial assistance to Caritas.
- [Plan-International](#) presented some of their key projects, including the women and girls empowerment program that focuses on early/forced marriage, harmful practices, etc.; the 'Safe Cities for Girls' project and the 'Because I am a Girl' campaign. Activities are targeting community and policy level.
- [UNHCR](#): Within the framework of the 'Graduation Project', UNHCR conducted SGBV training for the livelihoods team of Caritas Alexandria with focus on how livelihood programs can support prevention of and protection from SGBV.

Regarding the 3RP process, Sector and Country Submissions were reviewed to ensure effective mainstreaming of gender/SGBV and protection principles.

2- Thematic issues: Birth registration

StARs inquired about existing 'good practices' regarding the problems women are facing when trying to obtain a birth certificate for newborn, in case the father is not known. Regarding Syrian refugee women, who have a Yellow Card and a standard letter addressing a legal agency with

request for legal advice, EFRR is providing legal service and also approaches the Syrian Embassy on their behalf. However, regarding early marriages that are affecting many Syrian cases, procedures would be different.

ACSFT emphasized the importance to register birth within the '15-day deadline' (Civil Status Act no.143/1994¹, Art 19), as after expiry of this deadline the process is significantly more lengthy and cumbersome. Further, in case of an incident of rape that resulted in the birth of a child, the survivor would need to file a police report to 'prove' that the child is a result of rape.

3- Update on current SGBV priority activities/projects:

a. 16 Days Activism against GBV: Participants shared currently planned activities and agreed to inform UNHCR about any further, as soon as confirmed.

- UNICEF, in cooperation with UNHCR Alexandria, is organizing several events focusing on early marriage.
 - Plan-International will also focus on the topic of early marriage; most activities will target boys and be organized under the title '*Champion for Change*' in schools.
 - UN WOMEN will launch the campaign on 25 November, with a press conference on SGBV; further events are planned throughout the period.
 - CARE is planning a series of art therapy sessions with an exhibition presenting the drawings. During all regular activities a topical session on the 16 Days Campaign will be included to raise awareness.
 - UNFPA will launch a broader FGM media campaign that will present testimonials of survivors during this period; during the campaign they will also cooperate with faith based organisations. Several other SGBV events will be conducted with partner organisations, such as youth peer events in 6 governorates in Upper Egypt, and two awareness events with Souriyat Association and Tadamon.
 - UNHCR Cairo is planning a number of thematic working sessions in community centres that are linked to the International Days during that period, as well as a closing event, marking also the International Human Rights Day. Activities will be organized with UNICEF, partners and local NGOs.
- ✓ *Follow-up:* UNHCR, based on information received by all participants to compile a calendar of events (to be shared with the SWG).

b. SGBV/CP Campaign: Key messages for all SGBV/CP topics were discussed and will be further reviewed prior to a first testing phase.

4- Updates from other WGs/SWGs:

b. Early and Forced Marriage TF: Please see respective meeting minutes.

5- AOB: Next SGBV SWG meeting: 08 December 2014

¹ Egyptian Act 143/1994 (Arabic): <http://elsaftyllaw.editboard.com/t972-topic>