

Protection Working Group Jordan

Meeting Minutes
12 November 2014



Agencies present: UNHCR, AVSI, CVT, DFID, FPSC, DRC, Handicap International, IMC, INTERSOS, IOM, IRD, Mercy Corps, NRC, OXFAM, Premiere Urgence, SNAP, TdH-Lausanne, UNICEF, UPP, War Child, WFP, WVI

1. Border updates

UNHCR continues its advocacy with the Government on access to the territory for Syrians, focusing particularly on the issue of Syrians currently waiting at the Eastern Border. UNHCR's Deputy Representative recently briefed donors on the situation at the border. UNHCR will continue to update PWG members and the IATF on the situation.

2. JRP/3RP update

JRP project sheets have been shared with MoPIC and other line ministries for approval. The co-chair also shared the total budgets for both the refugee and resilience pillars. Agencies will continue to be contacted to clarify proposals as submitted in the 3RP ActivityInfo. Both the JRP and 3RP will be launched in early December.

3. GBVIMS presentation

The SGBV task force are compiling an external report on GBVIMS that will be shared with pre-approved agencies within the sector. Belen made a summary presentation on the findings of the monthly GBVIMS report. According to the findings, there has been an increase in the total incidents reported, including by child survivors. The presentation showed that forced marriage (GBVIMS definition which includes early marriage) was the highest among all types of reported violence reported during this reporting period. The SWG will use the 16 days of activism campaign to increase awareness on the prevention of early marriage among refugees. According to the report, most perpetrators of SGBV are intimate/former partners followed by primary care givers. Agencies with more questions on this should contact Belen of UNHCR.

4. Urban Verification Exercise, MoI Service Card issuance and access to services for urban refugees

Please see attached presentation made by UNHCR's Senior Protection Officer (Registration), Susanne Butscher.

The objective of the urban verification exercise is to issue new Service Card (Ministry of Interior/MOI cards) to all Syrians residing outside of camps in Jordan, take Iris scans of all

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Syrians residing outside of camps in Jordan and return original Syrian documents to their owners.

SRAD and UNHCR are working on detailed SOPs for the verification process which will be shared with all police posts in the country. UNHCR & the SRAD will develop key messages that will be disseminated to the refugee community.

This was followed by a presentation was made jointly with DRC, NRC and UNHCR on MoI service card issuance statistics, gaps, impact on accessing services, key elements of advocacy and next steps that PWG members can take together to improve evidence-based advocacy and follow-up on individual cases. Recommendations include: key stakeholders' protection and M&E focal points to develop/agree on common questions to use in surveys during set timeframe, and increased inter-agency coordination regarding refugees forcibly returned to the camps, in particular those with protection concerns.

Action Points

- SRAD will ensure that there will be a formal communication to all police stations
- A draft list of questions will be circulated after the meeting and then a meeting will be called for agencies interested in data collection and analysis. This will be used to update the FAQ. In the next meeting, we will look at the questions and then discuss a way forward
- The presentations will be shared with sector members after the meeting

5. Registration of Marriages - Exemption from Fines

The cabinet approved the exemption from fines on registration of marriages until December 31, 2014. Both Syrians and Jordanians should approach any Sharia court to register the lawsuit before the deadline. Legal Aid will conduct sessions in different areas for refugee community. A schedule of the sessions will be shared after the meeting. In addition to that, flyers and SMS text messages are being disseminated to create awareness on this. Agencies with specific questions should approach UNHCR's legal team.

AOB

a) PSEA updates

Most agencies have provided information on their PSEA focal points and current mechanisms in place. Agencies that have not yet sent this information should do it by the end of next week. Karen will resend the mapping template after the meeting.

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b) Scholarships

Agencies are kindly requested to contact UNHCR about scholarship opportunities for Syrian refugees outside of Jordan given the larger protection implications for refugees.