

**SGBV Sub-Working Group**  
**Syrian, African and Iraqi Refugee Response in Egypt**  
**Meeting minutes**

**Date:** 09 May 2016

**Time:** 10:00 – 12:30

**Venue:** UNHCR Cairo, Zamalek Office, training room

**Chair:** UNHCR

**Participants:** UNFPA, UNWomen, ACSFT, MSF, StARS, CARE, Caritas-Egypt, EFRR, PSTIC, CRS, UNHCR

1. Endorsement of last meeting minutes (15')
2. Presentation and discussion on livelihoods: UNHCR (30')
3. Presentation and discussion on birth registration: UNHCR and partners' lawyers (60')
4. Discussion of SWG work plan (30')
5. Updates on activities/ trends/ challenges (20')
6. AoB (10')

## **1. Endorsement of last meeting minutes**

**UNHCR** highlighted that the endorsed ToR of the SGBV WSG were circulated.

**UNHCR** welcomed the attendance of representatives from UNFPA and UNWomen in the SWG. As discussed by partners in the Workshop, increasing the attendance of UN key agencies such as UNFPA and UNWomen in the SWG has been identified as one priority for 2016, as their support is crucial in reaching out to authorities and national institutions. UNHCR further invited them to join the upcoming IA referral pathway workshop and to regularly attend the SWG.

**UNHCR** reminded SWG members to participate in the SWG workshop on the referral pathway on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

- *Action point – SWG members to inform UNHCR if they will participate in the workshop*

**UNHCR** inquired if CARE can provide information on the legal first aid training. As the responsible person did not attend the meeting, it was agreed that this information will be provided to the SWG in the next meeting.

- *Action point – CARE to inform SWG members on legal first aid training in the next SWG meeting*

**UNHCR** reminded UNFPA to share the contact information of the person in charge of the play on FGM.

- *Action point – UNFPA to share information on and contact details for the FGM play*

**The SWG members** endorsed the minutes of the last meeting.

## 2. Presentation and discussion on livelihoods: UNHCR

**UNHCR** highlighted that Plan international is UNHCR's new partner for livelihoods. Plan will present the project activities in the upcoming SWG meeting and will share the criteria for referrals.

- *Action point – UNHCR to invite Plan to the next SWG meeting to present their livelihoods program*

**StARS** inquired when members can start making referrals.

**UNHCR** informed that referrals can be made as of now to the following email address: mashgala@plan-international.org.

**CRS** informed that they continue offering the same livelihoods program as last year. They will also present their program and criteria during the next SWG.

- *Action point – CRS to present their livelihoods program in the next SWG meeting*

**MSF** voiced their concern regarding the lack of funding for and availability of livelihoods programs. They highlighted that advocacy efforts should be undertaken to promote refugees' right to work. They further noted that not having access to safe employment leads to refugees exposing themselves to further risks, including SGBV.

**UNHCR** informed that the Livelihoods Unit will start conducting research into the right to work for refugees in June. The results of the research will be shared as soon as possible. For further information, UNHCR will share its livelihoods strategy with the SWG members.

- *Action point – UNHCR to share its livelihoods strategy with the SWG members*

**UNFPA** highlighted that livelihoods opportunities should target both male and female refugees and that a focus should be put on safe employment.

**StARS** highlighted that a lot of abuse of female refugees happens in their employers' home and that it is therefore crucial to offer safe livelihood opportunities.

**MSF** reported that employers often ask for an HIV test from refugees working as domestic workers.

**CARE** stated that the Egyptian organization Al Shehab, located in Nasr City, help refugees (and Egyptians) with sensitive medical conditions that prevent them from finding jobs. The organization managed to provide HIV positive refugees with work opportunities. SWG members can send referrals to Sarah El-Sebaye (s.elsebaye@alshehabinstitution.org) or Abdo (abdo@alshehabinstitution.org).

## 3. Presentation and discussion on birth registration: UNHCR and partners' lawyers

Kindly refer to the separate notes on this topic.

#### 4. Discussion of SWG work plan

**UNHCR** informed that the Core Group drafted a work plan for the SWG which was shared before the SWG meeting with all members.

**UNHCR** inquired if members would like to agree on the lead organizations for the individual activities during this meeting or during the IA referral pathway workshop. The SWG members agreed that the lead organizations will be determined during the workshop.

- *Action point – SWG members to decide on lead organizations for activities on work plan during IA referral pathway workshop*

#### 5. Updates on activities/ trends/ challenges

**CARE** inquired to whom cases of male survivors of sexual violence/torture in detention can be referred for medical, legal and psychosocial follow-up.

**MSF** informed that such cases can be referred to them as they attend to both survivors of sexual violence and torture.

**MSF** inquired if Refuge Egypt are still providing ante-natal care for refugees.

**Refuge Egypt** stated that they still provide ante-natal care for all refugee women. However, they closed their 6<sup>th</sup> of October clinic.

**UNFPA** informed that they started a program with the MoH on the management and referral of Syrian and Egyptian SGBV cases. They held a training for hospital and government employees and are starting to advocate for this service in their safe spaces. The community can direct survivors (Syrians and Egyptians) to MoH hospitals for medical follow-up.

**MSF** highlighted that the provided medication is of low quality.

**UNHCR** suggested to talk about UNFPA's and UNWomen's programs in another SWG to give it enough space for discussion.

- *Action point – UNFPA and UNWomen to present their programs on SGBV in the July SWG meeting*

#### 6. AOB

- Next SGBV SWG meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016
- Venue: Training room UNHCR Office, Zamalek
- Topics: presentation of livelihoods programs by Plan and CRS, discussions on safety of refugees staying with community members and on short-term marriages of refugee women with Egyptian men

## Action points

Action	Lead Organisation	Deadline
UNHCR to invite Plan for a presentation on their livelihoods program	UNHCR	5 <sup>th</sup> June
SWG members to inform UNHCR if they will participate in the IA referral pathway workshop	All	12 <sup>th</sup> May
UNHCR to share its livelihoods strategy with the SWG members	UNHCR	Before next meeting
SWG members to decide on lead organizations for activities on work plan during IA referral pathway workshop	UNHCR	26 <sup>th</sup> May
CRS to present their livelihoods program	CRS	Next meeting
CARE to inform SWG members on the legal first aid training	CARE	Next meeting
UNFPA to share information on and contact details for the FGM play	UNFPA	Next meeting
UNFPA and UNWomen to present their program on SGBV	UNFPA/UNWomen	July