

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

Date: 25th November 2014

Time: 10:00 am-12:25 pm

Venue: UNHCR Cairo- Zamalek Office, Conference Room

Chair: Marious Buga- **UNHCR** Senior Program Officer

Participants:

(Marian Fouad), (Magdy Francis), (Soheir Fawzy)- **Caritas Egypt**; (Kris Ozar) -**CRS**; (Chris Eades) - **Stars**; (Henk Bekedam), (Gasser Gad El Kareem) -**WHO Egypt**; (Mai Gaballah)- **Save the Children**; (Martina Salvatore) -**IOM**; (Fatima Idris) -**Tadamon**; Dalia Al Awgati -**DRC**; (Magdy Eissa), (Eman Saad) -**AMU**; (Hani Fares), (Maria Bances), (Ashraf Azer), (Ragnhild Ek.), (Amr Osman)- **UNHCR**

Agenda:

1. Updates on 3RP with the government;
 2. Updates on Protection;
 3. Updates on Partners Selection;
 4. Presentation by Health SWG;
 5. AOB.
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Summary of the Minutes:

1- Updates on 3RP with the government:

Marious Buga, UNHCR Senior Programme Officer briefed the attendees on the updates of the 3RP discussions with the government:

- We are in the final stage in the process of the 3RP and the final version is to be submitted today.
- Following the presentation given to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (with the sector leads present); we will include the MFA's comments and consolidate the final country chapter to be sent and reviewed by the regional office. The final version will be shared as soon as it is finalized.
- The launch of the 3RP will be held in January 2015 and we are hopeful that it might contribute to our 2015 funding effort.

2- Update on Protection:

Maria Bances, Senior Protection Officer gave a brief update on Protection:

- The irregular movement by sea has reached its peak. The statistics from the Government of Italy show that out of **154,000** arrivals **36,000** are Syrians; of which **8, 000** are children. Statistics from Italy show that after the Syrians those arriving are Eritreans, Somalis and Ethiopians including Egyptian nationals. The majority of these refugees arrive to Italy through Libya.
- It was reported that some Syrians had reached Aswan arriving from Khartoum. This is a new trend and will be followed by UNHCR.
- Last month, it was reported to UNHCR that a new boat crossing the Mediterranean was carrying around **104** persons from different nationalities, with **56** Palestinians from Syria. It was later reported that **28** of these Palestinians returned to Turkey. A significant rise in the number of Palestinians from Syria is a new phenomenon, and it has been noted that they usually do not carry any documentation or if they do it is an invalid passport.
- UNHCR has been advocating with the Egyptian Government about the situation of the Palestinians from Syria and the need to release them from detention.
- Regarding detentions, , UNHCR is aware of **3000** arrests since January 2014, out of which **1,500** are Syrians. At the moment UNHCR is aware of only **130** persons that are still in detention (including Syrians and non-Syrians).
- Through UNHCR's partners in Alexandria, namely Caritas, UNHCR has provided assistance to the 3,000 detainees. It should be noted that **500** children were detained this year.
- UNHCR has been conducting a verification exercise that started 2 weeks ago and should end by the end of the year. Approximately **700 - 1,000** people are verified every day, with 6,000 verified within the last 2 weeks. This exercise aims to verify **30,000** persons by end of the year. This exercise will help conduct an in depth analysis of the Syrian population in Egypt.

3- Update on Partner selection:

- **26** different organizations responded to the 'Call for Expression of interest' and **50** concept notes were submitted in **8** different sectors.
- The committee has reviewed the concept notes and has recommended **13** partners to the Regional Representative.
- **13** partners were informed of their selection and on the 23rd Nov a meeting was held with to familiarize them with the requirements for 2015.
- All new elements have been discussed with partners and UNHCR sector leads will work together with the partners to finalize the 2015 project proposals.

- On the 5th December, partners will submit their proposals for implementing their activities in order for the preparation of a 2015 sub agreement and by the end of 2014 a partnership agreement should be finalized.

4- Presentations by Health SWG:

WHO and UNHCR gave a comprehensive presentation about the dynamics of the Health WG. On Health SWG presentation, it has been highlighted WG's objectives, achievements & perspectives (the presentation will be shared).

5- Updates on Food Security by WFP (Sent by email):

- The October distributions took place in five governorates and reached **64,267** beneficiaries in Greater Cairo, **23,621** in Alexandria, **12,225** in Damietta, **2,507** in Mansoura and **725** in Marsa Matrouh.
- The November distribution is planned to **commence** on 23 November 2014 in six distribution sites (Obour, 6th of October, Alexandria, Damietta, Marsa Matrouh and Mansoura), targeting **96,491** Syrian (SYR) and **3,590** Syrian Palestinian Refugees (SPR), with a total of 100,081 beneficiaries.

Vouchers	September	October	November
Beneficiaries			
Targeted	106,046	103,345	100,081
Reached	99,357	99,315	0
% of target	94%	96%	0%
Total Beneficiaries	99,357	99,315	

- The December distribution is tentatively planned for 14 December depending on the status of updated consolidated beneficiary figures and the status of funding.
- The WFP EMOP Egypt team has finalized preliminary results of an anti-fraud verification process for Carrefour card holders, conducted from 19 to 23 October 2014 in Greater Cairo. It has also compiled a list of eligible beneficiaries that are physically present in the country. The Verification methodology consisted of comparing beneficiaries' personal information on yellow cards (case numbers and pictures) with the case numbers on Carrefour cards. If the data was found to be correct, the case number was recorded as verified as well as the card holder as being physically present in the country. This exercise provided verification at a household level.
- Results of the verification process show that almost 88% of the cases are physically present in the country and have Carrefour cards.

- Over the last months, a remarkable decrease has been noted in the number of beneficiaries inquiring about WFP voucher programme assistance related issues at the UNHCR reception, with number of inquiries decreasing from an average of 30 in July, 14 in August and 5 in September. The decreasing demand is considered to be due to many beneficiaries being already aware of the WFP voucher programme and its components as well as the launch of Facebook page (June 2014), where timely feed-back to queries/complaints was provided by dedicated WFP staff. WFP has thus consulted with UNHCR and has agreed to discontinue WFP presence at the UNHCR Reception desk as of 17 November.
- During the reporting period, eighty-six inquiries were received through the WFP hotline; the majority was from refugees requesting to be on distribution lists and to update their contact details. Several beneficiaries were seeking information regarding the on-going vulnerability assessment. Thirteen people complained for not receiving the WFP SMS.
- With regard to forecasted resources there are no shortfalls foreseen for Nov cycle, but an 60% shortfall is expected for Dec and 100% for January 2015.
- WFP and UNHCR are working on the possibility of moving to a common assistance delivery platform (OneCard system) and negotiations are ongoing with selected service provider Arab African International Bank (AAIB) to define cost and implementation modalities and timelines. A 'Letter of Intent' has been submitted to the respective UNHCR and WFP Legal Offices for review and clearance to be signed with the selected service provider.
- The Food Security Working Group meeting took place on 18 November 2014, with the main purpose to provide an inclusive forum for information sharing and collaboration among agencies and organizations engaged in food security for Syrian refugees and Palestinian Refugees from Syria residing in Egypt. This forum also took place with the intention of reducing gaps and avoiding duplication in assistance. Discussion topics included an overview of October distribution cycle, status of the 3RP process, Food Security Sector funding status and an outlook on planning for 2015.

6- AOB:

- **36** individuals are reported to be still in Salloum Camp without water and food. IOM contacted St Andrews to assist this group. Maria Bances said that it was reported to the protection unit that this group had been offered to come to Cairo but that they had voluntarily refused to leave the camp.
- The Health Unit is still working on the nutrition survey.

- CRS suggested that UNHCR to give more awareness trainings to CRS staff dealing with the PoCs, but when it comes to health issues WHO is the leading agency.
- WHO requested IAWG partners to share information about health service (excel sheet attached). Partners are encouraged to respond to this request which will enable to include partners' information to the Health Services Map, currently prepared by GIS/MoHP.

Respondents are kindly requested to reply to Mrs. Iman Khairy, ikhairy.faith@gmail.com

Summary of Action points:

Action	Lead Organisation/ Person	Deadline
1. Share presentation on 3RP to MoFA	UNHCR (Amr)	ASAP
2. IP documents to be shared with the partners (cost sharing, budgeting, etc)	UNHCR programme (Marious)	ASAP
3. Circulate Health Facility Matrix among IAWG partners to fill with the required information and submit back to : ikhairy.faith@gmail.com	UNHCR (Amr)	ASAP

Other:

Next IAWG meeting will convene on:

Date: Tuesday, 13th January 2014

Time: 10:00 am

Venue: UNHCR office in Zamalek.