

ToR for Inter-Agency Disabilities Task Force

Background

A shortage of funds is currently threatening humanitarian efforts to meet the basic needs of refugees in Jordan. With a divergence of funds away from service delivery to refugees in 2016, there is a need for humanitarian agencies to prioritise the services and assistance they provide to refugees within the overall framework of the Jordan Response Plan 2016-2018.

Gaps in knowledge exist on the needs and services available for some of the most vulnerable groups of refugees in Jordan, namely persons with disabilities. Information on the needs of refugees with disabilities is limited due to barriers in identifying and registering persons with disabilities with UNHCR. Available information is scattered across different agencies and some needs assessment are outdated. Further, there are no global standards on the minimum specialised services that should be provided to persons with disabilities in humanitarian contexts. Nor is there an assessment of the programmatic gaps in specialised services for persons with disabilities across the different Governorates in Jordan.

In order to improve access to specialised services for refugees with disabilities in Jordan, these gaps must first be addressed, hence the rationale for establishing a Disabilities Task Force. The Task Force will operate within a restricted timeframe aligned with the JRP 2016-2018 planning process. It will report to the Protection and Health Working Groups and its output will inform the programmatic planning and budget allocations of the respective JRP Task Forces.

Definition of disability

In the context of this Task Force, disability is defined as per the United Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, Article 1:

“Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

Overall objectives of the Disabilities Task Force

The overall objectives of the Disabilities Task Force will be to:

- 1.) Improve identification and consolidation of information on refugees and vulnerable host populations with disabilities in Jordan; and
- 2.) Improve access to specialised services for refugees and vulnerable host populations with disabilities in Jordan.

- 3.) Serve as a platform for information sharing on disability data.

Specific objectives

The specific objectives of the Disabilities Task Force will be to:

Disability specific services

- i.) Establish a list of prioritised services that should be provided for refugees and vulnerable host populations with disabilities across all Governorates of Jordan;
- ii.) Identify programmatic gaps in specialised services for refugees and vulnerable host populations with disabilities across all Governorates in Jordan;
- iii.) Establish common standards for agencies providing direct services for persons with disabilities, with regards to:
 - Identification of the needs of persons with disabilities;
 - Minimum qualifications required for staff delivering specialised services for persons with disabilities;
 - Follow-up to cases.

Protection

- iv.) Establish data sharing agreements between stakeholders and develop criteria for partners to use when sharing bio-data on refugees with UNHCR. This will assist UNHCR in entering data on persons with disability in the proGres database used for referral of cases in need of protection and assistance, durable solutions as well as for fundraising and programming purposes;
- v.) Train UNHCR registration staff on better identification of refugees;
- vi.) Develop recommendations to actors working in the humanitarian response in Jordan on mechanisms for better identification of refugees and vulnerable host populations with disabilities in need of protection and specialised services.

Membership

Membership in the Disabilities Task Force is limited to agencies providing disability specific services for refugees and vulnerable host populations and representatives of disabled persons' organisations in Jordan.

Coordination

UNHCR and Handicap International will jointly Chair the Disabilities Task Force, which will report to the Protection and Health Working Groups. The Task Force will convene on the last Tuesday of every month from 1-3 PM at UNHCR Khaldiya office and may convene for additional meetings in between if deemed necessary.

The Chairs of the Task Force will be responsible for:

- Organising, chairing, drafting and sharing of minutes of meetings of the Task Force;
- Drafting document outputs of the Task Force.