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| **PSN sub working group meeting Minutes** | | | | | |
| **Date** | **29 April 2020** | | **Venue** | Online | |
| **Agenda** | 1. Review of action points from previous meeting 2. Updates from members 3. Review of partner mapping of ongoing critical activities for PSNs 4. Review of collection of evidence of impact of COVID 19 measures on PSNs 5. AOB | | | | |
| **Attendance** | UNHCR, MGLSD, HI, Help Age International, National Council for Disability, UNDP, Expanding Social Protection Team, DRC, LWF, IRC, CRS, Save the Children, National Union for Women with Disabilities, OPM, Refugee Law Project, Alight, Interational Aid Services | | | | |
| **Facilitator** | Gemma Woods (UNHCR) / Emily Ajiambo (MGLSD) | | | | |
| **Discussion points** | | **Recommendations/Action points** | | | **Responsible** |
| 1. **Review of action points from previous meting** 2. Follow up with Alight (for activities in the SW) and members of the Urban protection working group (for activities in Kampala) – completed 3. Conduct further analysis of partner mapping activities and share with PSN SWG members – completed; to be discussed as next agenda point 4. Share draft UNHCR protection considerations document with PSN SWG members for feedback – completed; feedback from PSN SWG members has been shared with UNHCR focal person. Final version will be shared with the group in due course 5. Share MHPSS SWG 4W document with PSN SWG members for reference – completed 6. Share draft accessible messages on COVID 19 for PSNs with PSN SWG members for feedback – completed; PSN SWG members have shared input with the Ministry of Gender, who are currently working on a final version to be shared with the group 7. Update PSN SWG BCP with additional feedback from group members and circulate – completed; any feedback on the updated version of the BCP to be shared with Gemma 8. Partners to start to engage PSNs / caretakers in discussions on planning for alternate care arrangements if needed and to map out contact details of PSN/caretakers to be targeted with tailored COVID 19 messaging – ongoing 9. Share matrix with SWG members to map which members are represented in other WG meetings. Discussion with sector leads on PSN SWG participation in meetings – ongoing; some PSN SWG members have shared details of their participation in other sector meetings, others are encouraged to still do so. There is currently no participation of PSN SWG members in the SGBV, child protection, food assistance, WASH and shelter sector meetings according to the mapping. 10. Collection of formalised evidence base of impact of COVID 19 measures on PSNs – ongoing; evidence collected so far will be discussed as a later agenda point 11. Share request to PSN SWG members to input into review of Policy on Persons with Disabilities – pending with Ministry of Gender 12. **Updates from partners**   Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development: The Ministry is working on finalizing the accessible messages on COVID-19 for persons with disabilities and continues to advocate for PSNs to be given priority during distributions of assistance, including food distributed by the Government. Older persons continue to receive the Senior Citizens Grant (although this is currently limited to Ugandan nationals only).  NUWODU: welcomed intentional targeting of persons with disabilities in distributions of assistance and called for women with disabilities to be targeted during programming for COVID-19 responses. NUWODU queried with efforts were being focused on persons with visible disabilities, and how targeted messages for PSNs were reaching them.  HI: clarified that there is a real gap in the accessibility of information materials on COVID 19. HI is looking to collaborate with the Ministry of Gender and other actors such as NUWODU in developing and distributing accessible messages for persons with disabilities.   1. **Review of partner mapping of ongoing critical activities for PSNs**   The mapping of partner activities now includes an overview of the thematic areas of assistance provided to PSNs in each settlement. The mapping demonstrates so far that certain areas such as CwC, sensitisation are covered by at least one partner per settlements, whilst other areas including assistance during food distributions, cash assistance and shelter assistance for PSNs are uncovered in many locations.  Discussion: it was suggested to reach out to other sectoral partners to see how PSNs have been mainstreamed into the activities of other sectors. It may also be useful in the future to split the mapping of activities per sector (e.g. education, WASH, etc) to demonstrate how many programmes have mainstreamed issues affecting PSNs in each sector. This may also assist other working groups in efforts to mainstream issues of aging and disability. It may also be helpful to map community support structures for PSNs where they are active.  As an example; through the child protection sub working group, targeted support is provided to children at risk including children with disabilities. Elderly caregivers providing support to children are also being monitored by child protection actors.   1. **Review of collection of evidence of impact of COVID 19 measures on PSNs**   PSN SWG members have been sending evidence on the impact of the COVID 19 measures on PSNs. The main themes that have been identified so far are:   1. New or exacerbated barriers have been created for PSNs in accessing essential services (e.g. health, food distributions) due to transport restrictions. Some PSNs have also faced challenges in accessing assistance normally provided by community members or family members who cannot travel due to transport restrictions; 2. Increased needs for financial assistance due to high levels of pre-existing economic vulnerability amongst PSNs; 3. PSNs are experiencing information gaps as targeted messages on COVID-19 have not reached them / are not accessible. Carers and community volunteers who previously supported PSNs also lack information on how they can safely continue to provide support to PSNs under current conditions.   Discussion: COVID 19 restrictions have placed huge burdens on household resources, as many families have lost sources of income. There is a concern that households which include PSNs may decide not to allocate resources to the PSN. This may be exacerbated by the coinciding reduction in WFP food rations for all families.  It was suggested to prepare a formalised document outlining the evidence collected so far, which may be shared with other sectors for awareness raising and advocacy purposes, and may also be used by partners when preparing proposals for additional funding for activities targeting PSNs during this period. The formalised document should include information on how the evidence was collected (sources, research methods). Partners can use the evidence of the impact as a basis to design or redesign programming targeting PSNs in refugee communities.  **Next meeting: Wednesday 13 May, 11.30am (online)**  Link to shared Google drive for PSN SWG with minutes of meetings and key documents: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qh4gpf2cHNFrRCvOCyXaQpgV2GByOl_6> | | Share final UNHCR protection considerations document during COVID 19 with PSN SWG members  Share final accessible messages on COVID 19 for PSNs with PSN SWG members  Members to update matrix with representation in other sector meetings  Share request to PSN SWG members to input into review of Policy on Persons with Disabilities  Contact sector leads to map activities targeting / including PSNs per sector  Prepare formalised document on evidence of impact of COVID 19 measures on PSNs | | | Gemma / UNHCR  Emily / Ministry of Gender  All members  Emily / Ministry of Gender  Gemma / UNHCR  Gemma / UNHCR |