Minutes - Protection Working Group (PWG) meeting
28 March 2022 (Teams online)


Main topics discussed:

- Tour de table and introductory remarks
- Refugee Coordination Model briefing
  - UNHCR gave a short presentation on the role and mandate of the organization and UNHCR’s role in coordination in accordance with the legal provisions set out in the Refugee Convention and UNGA resolutions
  - The purpose and impact of the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) was explained
  - RCM structure with latest updates was presented
- Background and introduction of the Protection Working Group
  - Key priority areas are as follows:
    - Safe access to territory, rights and services
    - Information provision
    - Protection centered assistance and services
    - Effective solutions
  - Protection joint responses will focus on the following activities:
    - Joint needs assessments and gap analysis
    - Joint planning
    - Joint advocacy
    - Joint capacity building of all stakeholders
    - Information sharing and information management
  - Working Group arrangements
    - Weekly meetings with dedicated discussions on thematic areas will be organized
    - Leads to present brief observations and action points from other sub working group meetings on thematic areas from both UNHCR and Government led WGs
    - Government FPs presence in UNHCR WG is still under discussions, FP will depend on the portfolio related to particular thematic area
    - A common SharePoint folder will be available for all to upload and have access to documents
    - Flexibility amongst PWG is required re various thematic areas to be discussed

- GBV presentation
GBV is integrated under Protection working group

Short presentation of GBV coordination was given

Re GBV coordination core functions would include:
- Service mapping and support Service delivery
- Develop and maintaining up to date referral pathways
- Plan and implement GBV Strategies
- Monitor and evaluate Performance
- Build National Capacity in preparedness and response

Key priorities
- Check existing coordination mechanism
- Identify GBV actors
- Integrate GBV ToRs into broader PWG ToRs
- Ensure GBV minimum standard
- Rapid safety assessment
- Workplan

Referral Pathway
- Establish GBV referral pathways by using easy-to-understand terms explaining what to do and where to go for immediate service delivery
- Update referral pathways regularly
- Agree on dissemination modality to frontline workers of all sectors e.g. pocket guides etc
- Organize safe disclosure and referral trainings to frontline workers

Strategy
- Reflects the full range of GBV activities and partners that comprise the response
- Provides better explanations of the operational context and the reasons behind priority areas of work
- Plan responses for short, medium and long periods of time

GBV workplan incorporated into PWG plan

Next steps
- UNHCR on behalf of the PWG will share template for GBV service mapping and referral pathways. All participants are required to share inputs by 03 April
- UNHCR to compile and share the consolidated version with all stakeholders by the end of first week of April
- Need Assessment would be discussed in one of the PWG related meetings, but other priority areas will need to be discussed before that
- UNHCR to create a shared folder for PWG participants

Next Protection Working Group meeting will take place on 5th April, 10:30-12:00. PWG meetings will be scheduled for every Tuesday 10:30 – 12.00 hrs and agenda item shared beforehand.