



Disability and Age Sub-Working Group Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 11 September 2024

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Venue: Institute for Family Health (IFH)

Chairs: Martina Mannocchi (UNHCR) – co-facilitated by NHF

Minutes prepared by: IOCC

Participants: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (**UNHCR**), International Orthodox Christian charities (**IOCC**), (**UNFPA**), The Jordanian Hashemite Fund For Human Development (**JOHUD**), Generations for Peace (**GFP**), Danish Refugee Council (**DRC**), **Un Ponte Per (UPP)**, Caritas , Midair, Center for Victims of Torture (**CVT**). Christian Blind Mission (**CBM**), The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (**UNRWA**), Movimiento por la Paz (**MPDL**), **CBR**, **ARCS**, United Mission For Relief and Development Organization(**UMR**), International Medical Corps (**IMC**), Institute for Family Health (**IFH**), **TDH Italy**.

Meeting Highlights

Agenda Item I. DASWG Co-chairs and HCD updates

DASWG update from UNHCR referring to registration to school:

- Refugee students will be requested to submit the following documents to register: a- For Syrian refugee children, a copy of the Ministry of Interior (MOI) card at the time of registration in host community schools. b- A copy of UNHCR document is required when enrolling Syrian refugee children in camp schools. c- For non-Syrian refugee children, a permit or residency card is required.
- refugees who hold a MOI Card or Asylum Seeker Certificate (ASC) by UNHCR are exempted from paying school fees and the cost of textbooks for the full academic year of 2024/25 upon their enrolment in public schools as per the announcement of the Ministry of Education on 29 July 2024.
- This exemption for non-Syrian refugees is not yet confirmed by MOE.

Agenda Item II. CBM presentation on its scope of work, portfolio overview in terms of projects and partners in Jordan and program focus and initiatives.

- CBM is an international Christian development organization, committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities in the poorest communities of the world. There is a gap in the Jordan financial tracking, 81.30M Funding Gap , 86.51 Gap level.
- Their vision: An inclusive world in which all persons with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.
- In 2023 CBM was active in 40 countries, supported 379 projects with implementing partners, worked with 257 partners and reached 10,39M persons in core activities including inclusive humanitarian action (IHA).
- At Jordan: 6 Active projects with 5 active contract partners (The Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, King Hussein Foundation, German Jordanian University/Vision rehabilitation center, Al-Hussein society and The Jordanian Hashemite fund for human development.
- Their programs focus on Community based inclusive development, Inclusive humanitarian action and inclusive eye health.

Agenda Item III. Regulations on work permits update by UNHCR:

Overview of Work Permit System Changes for Syrian Refugees:

- 2016 Refugee Compact Changes: The compact allowed Syrian refugees in Jordan to work, aiming to integrate them into the labor market. This led to some initial exemptions and changes in the fee structure.
- Fee Structure and Permits: Pre-2016: Refugees had certain exemptions but had to pay operational fees. Post-2016: There were waivers for certain work permits but fees for new permits and renewals still applied.
- End of 2023 Changes: The Jordanian government began issuing waivers only for cash-for-work schemes. For other employment, refugees must pay full fees, including a 425 JD fee for medical tests and additional costs if the work permit is not renewed on time.
- Specifics for Work Permits: If a refugee has not renewed their work permit for over three months, they must pay a fee of 175 JD. For those who have not made payments for several years, back payments are required. For instance, if a refugee last paid in 2019, they would owe 425 JD per year from 2019 to the present.
- Impact on Factories and Training: Factories and businesses employing refugees are also subject to these regulations. Training programs for refugees have to comply with these new fee structures.
- Social Security and Compliance: There were previous issues with Social Security coverage. It is crucial for refugees to ensure they are working legally and have the proper permits. Emphasis is placed on adhering to Jordanian labor laws and regulations.
- Recommendations for Refugees and Employers: Refugees should be advised to maintain compliance with work permit regulations to avoid additional fees. Employers should ensure they are abiding by the legal requirements for employing refugees.
- Recommendations for Community Centers and NGOs: Advisory Role: Community centers and NGOs should continue to educate and inform refugees about the importance of maintaining valid work permits and adhering to Jordanian labor laws. Accessibility: Ensure

that persons with disabilities have access to resources and support to comply with regulations.

Agenda Item IV: Success story presentation by NHF

Background: Malik was working as a Tailor at Zaatari Camp. Unfortunately, he suffered a severe hand fracture, which required surgery. Despite the surgery, Malik was left with significant limitations in his hand and vision problems that affected his mobility.

Challenges:

- Physical Limitations: Malik's injury led to lasting disability, which severely impacted his ability to work and provide for his family.
- Emotional Impact: The inability to work and the resulting financial strain caused Malik considerable stress and depression.

Turning Point: Malik's situation took a positive turn when he sought help from the vocational support program through the Zaatari Camp's IH (Integration and Help) initiative.

Intervention:

- Comprehensive Assessment: Malik came to our clinic where he underwent a thorough assessment of his physical condition. This led to the development of a personalized treatment plan.
- Physical Therapy: He participated in physical therapy sessions aimed at improving his hand mobility and overall physical health.
- Occupational Therapy: Malik also received occupational therapy and other supportive services designed to help him adapt to his new physical condition and regain his functional abilities.

Outcome:

Recovery and Return to Work: After receiving comprehensive rehabilitation and support for over a year, Malik successfully regained the full use of his hand. He was able to return to work and resume his role at the camp.

Malik's Reflection: Malik shared his gratitude for the services he received: "I've tried to emphasize my skills to improve my family's financial situation and contribute to the community. I'm grateful for the support and therapy provided, which enabled me to regain my ability to work and support my family."

Conclusion: Malik's story highlights the significant impact of dedicated vocational and therapeutic support programs. Through these services, Malik was able to overcome severe personal and professional setbacks, regain his independence, and continue contributing to his community.

Agenda Item IV: DASWG members/ partners updates and AOB

- **United Mission For Relief and Development Organization(UMR):** UMR recognized a critical need for more focused support and advocacy for children with autism. To address this gap, UMR raise awareness about the challenges faced by these children and the lack of sufficient services available to them, inviting DASWG members to join the advocacy efforts. Advocacy efforts include ongoing campaigns and collaborations with various partners in the field. Among UMR current initiatives: provision of speech and language therapy for children with autism and work on projects that focus on inclusion and protection in educational settings; collaboration with schools to enhance their support for children with disabilities.

- **TDH Italy:** TDH Italy informed the DASWG about a project the will start in October in Mafraq and Zarqa PSS for children with and without disabilities. Speech therapy will be provided in Zarqa, Mafraq and Maan along with initiatives of protection and inclusion. Tdh foresees rehabilitation of school, recreational activities and caregiver support, Awareness on inclusion targeting Jordanians and Syrians.