



Disability and Age Sub-Working Group Minutes of Meeting

Date: Wednesday, 18 October 2024

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Venue: Online

Chairs: Martina Mannocchi (UNHCR) – Nizar Sarayji (IOCC)

Minutes prepared by: UNHCR

Participants: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Orthodox Christian charities (IOCC), Christian Blind Mission (CBM), Caritas, Terre des Hommes (TDH-It), Medair, Center for Victims of Torture (CVT), ILO, Institute for Family Health (IFH), United Mission For Relief and Development Organization (UMR), Un Ponte per (UPP).

Meeting Highlights

Agenda Item I. DASWG Co-chairs and HCD updates

UNHCR updates:

- Syria situation: brief updates from UNHCR from the latest Situation factsheet.

Agenda Item II. Partners' updates –2024 achievements and 2025 plans

- **ILO:** New strategic plan for inclusion of persons with disability 2020-2027 launched on the International day of persons with disability.
- **IOCC:** During the International Day of People with disabilities IOCC conducted awareness sessions in partnership with IFH in Karak, Irbid, Amman, Zarqa; a joint event with IFH and IMC; in Azraq camp activities with CARE and UNHCR.
- **TDH:** Conducting speech therapy sessions for children in Maan, Zarqa and Mafraq. Planning to conduct a training in the South dedicated to healthcare professionals, mainly gynecologists, midwives on the early detection of disability in early January.
- **CBM:** Process of starting a project in 2025 that includes digitalization of education system. This project is going to in collaboration with MoE under the support of GIZ. Ensuring training of teachers on how to use digital accessibility for children with disabilities. Strategy of 2025 includes strengthening OPDs.
- **IHF:** For the International Day of People with Disabilities, celebrations took place in Zarqa, Amman, Karak, Irbid and both camps, highlighting rights of persons with disabilities, stimulation

exercises for different disabilities and discussing the topic of GBV where the survivor is a person with disability.

Agenda Item III. Challenges observed in 2024

- Identification of persons with disabilities due to gaps in available data. All stakeholders should be involved in collecting and comparing data to avoid discrepancies. Also, the last population survey was conducted in 2015, data are not updated and disability is underreported.
- Stigma against persons with disabilities, observed especially in the South. This can also affect the data collection as people do not report their or their children's disabilities.
- Gap in funding, it is needed to advocate more.
- Implementing the existing laws, as ensuring the employment of persons with disabilities.
- OPDs face challenges in surviving as they do not have sustainable sources of funding.

Agenda Item IV: Plans for 2025 DASWG work

- Share more lessons learned.
- NGOs to have a sustainability plan and share it with others.
- Have a mapping of needs VS available budget.
- Having a more comprehensive approach to disabilities that goes beyond the provision of assistive devices. Enhance coordination with Health and other sectors.
- Have a clear plan of strengthening capacity of OPDs, for example on how to write project proposals.
- Have a mapping of OPDs and try to give more visibility to OPDs.
- Have a workshop at the beginning of 2025 with DASWG members to discuss how NGOs can better support OPDs.