



DASWG Meeting Minutes

March 18th 2025, 10:00-11:30

Location: Online, MS Teams

Members: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Orthodox Christian charities (IOCC), Care International, Institute for Family Health (IFH), Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), Caritas Jordan, ARCS Culture Solidali (ARCS), Medair, Christian Blind Mission (CBM), GIZ, and Movement for Peace (MPDL).

Agenda

- DASWG co-chairs updates
- Discussion on merging DASWG under PWG
- Updates from the field offices
- Presentation on recommendations based on voices of refugees with disabilities by GIZ- Nayfeh Al-Kurdi
- A.O.B

Agenda items	Discussion	Action points
<p>UNHCR updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR discussed the demographic breakdown of refugees with 614,970 registered refugees as of end of March 2025; 497,220 in Urban and 117,750 in camps. • Syrian refugees are returning to Syria, with 54% male and 45% female, aged 18-58. UNHCR will share the document • There is a rising trend of refugees returning, especially after Ramadan, potentially continuing until June. • Stability in Syria may encourage more refugees to return and rebuild their lives. • U.S. government funding freeze (90 days) significantly impacted humanitarian programming in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. • A quick survey showed that 63 projects are on hold, suspended, or closed due to funding cuts. • In a protection working group meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 38 partners attended. ○ 33 reported severe programmatic impacts, including complete 	

	<p>shutdowns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Example: IRC closed all protection interventions. ○ Concern that more programs may shut down if funding issues persist. ● Emphasis on collaboration among partners with unaffected programs or alternative funding (e.g., EU, Canada, self-funding) to sustain support. ● Partners must coordinate their efforts to support refugees and continue cases management, psychosocial support and cash assistance. 	
<p>Discussion on merging DASWG under PWG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion about the proposal of merging sub-sectors, like child protection with Gender-based Violence (GBV) and DASWG under the protection working group. ● The merge aims to optimize resources and have one joint strategy, one work plan, and one meeting structure for more effective coordination. ● Specialized services (disability, age-related) will not be dissolved, but empowered through joint efforts. ● Unified advocacy with current and potential donors to seek new funding opportunities. ● Plans to discuss the margining and learn from other experiences (North Coordination) during the next DASWG. ● DASWG members will ensure that disability is represented across all sectors in the urban protection working group and share lessons learned. ● The margining will start in May 2025. 	
<p>Updates from the field offices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Return-related programming will increase, with efforts to support informed decisions by families. ● Regular updates on returns will be shared across the protection sector. ● UNHCR provided an update on the cash assistance program, noting a decrease in the target population to 17,000 due to funding limitations. ● The cash assistance programs are prioritizing the most vulnerable individuals, and those who return to Syria are not replaced. ● Verification processes are in progress to ensure beneficiaries are in-country, including home visits for those who can't leave home. ● The ongoing issues with the mobile wallet authentication are being followed up by UNHCR on daily basis to address these issues. 	



<p>Presentation on recommendations based on voices of refugees with disabilities by GIZ-Nayfeh Al-Kurdi</p>	<p>Main challenges are access to information, quality of life & independence, active participation, and empowerment & leadership.</p> <p>Recommendations are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ensuring inclusive & equitable access to information2. Enhancing the well-being & inclusion activities for refugees with disabilities3. Strengthening protection, reproductive Health, & empowerment programs for refugee women with disabilities4. Enhancing long-term intervention of healthcare & therapeutic services5. Ensuring comprehensive psychosocial support for families6. Building community-based inclusive support networks of refugees with disabilities & persons with disabilities at host the community7. Strengthening the advocacy & empowerment programs for refugees with disabilities8. Strengthening educational, vocational training, & employment services/opportunities9. Establishing an identification card system for refugees with disabilities10. Holding regular participatory meetings with refugees with disabilities11. Implementing awareness training for children of parents with disabilities <p>- Full presentation attached</p>	<p>The Voice of Refugees with Disabilities:</p> <p>https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/115578</p>
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Attendance Sheet

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