

Protection Working Group Jordan

Meeting Minutes
10 December 2014



Agencies present: UNHCR, ActionAid, FPSC, IRC, IRD, MercyCorps, MPDL, NHF/IFH, NRC, UPP and US Embassy, ICMC, WVI

1. Update on 2015 appeals/planning process

The JRP was successfully launched on December 04, 2014. The document is available on the JRP website <http://www.jrpj.org/>. Discussions on the format of the Jordan Chapter of the 3RP are ongoing. The Protection Sector Working Group will present the inter-agency refugee protection strategy document at a donor meeting on December 15, 2014. The presentation of inter-agency refugee sector strategies and individual agency/NGO appeals will also be discussed at the ISWG meeting on December 15, 2015.

2. Update on government decision to change access for Syrian refugees to Ministry of Health services and facilities- UNHCR

[See attached presentation].

UNHCR made a presentation on the new government health policy on access to health for Syrian refugees and its implications. The cabinet issued this directive at the end of November. The policy states that all Syrian refugees can continue to access government health facilities, but that they will be charged the noninsured Jordanian rate.

The presentation discussed the implications of the policy on primary health care, reproductive health, challenges the policy brings and how UNHCR intends to communicate these messages to the refugee community.

3. WFP cash assistance in urban areas

WFP has secured funds for the month of December and messages have already been sent to beneficiaries to pick up their vouchers. Each one in urban will receive 24 JOD for the month while those in camps will receive 20 JOD plus daily bread. Starting next year, WFP will standardize voucher values. At present, the plan is for each refugee to receive vouchers worth 20JOD both in camp and urban. Also, bread distribution in the camp will stop (to be phased-out in Feb). This will be communicated to the refugee community.

4. Update on ITS evictions

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UNHCR made a presentation on the evictions carried out by the Jordanian authorities in December per area. UNHCR will continue to share updates on evictions with sector members.

UNHCR's response to the evictions:

- Advocacy with local authority to carry out evictions in a more humane way, Exploring possibility to conduct awareness-raising sessions for local authorities and police
- Presence of medical staff during evictions
- Potential information sharing with refugees on the illegality of pitching tents. Key information is being drafted to be shared with partners who will be involved in information dissemination.

5. UNFPA funded projects in Zaatari (ACTED and Questscope)

ACTED and Questscope made presentations on their proposed youth projects in Zaatari for 2015. ACTED proposes to implement a 6 month pilot skateboarding project while Questscope proposes to construct a youth center that provides a safe space for youth in District 4. The same presentations will be made at the PWG meeting on December 11 in Zaatari.

6. MOI data collection

Partners interested in data collection met yesterday and revised the data collection tool which was discussed during the last PWG meeting. The revised tool will be circulated after the meeting. Another meeting will be called to finalize with the data collection tool. UNHCR will communicate dates when this exercise will start.

7. AOB

- Next meeting will be held in early January.
- Selection of new co-chairs. Karen will circulate an email on the revision of the TOR for PWG co-chairs. In January, we will look at agencies interested in taking over this role. Uma was thanked (in her absence) for her cooperation and efforts as co-chair in 2014.