



Protection
Working Group

Protection Working Group Jordan

Meeting Minutes 10th February 2016

Agencies present: NRC, ACTED, Legal Aid-ARDD, AVSI, CARE, CVT, DRC, FSPC, HI, ICMC, ICRC, IOCC, IOM, IRC, ICU, JCLA, IRD, IFH, Near East Foundation, , Questscope, TDH – Lussanne, TDH-Italy, UNFPA, UNOPS, UNWOMEN and UNHCR

AGENDA

- **Review and of PWG Sector Strategy**
- **Update on Urban Verification exercise;**
- **Special Committee procedures and referrals from partners;**
- **Development of Q1 PWG Advocacy messages**
- **AOB:**
 - **Visit to Jordan of Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, especially women and children**
 - **PSEA Focal Points Network**
 - **Situation at the BERM**
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- 1. Review and endorsement of PWG Sector Strategy;**

A first draft of PWG strategy was distributed among members that formed themselves into groups to discuss an objective for 15 minutes to review and propose changes/comments on the strategy.

ACTION POINT

- Members to send out their suggestions that were discussed during the meeting to Sector chair in order to come up with a final PWG strategy for 2016.
- 2. Update on Urban Verification exercise:**

MOI Card issuance is still ongoing for Syrians through police stations around Jordan. The majority of the Syrians for whom the authorities have issued an MOI card are asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR.

Statistics and schedule of next document returns have been shared along with the invitation for the meeting.

The PWG member highlighted the importance of looking at the verification data according the below criteria to identify trends and gaps/challenges:

- Geographical areas, governorates.
- Breakdown by female/male head of households.
- Impact of government policies.

3. Special Committee procedures and referrals from partners

A briefing on the procedures followed by the recently established Special Committee was provided by UNHCR Snr. Protection Officer. The Special committee makes decision on registration of complex cases such as mixed families, forged documents, smuggling, etc). The committee was established last year and is composed of different government institutions and authorities such as General Intelligence Department (GID), and Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate. UNHCR participates as an observer. The cases are assessed based on security considerations. Only 4% have been rejected. Consequences of rejections are still to be identified.

ACTION POINT: PWG members will refer complex cases to the UNHCR protection units in the different field locations (Azraq, Zaatari and Emirates Jordanian Camps, Irbid, Mafraq, Amman Field Offices)

4. Development of Q1 PWG Advocacy messages :

Members provided suggestion on common messages for PWG co-chairs to share them with the Inter-Agency Task Force . Some of the suggestions include:

- Early marriages: Focus on education, spread messages in schools, link early marriages to sexual harassment, violence/assault (Penal Code 308).
- Berm situation: harsh environmental factors as winter are ending. Update of numbers, capacity of transit and Azraq. Targeting of demographic data, given the high percentage of women and children.
- Birth registration: ensure there are different alternatives offered to refugees. Evaluate better advocacy for extensions of waivers to ensure predictability of administrative procedures.

ACTION POINT:

Members to send their detailed points to PWG co-chairs: Ana Belén Anguita (UNHCR) , Anguita@unhcr.org; Cate Osborn (NRC), catherine.osborn@nrc.no

5. AOB:

- **Visit to Jordan of Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, especially women and children.** The Special Rapporteur highlighted the engagement of authorities and humanitarian agencies in anti-trafficking, while noting challenges in the identification and follow-up of sex trafficking or street begging. The standards of referral and care at shelters should also be provided particular attention. A report to the General Assembly and another one to the Human Right council will be prepared by the Special Rapporteur. A follow-up mission is also planned to take place in 2016.
- **PSEA Focal Points Network.** A PSEA Network meeting will follow the PWG meeting, The agenda will focus on the outputs of the compiled PSEA self-audit check-list; outcomes of PSEA online survey, review on the work plan and next steps to be taken.
- **Situation at the border:** updated figures and scaling up of assistance and protection delivery was presented.
- **Inputs for 3RP Annual Report:** Members were requested to share their input for the Inter-Agency 3RP annual report, the suggested input should have focus stories (which could be a human story, a description of an innovative programme, a new partnership, an example of resilience-building, working with local communities/host governments etc.) and pictures from their activities.

ACTION POINT: Members to send out their inputs by the 21st of Feb to Ghassan Shehadeh (shahadeg@unhcr.org) or sector chair Ana Belen (anguita@unhcr.org)