

Basic Needs Working Group (BNWG) Za'atari Camp

February 2 2016, 10:30AM – 12PM
Meeting Minutes

Agenda

- I) Assistance
 - a. Presentation on new Cash Assistance in Zaatari Camp (UNHCR)
 - b. Updates on ad-hoc winterization distributions
- II) Cash for Work
 - a. Update on medical insurance for Syrian CFW volunteers
 - b. Introduction on rotational CFW module (UN Women).
 - c. Reporting on CFW data for monthly factsheet (Deadline: Feb 4).
- III) RAIS
 - a. Data sharing agreements between UNHCR & partners
 - b. Trainings
- IV) Appointing BNWG members sectoral focal points
- V) AOB

I. Assistance

- a. Presentation on Cash Assistance in Zaatari Camp (UNHCR)
 - UNHCR has been providing cash assistance via local banks using biometrics/IRIS scan technology to persons in concern (including, but not limited to Iraqi, Syrian, and Sudanese refugees) in Jordan's urban areas (Cairo Amman Bank in the current partner).
 - UNHCR plans to expand this cash assistance mechanism in Jordan's refugee camps, including Zaatari Camp. Jordanian refugee camps would be the first camp setting to use such technology and mechanism in global UNHCR operations.
 - In 2016, UNHCR intend to also expand options for partners to provide cash assistance to beneficiaries using the "Common Cash Facility." UNHCR plans to offer this option to partners in March 2016.
 - In Zaatari Camp, UNHCR is exploring options of establishing mobile cash ATMs. Four secure locations have been identified and need to be further piloted.
 - The UNHCR vision for cash assistance in Zaatari is not just limited to basic assistance (ei NRC camp-wide distributions), but also the distribution of stipends for CFW volunteers from all organizations
- b. Updates on ad-hoc winterization distributions
 - 17,500 households have received the Saudi Winterization packages (NRC).
 - NRC, UNHCR, and IRD coordinated with SCJ to distribution 50JD cash to 1820 vulnerable families (SCJ) for winterization needs.

ACTION POINTS

- Agencies should discuss the prospective of cash assistance and internally and share additional perspectives in adapting such technology (for cash assistance & CFW payments) in Zaatari camp at the next BNWG.
- FMI, contact: Elizabeth Barnhart, BARNHART@unhcr.org.

II. Cash for Work

- a. Update on medical insurance for Syrian CFW volunteers.
 - The BNWG CFW taskforce met with the UNHCR legal unit to discuss the legal limitations of the annex. The taskforce is developing an annex to the CFW guidelines, "Health and Safety Plan" and will present the annex at the next BNWG.
- b. Introduction on rotational CFW module (UN Women).
 - UNWOMEN is revising its CFW strategy and current program to include for rotate volunteer positions. The rotational plan includes the CFW opportunity type, duration of engagement,

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timeline of action, and the following annexes: 1) announcement of rotation; 2) UNWOMEN complaint box; 3) posting of new CFW opportunities/application.

- From UNWOMEN and the BNWG's assessment, the demand for CFW opportunities is very high, with approximately 3000-5000 opportunities available in a camp of 80,000 people, and only on average of 24% of these available for women.
- UNWOMEN will roll out the rotational plan in February. Partner agencies are requested to share UNWOMEN CFW applications in community centers, field etc. to increase equal opportunity and awareness regarding the recruitment process.
- UNWOMEN will provide the BNWG with lessons learned from the rotational plan. This feedback will be integral for the first quarterly revision of the CFW guidelines in March 2016.

c. Reporting on CFW data for monthly factsheet (Deadline: Feb 4).

- UNHCR Registration informed BNWG members that there are still several organizations not sending CFW lists prior to recruitment – rather, only after the agency has hired the CFW volunteers. This is a major concern because agencies are continuing to hire Syrian volunteers who 1) may not be registered in Zaatari camp and 2) may be participating in another CFW program. All agencies are expected to comply with the Zaatari Camp CFW guidelines.

ACTION POINT:

- OXFAM has shared a final draft of the CFW Assessment on the WASH Sector (attached). All BNWG members are requested to provide inputs on the report (with specific attention to recommendations) by COB Monday, February 8. Please submit any inputs/comments to Adem, UNHCR: shaqiri@unhcr.org and Cedric, cregede@oxfam.org.uk.
- The deadline for submitting data to UNHCR on CFW programs is Thursday, February 4th via the Zaatari Camp Interagency Report Form V.3). In addition, all agencies should report the TOTAL number of funds spend on CFW programs during each reporting month by Thursday, February 10th. *Any agencies with cash for work program should report CFW data to UNHCR and the BNWG monthly for coordination.

III. RAIS

- a. Data sharing agreements between UNHCR & partners.
- All agencies using the UNHCR RAIS V.2 are required to re-submit a request to access RAIS (RAIS User Agreement at organizational level) ASAP. FMI- contact Olivia Cribb, UNHCR – Cribb@unhcr.org.
 - b. Trainings
 - All agencies interest in receiving a training on UNHCR RAIS V.2 should contact Marwan Hassan-alsheikm@unhcr.org. The next upcoming training in Zaatari Camp is on Thursday, February 11 from 12PM-2PM, UNHCR Meeting Room 1.

IV. Appointing BNWG members sectoral focal points

- In 2016, the BNWG hoped to elect BNWG member sectoral focal points to enhance close communication on sectoral issues, particularly relating to CFW, assistance, and assessments. BNWG members agreed to internally link with their colleagues sitting on other sectoral working groups and provide necessary updates regularly.

Attendees

IRD, UNHCR, NRC, ACTED, JEN, REACH, UNICEF, OXFAM, Save the Children Jordan, UN Women, Save the Children International.

Upcoming NBWG Meeting

The next NBWG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16.