



Protection Working Group Jordan

Meeting minutes 7th of October 2015

Agencies present: UNHCR, APS, CVT, DRC, ICMC, IMC, INTERSOS, IRD, MPDL, NRC, Tdh-Lausanne, TDH-Italy, Urban Justice Center/Iraqi Refugee Assistance Project, UPP, Handicap International, ARDD-LA and IOM.

Agenda:

1. 3RP/JRP Update
2. Urban Verification Update
3. Returns to Syria, onward movement
4. PWG Advocacy Points for 3rd Quarter
5. AOB:
 - ERC Cash/Protection Consultant
 - VAF Workshop
 - Reminder re: Gender Marker Workshop (8th of October)

1. 3RP/JRP Update

3RP – The appeal for 2016 is now open and you can submit your appeal online on ActivityInfo – www.syrianrefugeeresponse.org.

For questions on entering your appeal in ActivityInfo, please contact Colin Lopez – lopezco@unhcr.org

JRP – MoPIC has requested that the 2016-2018 JRP appeal not exceed 83% of the 2015 on an annual basis. As a result, the Social Protection appeal must be reduced significantly & the Justice appeal moderately. The following reductions have been proposed to the Task Force Chairs (MoSD and MoJ): 0 % reduction 2016, 20 % reduction 2017, and 40 percent % in 2018 in each of the outputs.

GoJ planning figures were amended on 04/10/2015: there will be no change in the Syrian population registered with UNHCR, the planning figure will be 630,000 for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

2. Urban Verification Update

- 206, 856 MoI Service Cards have been issued during the urban verification exercise, including to 191, 949 Syrian refugees registered with UNHCR.
- Document return: 6,558 documents in urban returned to over 4,000 individuals. 30, 596 document requested in urban; 29, 734 have been located in Rabaa Al Sarhan. 50% increase in document returns since last update in September.

- Challenges in the document return exercise: (i) refugees approach PSD without having requested their documents; (ii) refugees do not approach police station to collect documents; and (iii) refugees have common phone numbers so hard to reach them.
- Positive developments on lease agreement requirement: there are now 3 options in order to prove place of residence in non-camp settings: (i) refugee brings copy of lease stamped by municipality; (ii) landlord can testify at the police station that the refugee is his/her tenant; and (iii) the refugee can bring a document from UNHCR indicating that refugee provided address in proGres database.
- Health certificate – discussions on Health Certificate continue. UNHCR position remains the same: no Urgent Cash Assistance/Emergency Financial Assistance to pay for Health Certificate.

Action point

- UNHCR will send out the schedule for (i) HelpDesks and (ii) mobile registration to the Protection Working Group

3. Returns to Syria & onward movement

- Since September 2014, number of departures has exceeded number of new arrivals (brief reversal of trend in March 2015). Population increase due to net population growth (births – deaths).
- UNHCR conducted a rapid phone survey on refugee intentions in August (502 cases living in non-camp settings):
 - 49% reported thinking of leaving Jordan at some point
 - 91 % of those who reported thinking of leaving said they would try to leave to Europe
 - Main reasons for leaving: inability to provide for their families, lack of work opportunities and no clear vision for the future
 - Main elements that would enable them to remain in Jordan: (i) food vouchers increased or uncut + work permits + cash assistance increased + access to basic services: 33%; (ii) if their food vouchers increased or their cuts reversed: 5%; (iii) work permits: 20%; and (iv) increase in cash assistance: 19%
- For information about Refugee Emergency in the Mediterranean, see: <http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php>
- Resettlement Update:
 - Increased interest in resettlement by refugees
 - In 2014, UNHCR submitted 6,086 Syrians for resettlement to third countries. In 2015 (Jan-Sept), UNHCR has submitted 5,836 Syrians for resettlement or humanitarian admission programmes. The submission “target” for Syrians has increased from 6,000 individuals (beginning of 2015) to 8,000, and is expected to increase again due to increasing interest by several countries in providing resettlement and/or humanitarian admission spaces.

- Increased concerns about potential fraud associated with interest in resettlement: UNHCR is sending out posters/messages to explain how UNHCR communicates to refugees.
- Text of anti-fraud message is as follows:

UNHCR is aware of rumors circulating about resettlement, encouraging refugees to submit resettlement applications to UNHCR. This kind of information is circulating among refugees, often under the form of Whatsapp messages, SMS, on Facebook or in the media.

This information is NOT coming from UNHCR and must be considered false.

Resettlement is not based on applications but on identification carried out by UNHCR. Applications for resettlement which are placed in UNHCR complaint boxes will therefore NOT be processed. Refugees identified as being in need of resettlement are contacted by UNHCR and only by UNHCR.

UNHCR notes that information provision to refugees and asylum seekers is done through its official channels only, namely:

- By SMS: tagged by UNHCR
- When you call UNHCR Helpline: 064008000
- On Talking With Refugees portal: help.unhcr.jo
- On Facebook.com/UNHCRJo
- By official announcements in newspapers
- UNHCR Jordan website: www.unhcr.jo

Any news circulating outside the communication channels mentioned above is not from UNHCR and is potentially fraudulent. Please always make sure that the source of the information is UNHCR so that you are not exposed to fraud. All UNHCR services are FREE.

Action point

- UNHCR to share anti-fraud messages & posters.

4. PWG Advocacy Points for 3rd Quarter

- Discussion in groups –will be summarized and sent out to the group separately.

5. AOB

- Protection/Cash consultant will be working on linkages between cash programming and protection. Training on Protection & Cash scheduled for 8 December 2015; invitation to be shared shortly. PWG and Basic Needs WG will be prioritized.
- VAF workshop today to work on future of VAF and Data Sharing – suggestion that PWG members could be protection data focal points within their agencies.
- Gender Marker training tomorrow at EMOPS 8th of October 2015.
- Disability Task Force – UNHCR and Handicap International currently mapping services and facilities accessible for people with disabilities. More information to be provided once document finalized.
- Next meeting 1st Wednesday of November 2015 (4 November 2015).