

Protection Working Group Jordan

Meeting Minutes
25 March 2015



Agencies present: ACTED, ARRD-Legal Aid, AVSI, CARE, CVT, DFID, DRC, FPSC, ICMC, ICRC, ILO, IOM, IRC, IRD, LWF, NEF, NHF/IFH, NRC, OCHA, Premiere Urgence, SCJ, UNRWA, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, WVI

1. Update on urban verification

Most police stations around the country are open and are registering Syrians as part of the MOI urban verification exercise. Mandatory health certificate, obtaining landlords' IDs and lease agreements are some of the obstacles refugees face in obtaining a new MOI service card, in addition to differential practices at some police stations regarding the documentary requirements (bail-out, stamped lease agreement). This has been raised with SRAD. UNHCR has also asked SRAD to ensure that the SOPs developed and shared with all police stations for the exercise are applied uniformly in all police stations. UNHCR are continuing to conduct outreach to encourage more people to register (Help Desks, Town Hall meetings, etc). There are also additional legal staff (ARRD-Legal Aid) present in all UNHCR urban registration centres to provide additional support for the verification.

Action point

- Agencies should continue reporting incidents and their locations to UNHCR for follow-up with SRAD.
- Refugees requested to provide bail-out documents during registration should contact UNHCR helpdesks because this is not a requirement for registration.
- UNHCR to provide a list of locations and dates for Help Desks.
- Questions on leases should be sent to ARDD-Legal Aid.

2. Update on Syrian refugee population (spontaneous returns to Syria, new arrivals, movements to the camps)

The number of Syrians arriving into the country increased briefly last week, but has again decreased. In the last 3 months, the number of spontaneous returns to Syria is higher than new arrivals into Jordan.

Iraqi statistics

As of March 22, the number of Iraqis in Jordan is 46,832. Among new arrivals to Jordan from Iraq (since June 2014), UNHCR is recording a high number of individuals with specific needs codes, meaning that the protection needs of these individuals is greater. In addition, a high

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proportion of the new arrivals are reporting individualized persecution of a serious nature (survivors of torture and SGBV).

3. Update from MHPSS on MoH reporting requirements

IMC Co-Chair of MHPSS SWG shared with members the quarterly reporting template from MoH for MHPSS projects, where medical staff are employed & mental health services are provided. This does NOT apply to PSS services where mental health services are not provided. Agencies are required to provide details on the project, their staff, including their licenses and medical certificates, and budgets. Each report should be stamped and signed by the Directorate of Health at the governorate where the project was implemented. In addition to that, they should attach documents similar to those submitted during the approval from MoPIC/JRP.

4. Development of 3 protection advocacy points for the IATF, Informal Donors' Group & ISWG Advocacy WG for the 1st quarter of 2015

The PWG will produce quarterly advocacy points to be shared with donors, IATF and the ISWG. Proposed advocacy items for this quarter include: (i) verification exercise (a waiver of the requirement for medical certificates), (ii) forced returns to the camps (primarily Azraq) which is an obstacle to refugees participating in the urban verification and is increasing family separation), and (iii) improved funding for non-Syrian population(focus on Iraqis starting to pay fees from next semester).

5. Reporting on 2015 projects

Deadline for reporting March activities is April 08, 2015. Agencies that need assistance with this or have questions should contact Maya Logo, LOGO@unhcr.org.

6. AOB

(a) Higher Education

In the next meeting, April 08, 2015, UNHCR will present the new proposed higher education coordination forum, to provide clear protection guidance on higher education initiatives.

(b) PSEA Network (next meeting scheduled for 8 April 2015)

There will be a meeting for all PSEA focal points on April 08, after the PWG meeting. Those with comments on the PSEA SOPs should contact Ana Belen Anguita Arjona, anguita@unhcr.org.

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(c) **Project approvals**

The NGO forum is following up with MoPIC on the approval process. For questions on this, contact Sarah Ferris of the INGO forum, sarahferris@jordaningoforum.org.

(d) **Irbid updates**

The Irbid Coordination forum has been working with the authorities on the issue of refugees living in ITS. Help Desks, including legal counseling, has increased outreach to these communities, including on the Government's decree to remove all ITS.

(e) **Youth task force updates**

YTF Co-Chair Election: UNFPA and NRC were endorsed as continuing co-chairs of the YTF. Next elections in six months.

Youth Services Map: The updated YTF Zaatari Youth Services Map was circulated to YTF in draft & will be shared shortly.

YTF Factsheet: YTF members discussed ideas for a quarterly factsheet/newsletter on youth issues and programmes. A concept note will be developed and shared for further discussion.

DAAD Scholarship Interview Observations: NRC briefed YTF on lessons learned following participation as an observer of the DAAD 'Leadership for Syria' scholarship interviews, which will also be shared with DAAD.