

Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) Syrian, African and Iraqi Refugee Response in Egypt Meeting minutes

Date: 24th February 2015

Time: 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Venue: UNHCR Cairo- Zamalek Office, Conference Room

Chair: Karmen Sakhr- **UNHCR Senior** Protection Officer

Participants:

(Magdy Francis), (Mariam Fouad)- **Caritas Egypt**; (Chris Eades) - **Stars**; (Gasser Gad El Kareem) - **WHO Egypt**; (Kris Ozar) - **CRS**; (Mai Gaballah)- **Save the Children**; (Aisha El Sharabassy), (Mohamed Soliman)- **Resala**; (Fr. Jemil Araya)- **Sacred Heart Church**; (Nancy Baron) -**PSTIC**; (Fatima Idris)- **Tadamon**; (Lucia Oliveira)- **ACF**; (Eman Saad)- **AMU**; Mohamed Farahat- **EFRR**; (Nevein Dous) **UNICEF**; (Engy Mostafa), (Wael Abdel Moneim)- **Mostafa Mahmoud Hospital**; (Hani Fares), (Marious Buga), (Maria Bances), (Ashraf Azer), (Ragnhild Ek.), (Mohamed Shawky), (Amr Osman)- **UNHCR**

Agenda:

1. Briefing on 3RP launch;
2. Quick updates on 3RP IM, M&E and reporting;
3. Updates on the vulnerability assessment: revised time framework and implication for partners on service delivery;
4. Briefing on the proposed established Technical WG “Communications with Communities”;
5. AOB.

Summary of the Minutes:

1- Briefing on 3RP launch:

Karmen Sakhr, UNHCR Senior Protection Officer briefed on the launch of the 3RP on the 17th February 2015.

- On 17th February 2015, the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) Egypt was launched in Egypt jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by Ambassador *Abdelrahman Salah* – Assistant Foreign Minister for Arab Affairs, and the United Nations, represented by *Ms. Anita Nirody*, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Egypt.

- During the launch *Ambassador Salah* provided an opening speech, where he highlighted the efforts undertaken by Egypt in hosting **300,000** Syrians, even though Egypt does not share a border with Syria. Ambassador Salah emphasized that Egypt's policy towards Syrian refugees allows for family reunification and does not permit any forcible return to Syria. He also noted that Syrians have been integrated in Egyptian society. *Ambassador Salah* also highlighted the possibility of engaging Syrians in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as a means of livelihood. He mentioned that while Government is providing subsidies in each sector, it is desirable that all support/assistance to refugees should be channeled through the Ministries rather than through NGOs.
- *Ms. Nirody, UN resident representative*, praised the efforts of the Egyptian government in hosting and supporting Syrians, reiterating the willingness and importance of cooperation between UN agencies and the Egyptian Government in this regard. She reflected on the different UN agencies working in different sectors to provide support to Syrians in Egypt, in full cooperation with the Egyptian government.
- *UNHCR Representative Ms. Elizabeth Tan* provided an overview of the activities undertaken under each sector; namely Education, Health, Food Security, Basic Needs/Livelihoods and Protection. She highlighted that the 3RP brings humanitarian assistance and development support to refugees and host communities, as well as institutional support for local service delivery. She also emphasized that within the overall budget of the 3RP, the resilience component constitutes **44%** while the refugee component constitutes **56%**. Further inputs were also shared briefly by each sector lead.
- The launch was attended by representatives from WFP, UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and UNDP. Donor countries attending included Canada, Germany, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, European Union as well as delegates from USAID. Representatives from the Ministries of Health and Education were also present and *Ambassador Tarek Maaty*- Deputy Assistant Foreign Minister for Migration, Refugees Affairs and Anti Human Trafficking attended the launch.

2- Quick Updates on 3RP IM, M&E & Reporting:

Amr Osman, UNHCR Coordination Support Officer briefed IAWG members on the 3RP 'Information Management, M&E and reporting' workshop:

- On 18th February 2015, a regional 3RP workshop was held in Istanbul on Information management, M&E and reporting. The workshop aimed to establish minimum standards or benchmarks and confirm processes for reporting, including monthly (i.e. output) dashboard reporting. The 3RP workshop also discussed possible ways to generate ideas and actions to meet donor demand for more information and reporting on assessment,

prioritization and targeting approaches. Among several issues discussed, there were three main components highlighted during the workshop:

- *Resilience tracking*, measurement and reporting;
 - *Outcome/impact reporting*, including establishing baselines from previous appeals;
 - *Financial tracking* for both the humanitarian and non-humanitarian components.
- Among several outcomes of the workshop, countries agreed on a common understanding of the timelines, roles and responsibilities for respective countries and minimal requirements that would be met for M&E, reporting and IM tools, products and process for 3RP. The participants also agreed on a common understanding of resilience monitoring concepts and frameworks, and how they can be presented through 3RP reporting. Moreover, options for an increase in harmonized assessments, prioritization and targeting tools/mechanisms were discussed.

3- Updates on the vulnerability assessment: revised time framework and implication for partners on service delivery:

- The process with WFP and the UNHCR is still on-going. Around **2,000** individuals in Alexandria and Damietta have been assessed to date. The assessment is planned to continue until July 2015 and UNHCR will take off its implementation.
- The vulnerability assessment for African and Iraqi refugees is planned for 2016. At present there is no scoring methodology but UNHCR aims to use simpler mechanisms for a transitional period.
- *Dr Nancy Baron, PSTIC director* highlighted that many vulnerable people cannot get into the UNHCR system and are unable to receive needed assistance.

4- Briefing on the proposed established Technical WG “Communications with Communities”:

- *Ragnhild Ek, UNHCR Senior External Relations Officer* highlighted the need to improve communication mechanism used for beneficiaries. The Communications and External Relations Unit has established a closed face book page with partners in order to provide streamlined answers to the beneficiaries.
- UNHCR is currently working on the TORs of the Technical WG aiming to cover the various concerns of the beneficiaries and to reach new vulnerable groups.

5- AOB:

Updates from Save the Children: Mai Gaballah gave a brief on the “I am here” project. SC Egypt team has been working with the Women’s Refugee Commission to pilot the ‘I AM HERE’ programming tool in Greater Cairo. The tool brings together various mobile phone applications to profile who the Syrian adolescent girls are in the target community, what their self-professed needs are and what services are available to them within the immediate community. SC Egypt's team was trained on the use of the ‘I am here’ approach and piloted it in Obour. The information gathered on adolescent girls in the Syrian community will inform protection/education operations in Obour District.

Updates from Tadamon: Tadamon Council is responding to refugees' community (Iraqi, Ethiopians, Somali) needs to get communication with UNHCR through a direct approach, organizing a series of weekly community meetings with UNHCR and service providers which aim to increase information sharing and speed up the referral mechanisms for protection cases. Tadamon will also be launching a community dialog seminar with AUC presenting a panel discussion on Refugee community schools that contribute to refugee children using their right to education.

Tadamon Council started work to re-structure the 6th October City community center’s program services through organizing meetings with NGOs, CBOs and community groups to better planned cooperate for the setting up of a new program responding to gaps of programming/beneficiaries in 6th October City. On 8th of March Tadamon will be celebrating ‘International Women’s Day’ with closure for micro-grants projects 2014

Summary of Action points:

Action	Lead Organisation/ Person	Deadline
1. Share UNHCR list on Focal point for external Communication	UNHCR (Amr)	ASAP
2. Livelihoods Sector to brief on African & Iraqi assessment report.	UNHCR (Steven)	Next IAWG meeting

Other:

Next IAWG meeting will convene on:

Date: Wednesday, 1st April 2015

Time: 10:00 am

Venue: UNHCR office in Zamalek.