



**Protection**  
Working Group

## Meeting Minutes 18 2016

### Protection Working Group Jordan

**Agencies present:** ACTED, ARDD-Legal Aid, AVSI, CARE, DRC, ECHO, FSPC, IMC, ICMC, Intersos, IRAP, JIF, IOCC, IOM, IRC, JIF, MC, IFH, NRC, Oxfam, Questscope, Swiss Agency for Dev., TDH-Italy, UNFPA, UNHCR, UPP, WFP and LWF

#### **AGENDA:**

- **PWG member announcement and updates, approval of minutes**
- **Updates:**
  - **MOI cards & Urban Verification**
  - **Border situation**
  - **Education Access (and clarification)**
  - **Jordan Response Plan**
  - **Intersector Linkages**
- **Gender Focal Points selection/confirmation**
- **Legal Services and Documentation Issues**
- **AoB**

#### **1. PWG members updates and announcements:**

N.A

#### **2. Updates:**

- **Borders/berm:** Distribution activities continued in the past period in both Ruqban and Hadallat (over 25,000 individuals assisted to date) until Saturday afternoon, when they were again suspended due to security concerns. Distribution has been ongoing, though with frequent disruption due to weather and transportation problems, and due to security concerns.

The Hadalat (5,430 individuals) population has been provided food assistance in an orderly and efficient distribution, along with some NFI packages including clothes for infants. Recent satellite photos showed a decrease in the number of shelters at al Ruqban (by 9% since October), though the significance of these changes is difficult to ascertain.

The medical facility started operating and receiving cases that were able to come from the berm to the health center, small number of pregnant women cases have been received into Ruwaished hospital as exceptional cases. (A recent more comprehensive update is appended.)

- **Urban verification exercise:** The return of Syrians' documents was on-going during November to reach 222,730 documents. As of end of November 2016, some 403,651 MOI cards have been issued in total, out of these documents 375,351 MOI cards issued for

individuals registered with UNHCR. Issuance has slowed significantly since mid-2016, and remains at low levels. A recent increased focus on resolving legal and documentation issues by legal NGOs aims to target those remaining without MOI cards in 2017 through focused assistance and support, including through improved identification via VAF/Home Visits and outreach efforts.

- **Education Access (and clarification from prior meeting):** Since the beginning of this year school year, the access to education have been improved compared with the past years (Number has unofficially increased by an estimated 22,000 children, while the target is to reach 75,000). Enrolment in the most recent semester was permitted without documents, and it is hoped that government policy will continue with this approach, ensuring that the greatest number of student are able to attend. Sector Coordinator noted that despite some individual problematic cases, admission appears to be proceeding well, particularly in two-shift schools, which are more familiar with government policies permitting refugee enrolment. Problematic cases or incidents may still be referred to UNICEF and Save the Children Jordan for follow up with MoE.
- **Clarification:** Schools do admit other nationalities (mainly Sudanese, Somalis, and Iraqis), however, such children are required to pay annual fees (40-60 JODs), plus other fees like books and uniforms. In instances in which families are unable to afford school-related costs, UNHCR and NGOs have limited programs to provide support to ensure enrolment, however, the majority of families of non-Syrian children pay their own fees and expenses.
- **Jordan Response Plan:** MoPIC secretariat released a draft of the JRP 2017-2019 plan on their website on the 11<sup>th</sup> of Dec. This draft was radically different from the recommendations of the Social Protection Task Force, including in particular massive reductions in Refugee Protection activities and budget lines (Cash Assistance, SGBV, CP, Outreach and Referrals, Safe Spaces/PSS among the hardest hit). UN agencies, INGO forum and donors are in an on-going process of high level advocacy to keep those activities at the proposed budget levels for 2017-2019, as they are core protection activities and shared priorities of all stakeholders.

The main outcome of the last meeting with MoPIC, UN agencies, line ministries and donors was the unified sharing of concerns with MOPIC about the budget reductions made for essential services, especially under the refugee component in the draft JRP 2017-2019. Donor support was unanimous in favor of reinstating the Social Protection budget lines. As a result, the JRP Platform meeting will be postponed to early January, and Task Forces have been asked to meet to review budgets and activities, and provide updated proposals to MOPIC. *[Note: The JRP has since been approved by MOPIC at or near the levels initially proposed by the Task Force, with all key Protection activities included.]*

- **Intersector Linkages:** As part of the Protection Sector Strategy and workplan with emphasize on collaboration with other sectors. Sector Coordinator circulated a summary that shows the current Inter-Sector linkages between Protection and other sectors, Sector coordinator requested members to review and provide suggestions, examples and best practices that needs to be prioritized for the year of 2017 and areas can be found for more cooperation.

**Action Point:**

- **Members to share their feedback, examples and suggestions to sector coordinator by the 21<sup>st</sup> of December.**

- 3. Gender Focal Point Confirmation:** Sector Coordinator called for volunteers to be the new Protection Sector Gender Focal Point, ToRs were circulated with members along with meeting invitation. IRC and CARE expressed their interest to be the new Protection SGFPs; thanks to Adel and Anna Rita.

SGFP will be mainly responsible to mainstream gender into the Protection Sector Response Plan, they will be looking at technical support, capacity development by delivering Gender Marker trainings to members and knowledge management by participating in IATFs SGFP monthly network and sharing information and experiences.

#### **4. Legal Services and Documentation Issues:**

- Whereas there are some NGOs that have cash for protection project which will provide PoCs with money in return of issuing vital documents , e.g. birth certificates, marriage, MoI service card , death, etc. Legal clarification was made related to each type of documents related to civil documentation alongside with the fees. A paper was circulated that contains type of civil documentation with the fees of each type of document.
- Clarification related to the mandate of the Special Committee was provided to the group, the presentation tackled type of cases that should be referred to UNHCR and how to advise cases with complicated legal situation, e.g. smuggled cases, ex-combatants, illegal entry..etc. The presentation focused as well on the delicate process that Jordanian Authorities are following in dealing with those cases. Explanation was provided for the differences between cases that require legal action and those that falls under special committee.
- Clarification was made related to the Humanitarian Committee that falls under SRA. This committee deals with family reunification cases and extremely vulnerable cases, therefore, any application for family reunification should be applied from the camp level whereby SRAD camp will send it to the head office in Amman.

#### **Action points:**

- **All NGOs with cash for protection projects to meet on 19th Dec 2016 to provide briefing on their project with a definition of civil documentation.**
- **Circulate the legal fees paper with the group through the email to PWG members.**
- **Arrange orientation session for PWG in first quarter 2017 to provide more details for legal complicated cases with the proceeding in place for those type of cases.**

**Next Meeting: TBA, UNHCR Khalda, EMOPS Room**

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