



Protection
Working Group

Meeting Minutes 07 September 2016

Protection Working Group Jordan

Agencies present: ACTED, AVSI, CVT, DRC, FCA, INTERSOS, IMC, IOCC, JRC, NHF, NRC, Oxfam, PU-AMI, TDHL, Questscope, SDC, UNICEF, ARDD-Legal Aid, WVI, UPP and UNHCR.

AGENDA:

- **PWG member announcement and updates, approval of minutes**
- **Updates:**
 - **Situation at Jordan-Syria Border**
 - **Urban Verification Exercise**
 - **Education – New School year**
- **Jordan Responses plan update – Agency Financial data 2017**
- **Nomination of Jordan Humanitarian fund Protection Sector panel members**
- **Urban Protection – Irbid Area**
- **AoB**
 - **Training in the south of Jordan – UNICEF**
 - **Update on CP/GBV referral pathway**
 - **Discussion on Mental Health issues in Azraq**

1. PWG members updates and announcements: N/A

2. Updates

Borders/berm:

- Press coverage has accompanied the high level mission by Steven O'Brien from OCHA, which focused on advocacy towards ensuring that the humanitarian needs of the population at the berm can be met.
- Water provisions is ongoing with an increase to 36 water trucks instead of 30 in Ruqban area to meet the population needs. Rehabilitation of a bore hole in Hadalat is ongoing.
- The main goal of all the ongoing efforts is to find modality acceptable to all, that will allow lifesaving humanitarian assistance for the community at the berm for the immediate future.
- A small number of exceptional urgent medical cases have been provided access to medical care in Jordan. This exceptional few cases is not anticipated to be a channel that could open more broadly.
- OCHA figures in advocacy document mention that 30,000 people were admitted from the berm while Azraq camp figures states 21,000 admitted Jordan– UNHCR to follow up and make sure that are correct numbers are reflected.

Action Point:

- Partners to inform UNHCR about any life-threatening medical cases at the berm.

Urban verification exercise:

- The return of Syrians' documents was on-going during August. As of end of August 184,059 documents were returned, while approximately 38,663 documents remained to be delivered. By the end of July 2016, some 389,353 MOI cards have been issued in total. The PWG discussed available information and analysis related to registration in host communities. The PWG continues to be engaged in following up progress on MoI card issuance, to help to identify obstacles and concerns arising during the exercise, and the impact on protection and assistance eligibility for refugees in Jordan. The trend of MOI card issuance have decreased from an average of 24,000 per month to less than 10,000 cards per month, a reduction sustained for several months; a review of data suggests that high numbers of those without MOI cards appear to be in Mafraq, an issue to be further reviewed.
- To facilitate issuance of MOI cards and access to services, a UNHCR registration surge recently issued more than 80,000 updated Asylum-Seeker Certificates to urban cases.

Education – New School year:

- Following the start of the school year, the overall number of students attending school will be shared soon by the Education Working Group on the 19th of September.
- UNICEF continues to receive information on children that have been refused enrollment in school, with data collection and advocacy efforts on-going. UNICEF encourages partners to share lists of children (any nationalities) denied from schools, to support advocacy and understanding of the issues faced. Lists to be sent to ESWG coordinator Farrukh Mirza - fmirza@unicef.org, mentioning child name, school and the reason.
- The main objective is to guarantee that all students have an available seat in schools, UNICEF is trying to collect the needed information to see if there is a need for extra schools or develop the infrastructure, and to ensure implementation of stated access policies..

3. Jordan Response Plan Update – Agency Financial Data 2017:

In preparation for the Jordan Response Plan and 3RP process, Sector Coordinator explained the 3RP/JRP matrix that will be sent to members to list their tentative 2017 budget information for their agencies for the refugee outputs in the social protection sector. At this stage members will be asked only for information on Objectives, Outputs and Tentative budget lines, as highlighted in the template that was presented and explained.

Action Point:

- **3RP/JRP template to be circulated to PWG members**
- **Members to list their agencies tentative 2017 budget, objective and output by the 22nd of September to Coordination Associate – Ghassan Shehadeh –Shehadeg@unhcr.org**

4. Nomination of Jordan Humanitarian Fund Protection Sector Panel Members

Sector Coordinators called for nominees to be part of the projects proposal reviewing committee for the new round of funding that will be announced on the 18th of September. The purpose is to fund NGOs on

activities that meet each sector specified priorities, any project that have protection component have to be reviewed by a reviewing committee panel selected by the Protection Working Group.

UNOCHA guidelines require at least 2 UN Agency members and 2 NGO who have not submitted (Proposals in addition to sector gender focal points). A number of agencies nominated themselves during the meeting. The final committee: UNHCR, UNICEF, Care, NRC and IMC to act as an alternate agency in the reviewing committee.

5. Urban Protection – Irbid

UNHCR Assistant Protection Officer in Irbid gave a detailed presentation on the protection activities and the coordination structure and how it is directly linked with the national protection working group.

Irbid coordination consist of two main groups and four taskforces such as referral coordination, and IP/OP coordination groups in addition to many taskforces that focus the efforts on specific protection issues (CPIMS/GBVIMS/Early Marriage/Informal tented settlements).

Challenges and main achievements have been highlighted in order to strength the linkages and coordination between Irbid and other locations under the PWG umbrella. A question arose concerning deportations, an issue that is handled not by Irbid but by Mafraq and Amman offices; agencies request further information on deportations and advocacy.

For more details about Urban Protection in Irbid, partners to contact Serin Bitar, Assistant Protection Officer. Email: Bitar@unhcr.org

6. AoB:

Trainings in the south – UNICEF: UNICEF is conducting trainings to CP organizations/CBOs located in the south, first training was conducted by IMC in Petra during August.

An upcoming training opportunity will be between the 25th-29th September will be held in Maan, the training will be designated for UNICEF partners, other organizations are welcome to nominate staff from Maan or Aqaba to attend the training that will be conducted by IMC.

Action Point:

- **Invitation to be sent to all members.**
- **Members to send out their nominations to the specified address in the invitation.**

Update on CP/GBV referral pathways: Child Protection and SGBV sub-working groups have agreed to update the CP/GBV referral pathways, usually an update on the pathways takes place every 6 months, last update was done in February 2016 but was not circulated. Some of the challenges that partners are facing are the constant change of contact numbers or turn over and what follow it from deactivation of emails.

The updating process will be starting soon after Eid, an email will be sent to partners to update their information to be included. A team of 4 people will collect the information and compile to produce the final updated referral pathway for 2016.

Action Point:

- **Notification to be sent to members to update their information on the referral pathway.**

Discussion on Mental Health in Azraq: A discussion about the arising worrying mental health issues, specifically the cases of suicide/attempted suicide that were identified in Azraq, a need on prioritizing more interventions on that field is required in the near future. IMC reported on engagement with PSS and MHPSS actors to establish a clearer idea on how to coordinate. There was a suggestion that more advocacy needed to happen with GoJ to ensure PSS support can continue.

Announcements:

UNHCR SIM Distribution: UNHCR started the pilot phase to distribute SIM cards on refugees to enhance two-way communication channels between UNHCR & PoCs. The new features allows POCs to call the Help line (064008000) for free at any time. Most importantly, the SIM card/number doesn't expire which will allow easier communication with refugees without worrying that refugees won't be reachable.

UNHCR Cash Assistance: Assistance will be connected to having an updated ASC as of October 2017.

Action Point:

- UNHCR to provide further detail and information on phone cards and assistance eligibility.

Next Meeting: 2 November 2016, 9-11 am, UNHCR Khalda, EMOPS Room

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