

## Meeting minutes

Meeting Date	July 13 2017
Meeting Time	10:30-12:10
Meeting Location	UNHCR gym
Purpose of Meeting	Monthly DTF meeting
Participants	JOHUD: Abdallah, Manal, Raneem MPDL (Movement for Peace): Maysava IFH (Noor Al-Hussein Foundation -Institute for Family Health): Myamar UNHCR Irbid: Shaden Mercy Corps: Raya IOCC: Afnan JICA: Ritsuko HI: Dua'a, Yahoko
Next Meeting	<b>11am – 1pm</b> on Thursday August 10 2017

### **Agenda**

1. Presentation by HI Washington Group Question Data Advisor on the meeting in Geneva
2. Presentation by JICA on its support to Syrian refugees with disabilities
3. Organizations' updates
4. Review of the message – and its utilization at Working Groups
5. Discussion points for future meetings
6. AOB

### **1. Presentation by HI Washington Group Question Data Advisor on the meeting in Geneva : Debriefing from the UNHCR-NGO consultation**

- 3-days conference held in June in Geneva, attended by various actors (UN agencies, NGOs, etc). Overall objective was for UNHCR and its partner NGOs to ensure a comprehensive response for refugees
- One of discussion points was inclusion in response planning and services. On this, HI presented the on-going project in Jordan which is assessing use of the Washington Group questions<sup>1</sup> in humanitarian response contexts. The project is also taking place in the Philippines and Democratic Republic of Congo.
- The project in Jordan has been evolved with several phases: introduction of the project importance and tools for stakeholders such as INGOs, NGOs, UN agencies; training phase to build the capacity of field monitors, enumerators and other staff. Data collection through VAF baseline (once a year) has been conducted. This will be followed by analysis and production of lessons learned and recommendations.
- The development in Jordan was welcomed by different organizations at the conference. The conference also discussed the need to make adjustments to UNHCR Database ProGres and the lack of understanding amongst humanitarian actors who tend to heavily rely on the medical approach in identifying people with disabilities, and not adequately focusing on improving inclusiveness of services.

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<sup>1</sup> Washington Group on Disability Statistics was formed in 2001, to develop internationally comparable disability measures. There are different set of the questions including the short set, extended set and child functioning set. For more details, see <http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/>

- (Discussions, Q & A)

Q: Why do WG questions ask *functional difficulties* and not *disability*? → HI: WG Questions are to identify persons who have functional difficulties (hearing, moving, seeing etc) due to impairment, based on social model. Keep in mind that many people still misunderstand the term *disability* as the same as *impairment* (Ref: medical model). Therefore, if you ask “do you have *disability*?” you find very limited number of people. Once you identify persons with *disability* (in social model sense) using WG questions, there should be another step of analysis using different tools, to assess barriers facing individuals and required adjustments to existing services.

## **2. Presentation by JICA on its support to Syrian refugees with disabilities**

- Support by JICA for Syrian refugees since 2012
- Disability Equality Training: there are about 10 Syrian DET facilitators
- Peer counseling: 2-3 counselors with disabilities are available to provide individual or group sessions. Sessions will promote free expression of themselves, self-confidence, consciousness about surrounding environments, linkage with people, etc. There is an idea to train Syrian counselors as trainers.
  - IFH have counselors with disabilities
  - JOHUD is also providing counseling services for parents, etc.
- Sports activities: as self-help and empowerment
- Collecting information: service mapping by Syrians with disabilities themselves. Update every 6



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months

- New technical cooperation project with Ministry of Labour started in 2017. The project will train Job Coach and assist both Jordanian with and Syrian refugees with disabilities to access to employment. TOT planned in August 2017.
- JICA-MOL Project can provide/can be a bridge for trainings on following issues:
  - Guidebook for employment of PWDs (By MoL)
    - <http://www.mol.gov.jo/Pages/viewpage.aspx?pageID=216>
    - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbkbHMrtLZgxIVRozjo09g>
  - Introduction of Peer Counseling (By Syrian Peer Counselors)
  - Individual / Group Peer Counseling (By Syrian Peer Counselors)
  - Disability Equality Training, DET (By DET trainers )

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See attached PowerPoint presentation for more details

## **3. Organizations' update**

### **HI.**

- In partnership with IMMAP and supported by the Australian Aid, a research project will start from August till early 2018. Research site will be in Jordan and Lebanon, in both camps and host communities.

- The research will first ask WG questions to identify persons with and without disabilities. Then, another set of questions will be used to assess their level of access to services, and barriers facing refugees with and without disabilities. After this, children at primary school age will be extracted from the sample, and their access to education and barriers will be researched. Focus Group Discussion with children and caregivers will be also conducted to understand factors affecting children's access to education in more details.
- The research aims at making recommendations for better inclusive services in humanitarian responses. HI will keep DTF updated on the progress. Suggestions (e.g. for questions to be asked, persons to be interviewed) are welcome.
- (Discussions, Q & A)
  - Q: (MPDL) In Madaba, no organizations are providing services for persons with disabilities. Distance to services, safety en route and lack of transportation are big factors affecting their access to services.
    - Mercy Corps has been conducting a project on inclusive education in 2 schools in Madaba, and planning to continue for the next year, starting in August. Please consult for details.
    - HI: Barriers concerning distance and transportation will be included in the research.
  - Q: Why research covers only Syrians? Jordanians with disabilities also face various problems
    - HI: Within available resources for this research, it is difficult to widen the scope. For Jordanians, a separate research by the Jordan's national mechanism (e.g. HCD?) needs to be negotiated.
  - Q: (MPDL) there is a need for research concerning a virus identified among pregnant women.
    - JICA: it's responsibility of MOH to identify and examine such virus, issue alerts, and informs lower level health facilities. Suggest to contact MOH and also challenge community clinics if they received such instructions from MOH HQ. Based on scientifically proven information, NGOs can also take responsibilities to disseminate information concerning prevention and treatment. If relevant, the issue needs to be raised at Health WG.

#### **IOCC.**

- Working on the disability project in Amman, Mafraq and Irbid, for Syrian and Jordanian children with visual, hearing and physical disabilities. Official opening was conducted on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> of July in IOCC office in Azraq camp.
- Objectives of the project are:
  1. Raise awareness in communities through awareness sessions.
  2. Conduct Screening & Assessment of Potential Disabilities
  3. Distribution of assistive devices (e.g. hearing aids, mobility aids, glasses, Low vision devices like electronic magnifiers and blind communication devices like white canes and voice devices.).
- Target of the project: children in host communities. In camp, also adults.

#### **Mercy Corps.**

- Inclusive Education project in 30 schools in host communities and 17 in camps.
- MC is in the process of renewing their PCS with UNICEF.
- The project will assist accessibility at schools, provision of medical equipment and support for teachers.
- Another initiative is Learning for All Campaign, led by UNICEF in collaboration with MOE in order to bring all children back to education, whether formal school, or drop-out program mainly conducted by Quest scope, if children dropped out for more than 3 years and aged between 13-20, or catch-up program (accelerated learning) if children are dropped out for more than 3 years and aged 9-12 years old. As part of the campaign UNICEF will hire facilitators in

schools in order to facilitate registration of children, and Mercy Corps will train these facilitators on the reality of accepting registration and enrollment of children with disabilities, facilitators will also learn about disability types, and solutions to implement in order to ease registration.

\* For children with disabilities, identification will be done by observation or through referral to other entities. Children with mild to moderate disabilities will be supported, but not those with severe disabilities. Project assists rehabilitation, equipment, training for shadow teachers, coaching for teachers in classrooms, and liaison with families.

#### **UNHCR.**

- 4-5 community based protection groups are making a small peer meeting to promote appropriate referrals. 3 meetings so far. No discussions on disability raised yet.

#### **Noor Al-Hussein Foundation**

- Presence in Sweileh, Al Hashimi, Al Zarqa, Karak, Azraq and Emirati Jordanian Camp.
- Providing comprehensive rehabilitation, family counseling, psychosocial support, disability training, special education, assistive devices.

#### **JOHUD.**

- A project in partnership with UNHCR conducts home visits, provision of assistive devices, rehabilitation services (speech therapy, OT, PT), education for children with mild to moderate disabilities, psychosocial support.

#### **4. Review of the message – and its utilization at Working Groups**

- No update from members.
- Members requested to re-send the message as some were not aware of it, as well as DTF TOR.

#### **5. Discussion points for future meetings**

- Work plan for DTF to the end of 2017

#### **6. AOB**

- JICA: There are various organizations interested in joining DTF, and there was a discussion at DTF last year. The idea was to identify interested organizations, and DTF members to disseminate information to them. Any update? → No update the point can be discussed a fresh.
- JICA: please also share the list of WGs and DTF representation → attached



List of WGs for  
Inclusion across other

**The next meeting will be at 11:00-13:00 on Thursday August 10<sup>th</sup> at UNHCR**

The meeting adjourned at 12:15.