



Disability and Age Task Force Minutes of Meeting

Date: 10 February 2021

Time: 10:00 AM - 11:45 AM

Venue: Remote via Microsoft Teams

Chairs: Huda Al-Shabsogh (UNHCR), Lauren Schoenster (UNHCR) and Marwa Mubarak (HI)

Minutes prepared by: Shada Malhas (UNHCR)

Participants: ARCS, HI, Mercy Corps, Medair, TDH Italy, UNHCR, IOCC, HelpAge, VDT, UNRWA, CVT, NHF, JOHUD, CARE, HCD, DRC.

Meeting Highlights

Review and endorsement of the DATF focal point and DATF TORs and finalization of the DATF workplan

- The DATF members discussed and reviewed the DATF focal point and DATF TORs as well as the DATF workplan for 2021. DATF co-chair noted that the DATF TOR was reviewed by HCD and an article from the national Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was included into the TOR.
- Members endorsed the DATF TOR for 2021 and noted that it is a helpful, well-structured and informative document.
- DATF members also endorsed the Disability and Age Inclusion focal points TOR. The TOR includes the role of the focal points, the DATF as well as some approaches to mainstreaming disability and age inclusion into the humanitarian-development response.
- The TORs will be presented to the Protection Working Group (PWG) and the Disability and Age Inclusion Focal Points TOR will be presented to the sectors working group in order to appoint focal points by the end of February/early March.
- DATF members informed that the TORs and workplan are helpful for the work of the DATF members in 2021.
- DATF co-chair also shared the draft DATF factsheet with members for their endorsement. HI, UNHCR, HCD, IOCC, ARCS, AIDOS, CVT, TDH have endorsed the factsheet. HCD to provide figures for the number of Jordanians with disabilities, to be included in the factsheet.

[Presentation of the results of the health assessment concerning older people conducted by HelpAge in 2020](#)

[Presenter: HelpAge](#)

Health needs assessment for older persons in 2020

- The aim of the study was to conduct an overall health needs assessment for older Syrians and Jordanians (people over 60 years of age) with a focus on accessibility, mental health, nutrition, disability, functionality, and general health perception.
- 1,718 people were surveyed (50% Jordanian, 50% Syrian) in Amman, Zarqa, Irbid and Mafraq.
- **Economic situation:** 33% of the surveyed population depend on UNHCR's assistance, 14% do not have any source of income, 11% depend on allowances from relatives; 26,3% of their income is spent on food, and 19,8% of their income is spent on health care services.
- **Daily life activities:** 28% need a home care provider, out of which 74% need help on all their daily life activities. 84% do not have the financial capacity to get a home care provider, and 91% rely on family members.
- **Health insurance:** 84% do not have health insurance, 44% have government insurance, 34,4% have army insurance, and 6% have Caritas insurance.
- **Non-communicable diseases:** 71% stated that they have at least one chronic disease which needs regular treatment, and 35% unable to purchase medications.
- **Health care costs:** 60% of Jordanians find health care affordable, 78% of Syrians find health care very expensive, and 71% stated that health care decisions were solely theirs to make.
- **Nutrition:** 42.3% have challenges regarding their purchase power of different foods, and 40% have no problems.
- **Mental health results were assessed using the Kessler Psychological Distress Scale K6:** 28% of the population surveyed are likely to be well, 7.9% have mild mental disorder, 12.7% moderate mental disorder, **and 51,2 % have severe mental disorder.**
- **43% of Jordanians have severe mental disorders compared to 59% of Syrians. Women were more likely to have severe mental disorders in comparison to men.**
- **Disability prevalence was assessed using the Washington Group questions.** 98% of the respondents have some sort of disabilities and only 2% have no disabilities.

[Presentation of the special education project implemented by JOHUD and funded by UNHCR](#)

[Presenter: UNHCR](#)

Education assistance for refugees living in urban areas in 2021 for children with special needs and learning difficulties.

- The project is being implemented in Amman, Mafraq, Zarka, Irbid, Ma'an, Karak, Tafileh and Kafraïn.
- 70% of project beneficiaries are Syrians and 30% are Jordanians.
- The services under the Syrian components are:

- **Home-based early intervention program (portage program).** This program is targeting 120 children aged 0-9 years in 2021.
- **Parents group counselling.** Targeting 40 parents of children with disabilities.
- The home-based program trained 17 caregivers from the local community to provide this service in-house in 2020, focusing on children with mild and moderate disabilities.
- 162 children with disabilities received services in 2020.
- After the lockdown implemented by the Government to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, visits were conducted in-person.
- The parental group counselling aimed at raising awareness about disability, disability inclusive language, human rights and others.

DATF Members Updates

Noor Al-Hussein Foundation (NHF)

- NHF continues to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services in Sweileh and Zarqa clinics, including special education and psycho-social support (PSS) services, stress management and specialized counselling for caregivers, and mobility aids and assistive devices.
- NHF is focusing on disability inclusion, primary health care and public health services.
- Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) program continues to be implemented in Amman governorate. Activities include computer and literacy classes, sports and arts inclusive activities, music theatre as well as their Sawa program.

UNHCR Azraq Camp

- The Disability Services Meeting conducted their first meeting of the year and drafted a TOR for a task force at Azraq Camp.
- The team is conducting an assessment to identify challenges and gaps of the response during the COVID-19 pandemic regarding persons with disabilities.

AOB

- HelpAge and JOHUD have agreed to become technical advisors to the DATF as the group has included age into its work.
- DATF co-chairs asked members to update the service mapping matrix, including if they use RAIS and Activity Info.
- IOCC, NHF, JOHUD, HelpAge, UNHCR, HI expressed their interest in joining the DATF sub-task force to prepare the concept note for the inter-agency assessment on disability and age inclusion. DATF co-chairs to follow up on a meeting date.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is interested in obtaining more information and resources on livelihoods projects, particularly in the Southern region.
- DATF members proposed to meet on the 10th of March of 2021.