



## Disability and Age Task Force Minutes of Meeting

**Date:** 13 January 2021

**Time:** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

**Venue:** Remote Via Microsoft Teams

**Chairs:** Lauren Schoenster (UNHCR) and Marwa Mubarak (HI)

**Minutes prepared by:** Shada Malhas (UNHCR)

**Participants:** ARCS, HI, Mercy Corps, Medair, TDH Italy, UPP, IOCC, Help age, VDT, UNHCR (including UNHCR Azraq camp), UNRWA, CVT.

### Meeting Highlights

#### Short presentation by ARCS to the DATF members

- ARCS - Culture Solidali together with Helping Hand implemented a community-based intervention targeting children with disabilities with the support of three community-based organisations (CBOs) in Zarqa and Karak Governorate in Jordan.
- ARCS applied a comprehensive approach promoting the access of children with disabilities and their families to several protection services: awareness sessions, medical diagnoses, rehabilitation sessions and provision of assistive devices. The project started in August 2019 and was concluded in November 2020.
- The general objective of the project was to improve the living conditions of the children with disabilities in Zarka and Karak governorates.
- The specific objectives of the project were to improve access to protection services for the children with disabilities and their families, provision of assistive tools and rehabilitation activities.
- ARCS and Helping Hand provided assistive tools for 82 children with disabilities, and identified 139 children in need of rehabilitation and clinical services.
- Participants of the project discussed protection, rights of persons with disability, inclusion, early detection, and reproductive health issues. For the latter sessions, mothers were targeted for a first cycle that started in March and ended in July; the same sessions were organized for men between August and September. Although male participation was lower than expected, there was a high demand for sessions on autism and early detection.

- Topics for sessions for children included protection/personal space, verbal and physical abuse, hygiene and preventive practices against COVID-19. Facilitators also used games and videos to show positive images of children with disabilities.
- The provision of rehabilitation sessions and distribution of assistive devices improved the life conditions and capabilities of children easing their participation and interaction inside their families and the community.

### **Challenges**

- Because of COVID-19, in-person sessions were suspended from March until June. The communication with beneficiaries was done via WhatsApp groups and the interaction was often a challenge. However, the social workers were able to maintain regular communication with the beneficiaries and interaction improved over the year.
- The participation of girls with disabilities in awareness activities was lower than those of boys, even though they tried to reach out and involve girls with disabilities in the project.
- During the lockdown, capacity building sessions were challenging as they were being provided remotely, which decreased interaction with participants.
- Men's participation in the awareness sessions was lower than those of women.
- Men were more involved in the distribution of the assistive tools for their children.

### **Achievements**

- 139 children with disabilities were provided with therapy sessions (112 boys and 81 girls).
- 45 boys, 35 girls and two women received assistive tools.
- 733 adults (107 males and 626 females) and 925 children participated in awareness activities.
- Three safe spaces were equipped.

### **DATF survey Analysis:**

- DATF co-chair presented the results of the DATF survey. 16 DATF members from 13 organizations completed the survey.
- The results of the survey were as the following:
- In terms of communications, the preferred method for DATF communication is by e-mail, phone and lastly WhatsApp.
- Regarding their presence in the field, most organizations that participate in the DATF work in all governorates of Jordan. The majority of DATF members have a presence in Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq, Irbid, and Ma'an.
- In terms of scope and sectors of work, most DATF members work in the protection, health and education sectors. Some organizations also work in livelihoods, rehabilitation, GBV sub-sector, WASH and other sectors.
- DATF members identified various objectives and priority actions for the DATF to work on, including disability inclusion, advocacy, communication, outreach, accessible

information, engagement with donors, and improving access to services for persons with disabilities and other persons with specific needs, particularly in remote areas.

- The survey results are going to be reflected in the DATF TOR and 2021 workplan, including an accessibility audit, inter-agency needs assessments, and capacity building for DATF members, frontline staff and sector working groups.

## Terms of Reference of the Disability and Age Task Force 2021

### **Background**

- DTF members reviewed and discussed the Disability Task Force 2021 TOR. Members voted to include age into the work of the DTF (12 members in favor of including age and three in favor of creating a separate forum for age inclusion). The name of the DTF was changed to “Disability and Age Task Force” (DATF).
- The main objectives and priority areas for the DATF in 2021 will be coordination, disability inclusion and mainstreaming, advocacy and resource mobilization, capacity building and awareness raising.
- The TOR includes a situation overview of refugees with disabilities and older refugees in Jordan, a brief background of the DATF’s development in Jordan, its objectives, and common definitions.
- The TOR highlights two main priorities; to identify persons with disabilities among the refugee population, and to improve access to mainstream and specialized services for persons with specific needs.
- The TOR also highlights the importance of advocating and promoting effective disability and age inclusion in the humanitarian-development response and promoting the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and older people.

### DATF Members Updates on Service Mapping Matrix 4Ws and 1H

- DATF members were highly encouraged to update the service mapping matrix which will be uploaded online and accessed by other organizations (i.e. inter-agency and protection working groups, etc). DATF co-chair kindly asked members to ensure that all the cells are filled out (i.e. address, physical office, hours, the identifying needs and response gaps, the cost of services, and if there is a waiting list or not, etc).

### DATF Members Updates

#### **Humanity and inclusion (HI)**

- The HI technical team worked on building the capacity of persons with disabilities over 18 so they could participate in livelihoods initiatives and join the workforce. HI faced challenges to identify local partners and CBOs that wanted to participate in training sessions related to the livelihoods of persons with disabilities.
- **Marwa Mubarak from HI asked DATF members** for support in identifying organizations that would like to include persons with disabilities in their livelihoods projects (i.e. cash-for-work schemes), so HI can provide capacity building sessions to them.

## **Un Ponter per (UPP)**

- UPP notified DATF members that they are still following up on external referrals from the members under the cash assistance project (Amani project). The second phase of the project is going to be implemented as soon as possible; by the end of January/early February.

## **Mercy Corps**

- Mercy Corps will start conducting training for partners on inclusive education to improve the quality of the education system in their centers. They are also developing SOPs for non-formal education to make it more inclusive for children with disabilities.

## **IOCC**

- IOCC in partnership with IFH/NHF centers have opened a new clinic in Irbid. This is the second year of their project, which is supported by BPRM in Zarka, Ruswaifeh and Sweileh, and one clinic in East Amman, and in Irbid.
- IOCC is hiring new Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) workers and volunteers. CBR workers/volunteers have started to identify persons with disabilities (including those with hearing and visual disabilities) in addition to providing rehabilitation services such as occupational therapy, special education, speech therapy, and psycho-social support sessions for persons with disabilities and their caregivers.
- IOCC will also provide assistive devices, such as eyeglasses and hearing aids, for persons with hearing and visual disabilities.
- IOCC and IFH/NHF are providing CBR training to workers/volunteers to build their capacity to conduct home visit assessments and case management. Representatives from the Ministry of Health and HCD were invited to the online training.

## **HelpAge**

- Help Age appreciated the inclusion of age in the work of the task force, but suggested to have a separate group for age inclusion.
- Help Age conducted a needs assessment study in October 2020 with the participation of 1,700 older people from refugee and host communities. Help Age will share with the DATF the results of this assessment.
- Help Age will start a new project in partnership with OCHA (pending Government approval) which will include two interventions, cash assistance and PSEA awareness, targeting older people and persons with disabilities living in Amman, Mafraq, Zarqa and Irbid governorates. Help Age will conduct capacity building sessions on PSEA awareness for CBOs and hire volunteers to facilitate cash assistance, among other tasks

## **AOB**

- DATF members reviewed and voted on the DATF logo.

- DATF members voted to include age in the work of the group in order to make sure that the humanitarian-development response leaves no one behind. The group was renamed [Disability and Age Task Force \(DATF\)](#).
- **Service Mapping Matrix to be updated by DATF members.**
- **DATF members agreed to meet on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2021.**