PROTECTION WORKING GROUP MEETING

MINUTES

01 FEBRUARY 2021
VENUE: Yerevan, ARMENIA (via MS Teams)

Participating organizations:

On 01 February 2021, 30 participants from UN agencies, Government, international organizations, and international/local NGOs attended the seventeenth meeting of the Protection Working Group (PWG).

Meeting agenda:

- Regular updates on protection activities and issues
- Update on new tables on 5W-s and 3W-s
- Miscellaneous updates and issues.

Updates from the participating organizations:

- **Save the Children International:**
  - Around 250 children are attending the Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in Goris and Armavir regions.
  - 2 new additional Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) were opened in Goris region, in Tegh and Shinuhayr centralized communities at kindergarten premises with mobile teams that will be serving children in nearest communities. There are already 180 registered children for those activities.
  - PSS activities were conducted for more than 75 beneficiaries, including children, their parents, and caregivers. 40 parents participated in positive parenting sessions during the last week.
  - 70 children were provided with school items.
  - More than 100 beneficiaries were provided with NFI items, including warm clothes and underwear.
  - To improve referral mechanisms, a mapping of the services has started by the implementing partners in Armavir, Gegharkunik, Ararat and Kotayk provinces and Goris region.
  - The team completed Needs Assessment in NK, the findings of assessment will be analysed, and the results will be shared with partners as soon as they are ready.

- **KASA:**
  - 16 displaced children participated in different activities together with locals in children's spaces in Gyumri.
  - Scholarships are available for around 15 persons, including students from NK. The information may be circulated among the interested candidates. For further details, Ms. Marine Tunyan may be contacted at: marine.tunyan@kasa.am.

- **ARCS:**
  - ARCS, in cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Armenia and local self-government bodies, through mobilized 1300 volunteers provided food, clothing, hygiene items, personal necessities, bedding, medical equipment, first aid courses and boxes, wheelchairs, walkers and canes to around 100,000 persons in Yerevan and 36 communities of 10 regions.

- **Child Protection Sub-Working Group (SWG):**
  - The meetings of the Child Protection SWG will be conducted biweekly. The representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affaires is invited to join the next meeting.
  - Confirmation was received on the two pieces of fundraising efforts: one is the self-proposal, and the other is extension of the project funded by the United Kingdom's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund. Under both projects, efforts will be continued to support the Government in providing psychosocial support to children in emergencies, as well as the establishment and expansion of child friendly spaces.

- **MLSA:**
  - Discussions are held with UNICEF to create child friendly spaces in the collective centres of the Government. A list of the shelters being considered for having child friendly spaces will be provided. Discussions are ongoing also with UNHCR and Mission Armenia NGO for addressing the needs that are prioritized by the Ministry.
  - WCC Armenia Round Table Foundation agreed to support 500 persons who are currently in collective centres in Kotayk region by distribution of food and non-food items.
  - An agreement was reached with UNCHR to provide a list of around 10 shelters where renovations should be implemented. In partnership with other organizations, renovations will be implemented also in child friendly spaces. The list of the shelters with the most children is already available with the data reflecting the number of children from NK by age groups.

- **Mission Armenia:**
  - 17 persons of concern in Yerevan and Aragatsotn, Ararat, Gegharkunik, Kotayk, and Lori provinces were referred to the local self-government authorities to receive cash assistance, as well as food and hygiene items.
  - 31 families in Kotayk and Gegharkunik provinces received school and hygiene items.

- **UNHCR**:
  - Monitoring of departures continues. Updated information on departures was shared in a dashboard as of 26 January 2021.
  - Protection monitoring report is finalized and will be publicly available very soon.
  - The water pipeline has been renovated in one of the collective shelters with the help of Mission Armenia NGO.
  - Thanks to cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, protection monitoring with updated tools will commence in collective shelters with a plan to continue with the residents of collective shelters who are moving to host communities.

Other organizations had no updates.

Update on new tables on 5W-s and 3W-s:

UNHCR shared its vision on the new template of 5W table (who, what, where, when and why) and the new service mapping tool in KOBO and sought the interest of the participants to use the tool to facilitate the process of service mapping for strengthening referral mechanisms and avoiding duplications. UNHCR is ready to coordinate the process and to assist the partners as needed. The link to the KOBO tool for service mapping will be shared after final piloting and clearance.

Miscellaneous:

- For the first time, a representative of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure joined the meeting as a permanent member.
- By the agreement of the majority of the present organizations, it was decided to conduct the PWG meetings monthly taking into account that the Child Protection and Education SWG meetings will be conducted biweekly. Ad hoc meetings will be conducted upon need.
- If the findings of the needs assessment conducted in NK by Save the Children International are ready by 15 February 2021, an ad hoc meeting will be conducted, and the organization will share their findings.

UNHCR Armenia
04 February 2021