Health Sector Working Group Meeting, January 2025

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 30th January 2025
Place: WHO Amman Branch Office
Chaired by: Dr. Adam Khalifa-UNHCR
Attendees: WHO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNRWA, EU, RHAS, Caritas Jo, IRJ, HI, Tdh, Medair, IOM, IMC, SCJ, La Chain de l'Espoir, IFH, Health Appeal, AMR.

Agenda:

- Introduction and review of action points from the last HSWG meeting.
- WHO update.
- Operational update by UNHCR
- Sub-Working Groups update.
- Updates by the members of the HSWG
- A.O.B

Introduction and review of action points

- WHO started an Introduction for the meeting followed by introduction for attendees before start of the meeting.

Highlighted and action points:

- Service mapping sheet will be disseminated with all partners to submit the projects data and the area of coverage. (KOBO Form)
- Action point: to do mapping for the sub working groups and nomination of the chair and co-chair for the sub-working group and to review the needs for each sub working groups.
- The HSWG need to draft one advocacy paper collecting feedback from all partners about the impact of suspension of the fund.

Operational Updates:

WHO:

- Presentation on Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), Strengthen the National Response to Antimicrobial Resistance
- WHO has been working with the AMR national technical team in Jordan since 2017 on building the capacity of the healthcare facilities and healthcare workers to combat AMR.
- The funding through the KOICA project provided a significant support to AMR surveillance in Jordan and provided an opportunity for creating a framework for the generation of strategic information to target and prioritize the interventions to prevent emergence of and the spread of AMR. (The presentation attached)

- **Public Health updates:**

- **Current Global situation for Human Metapneumovirus (hMPV):**
    - Surge in Cases: Recent increase in hMPV cases globally, particularly in China and India.
    - Seasonal Trends: hMPV cases typically rise during winter and early spring.
    - Affected Regions: Northern Hemisphere countries, including China, India, and parts of North America.

- **Current Situation in Jordan**
    - WHO report on trends of acute respiratory infections in the Northern Hemisphere mentions that Jordan, like many other countries in the region, is experiencing an increase in cases of respiratory infections due to seasonal pathogens such as influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and human metapneumovirus (hMPV). These increases are typical for this time of year and are within expected seasonal trends

- WHO recommendations for individuals to protect themselves from infection. (Attached the presentations)

UNHCR

Situational Updates

- As of 30 January, UNHCR estimates that some 237,000 Syrians have returned to Syria since 8 December 2024. These figures are based on a triangulation of sources from outside and inside Syria and include refugees registered with UNHCR and other Syrians returning from Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt, as well those transiting from beyond the region.

- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, concluded his visit to the region this week, visiting Lebanon, Syria, Türkiye and Jordan. In each country he met with government counterparts, including the new Syrian authorities, as well as Syrian refugees and returnees.

- While calling for continued funding for refugee programs in and support to host countries, he underlined the importance of engaging and investing inside Syria and assisting those who are choosing to return to Syria to do so in safety and dignity.

MHPSS-SWG:

- MHPSS concluded a workshop on updating the TOR. And that workshop was well attended, and the contributions of all participants reflect the changes taking place including the change in the situation for Syrians as well as the potential additional needs of Palestinians

- It's expected by the end of next week that we are going to have the final draft that will be shared with the health sector group for the review and based on that policy will update our working plan.
- The US fund suspension has resulted in suspension of MHPSS and some other services. IMC HQ is working to find a solution to prevent the suspension of health services including MHPSS services, and a waiver request will be submitted to the donor for this purpose.

UNFPA:

- A plan for meeting with URCA to discuss the maternal death report was canceled due to suspension of USAID fund.
- The Maternal clinic in Zaatari will continue in the same capacity. MOH provided 3 months waiver for the clinic to provide services.

EU

His majesty king Abdullah Bn Al Hussain signed with the EU commission a joint declaration about strategic comprehensive package, and it focuses on 3 sectors defense and security, economic resilience and investment, and education and skills. Health was not part of this package due to the support provided to the MoH under the MDA arrangements.

Medair:

- CFH activities have been suspended that were supported through PPRM funding.

IFH:

- The Rehabilitation and Protection projects were affected by the suspension of USAID fund.

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