MENA Community Protection Network Maps
Overview and Benefits

Rationale

Countries in the MENA region have developed sophisticated mapping and referral systems for the refugees, internally displaced, and stateless persons residing within their borders and moving onwards. However, key challenges remain on a regional level. Highly vulnerable people are moving across countries in different directions, sometimes quite rapidly, and there is minimal consolidated information on services across countries. There is also limited coordination of protection across borders, enhancing difficulties for reaching out to and identifying individuals with protection needs, while grass roots organizations often have limited the means to facilitate disclosure of specific needs and access to services. With high risks of violence and exploitation facing displaced persons, it is critical to strengthen information and protection capacities across borders and along every step of the displacement cycle.

Maps Objective

The objective of the MENA Community Protection Network Map is to reduce risks and improve access to protection for forcibly displaced and stateless persons by developing a focused mapping of safe services and community- based protection initiatives that adhere to basic humanitarian principles. Service providers and communities in the MENA region can strengthening coordination \and referral pathways for persons with diverse needs and capacities

Benefits of Participation

The regional online map of service providers, Community-based organizations, and other protection actors is part of a phased approach in the MENA region to facilitate the development of cross-border communication, referrals, capacity-building, and protection networks. Organizations that participate in the online map will be able to:

1. Learn about multi-sectoral services and other protection and support offered to refugees, displaced person, and others on the move in the MENA region;
2. Increase the identification of people with international protection needs, survivors of torture, victims of trafficking, GBV survivors, children at risk, and other people with specific needs along all stages of the displacement cycle;
3. Strengthen displaced persons' access to protection, case management, and multi-sectoral services across borders in the MENA region;
4. Support the empowerment and resilience of communities and the most vulnerable populations through the reestablishment of community networks and access to support services linked across countries in the MENA region;

5. Establish and maintain \ referral pathways within and across countries in accordance with the principles of confidentiality and the respect for the wishes and needs of the affected populations, which could also facilitate cross regional coordination.
6. Participate in a regional community protection network that can promote the exchange of good practices, build trust, and facilitate referrals.
7. Implement awareness-raising campaigns and communication with communities across countries regarding available services and protection along the displacement cycle.
8. Benefit from capacity building and horizontal learning, sharing policy guidelines, tools, and lessons learned; and
9. Access additional coordination and protection tools that can enhance protection and increase the quality of services provided to refugees and other people of concern in origin, transit, destination, and return countries.

Application Process for Inclusion in MENA Network Online Maps

Organizations interested in joining the regional online maps of services may petition the network for inclusion on the map. Organizations are encouraged to apply for consideration via the following process:

1. Organizations must complete the MENA Network Membership Form (KoBo Form) to provide basic information about the organization, including contact information for an organizational focal point.
2. Network Coordinator will review submissions and contact the applicant for conducting interviews, and in consultation with and UNHCR country operations to verify that the organization meets the following eligibility criteria of the Network Membership and for appearing on the map:
    - The organization must work with refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons, returnees, stateless persons, other persons in need of international protection or in mixed movements.
    - The organization must conduct outreach and/or provide protection and support services directly or through safe and confidential referrals in accordance with a people and survivor-centered and age, gender and diversity approach;
    - The organization must abide by respect for human rights and humanitarian principles, engage in community-based approaches, and work to implement measures for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.
3. Once an organization has been deemed to meet the eligibility criteria, the UNHCR Information Management team will add the organization to the ActivityInfo Tool and create an account, then organizations will receive an invitation with log in link on the **MENA ActivityInfo Tool**,
4. Once the organization receive an account on the **MENA ActivityInfo Tool**, this is an indication they are members of the Network and be responsible to fill their organizations information and services,
5. The coordinator will verify them and translate them to Arabic, French and English versions of the online maps on ArcGIS Online using the data entered in the **ActivityInfo Mapping Services Form**.

6. As part of the process, organizations will be asked at the end of the Service Mapping Form to indicate their consent for the submitted organizational information to appear in an open access, online maps available to the public and hosted on a secure data server by UNHCR.

7. **Active Organizations - members are responsible and expected to be engaged in the bi-Annual Updating /Reporting cycles** per year (Jan–Jun and Jul–Dec).
8. Organizations are encouraged to check the Network Online Maps at different intervals to see if their information has been added and updated .

Questions? Please Contact MENA Community Protection Network Coordination Team at
MENA Community Protection Network: jorrbcomnw@unhcr.org