

Protection Working Group - Tyre

| Meeting Notes | | | |
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| Name | PRT WG | Meeting Date | 21 August 2013 |
| Meeting Location | Tyre - Al Housh | Meeting Time | 14:00 |
| Chair person | Marie Hesselholdt | Meeting Duration | |
| Minutes Prepared by | Rekha Menon | | |
| Purpose of Meeting | Protection Working Group Meeting | | |

List of participants

UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFIL, ICRC, SHEILD, NRC, MERCY CORPS, CARITAS, INTERSOS, DRC, Heartland Alliance

Summary of discussions and action points

Introductions

- Introduction of Ms Charlotte Ridung, Senior Protection Coordinator (PWG)

1. Gap Analysis:

- Further to mapping exercises conducted, a gap analysis should be conducted to identify areas in need of support and points for advocacy - gaps are both in terms of services but also geographically;
- The limited coverage of medical assistance was identified as a gap, however this will be addressed under health coordination;
- Access to legal aid was raised as another gap (NRC reported that they will have community outreach sessions on Wed and Fri at community centers in addition to 2 day sessions at the UNHCR registration center);
- It was agreed that that a separate and more in-depth session can be held on gaps analysis for the south; this would allow more time for proper consideration.

2. Update on targeted assistance:

- The targeted assistance exercise has been postponed for one month in the South, Beirut and Mount Lebanon, to commence in October 2013 (instead of September 2013). Pending information relates to notification of those affected and the review mechanism allowing people to appeal cuts. UNHCR continues to be present at distribution sites to share information regarding targeted assistance; UNHCR has posters available for partners to share information at their activity sites (posters shared during the meeting);
- Protection will be monitoring the consequences of targeted assistance; home visits subsequent to targeting will be multi-sectoral including protection.

3. Refugee outreach workers (ROWs):

- A number of agencies use ROWs for activities; UNHCR partners SHEILD and CARITAS will have 30 ROWs involved in activities. In order to avoid overlap of individuals, offer training/information sharing, and coordinate activities, organisations were encouraged to share names of ROWs with each other;
- It has been observed that there are different approaches to ROWs; there is a need to discuss this and coordinate on methods of identification and remuneration. There have been problems with Lebanese workers not receiving compensation as ‘volunteers’ while Syrian refugees receive reimbursement;
- It must be carefully considered how ROWs are mobilized and affected in the targeted assistance exercise. Caution must be exercised in defining their roles, as they should not be put in a position where they are perceived to have power to identify cases and determine who is vulnerable or not; it must be clarified that they do not have substantive power to affect provision of assistance, though they may identify some cases in the course of their work;
- It was agreed to further discuss different standards employed to see if some standardization can be implemented;
- INTERSOS has decided not to provide remuneration for ROWs, though they will pay associated expenses (eg transport);
- UNHCR will share the TORs which have been developed for ROWs; and are available to meet to discuss in detail with agencies.

4. Activities in Informal Tented Settlements

- Agencies were asked to share by email information about activities being conducted in informal tented settlements in the South.

5. Activity coordination

- UNHCR will share a template for sharing information regarding protection activities to enhance coordination of activities (following agreement at the last PWG 6 August 2013).

6. AOB

- Request for information regarding curfews being imposed, including a reportedly harsh regime in Jezzine. It has been reported that refugees were being beaten in the streets, children were not allowed to play, and that they are only allowed out for a limited time of the day. Verification of such incidents is required, including whether it is imposed by municipalities as is the case with general curfews imposed in other areas. UNHCR encouraged agencies to share such information, including relating to other security incidents with UNHCR, in order to follow up, verify and advocate with authorities involved if required;
- There is reportedly a number of refugee families residing in Palestinian refugee camps in Saida, who are afraid to travel to Tyre to register. Concern was raised that these families are falling through the assistance gaps. It was acknowledged that there are misperceptions regarding registration processes which may deter people from registering. Details of the families were promised to be shared with UNHCR for follow-up;

- UNHCR provided an update on the situation on the official borders. There is stricter control at the border, with Lebanese requiring full documentation for everyone over 15 years of age and scrutinizing damaged documents. UNHCR does not have numbers of those being rejected. Despite media statements suggesting further screening, the government is assuring UNHCR that the borders will remain open. UNHCR is discussing ways to enhance border control bearing in mind protection.
- Municipalities do require Syrian refugees to register, however this process is separate from UNHCR's registration process. Although this is currently informal, it is understood that the municipalities will be formalizing this process;
- Agreed that border update and security environment including curfews will be permanent agenda points for the PWG;
- UNHCR will request names for nominated agency representatives to be part of multi-functional teams conducting participatory assessments throughout the year. It is an approach designed to ensure refugee participation in designing and planning of UNHCR and partner activities. A training for those nominated for the MFTs is planned for 9 September;
- During the national protection working group the representative of the government reported that the Lebanese authorities are not in favor of livelihoods programs because they would like Syrian refugees to be motivated to return home once the situation in Syria improves. Further clarification of policy is expected from Beirut.

Follow ups / Next steps

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| 1. | Issue: Gaps analysis |
| | Separate session to be held with protection actors to facilitate protection gap analysis for the South. |
| 2. | Issue: Refugee Outreach Workers |
| | TORs for ROWs to be shared and discussed to discuss standards and roles. |
| 3. | Issue: Activities in Informal Tented Settlements |
| | Information on activities taking place in ITS to be shared with the PWG chair. |
| 4. | Issue: Coordination of activities |
| | Template for activity coordination to be shared. |
| 5. | Next protection working group meeting |

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| Next PRT WG will be combined with SGBV coordination on 4 September, 2013. The first part of the meeting will be dedicated to general protection after dedicated SGBV actors will continue the thematic part. |
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