

MHPSS Working Group Minutes of Meeting
July 16th, 2014 – Ministry of Health, Amman

Chaired by Ahmad Bawaneh (IMC) and Zein Ayoub (WHO)

1. **Introduction & Member Updates**

- Introductions, no new member updates.

2. **ActionAid Presentation:**

AA delivered a presentation on their program (empowering communities affected by the Syrian crisis to access their rights and influence policy and decision making). Their programs target Mafraq and Zarqa, and include the following:

- NFIs
- Livelihoods
- Psychosocial support
- Women rights and protection
- Basic support for educational programs
- Community cohesion and integration
- Advocacy and Policy influence

*** Please see attached presentation for further details.*

3. **Transportation Issue Follow-up**

Following reported challenges by some agencies regarding the provision of transportation subsidies to beneficiaries, the MHPSS WG engaged in a lengthy discussion on the topic to reach a consensus. It was decided that similar to previous years, the MHPSS WG does not support the provision of transportation subsidies to beneficiaries, except in exceptional cases. This position has been carried through from the Iraqi response, and is similar to practices held in the health and protection sectors.

4. **Guidelines on MHPSS Jordan Projects:**

WHO and IMC delivered a presentation on proposed guidelines for MHPSS projects. The rationale for developing the guidelines include:

- The increasing focus on MHPSS projects & interventions in Jordan, including larger submission of project, research and assessment proposals.
- Multiple partners seeking guidance on the increasing number of MHPSS proposals (Donors, UNHCR, MOPIC).
- MHPSS partners have sought support and feedback on their own proposals.
- Following Zaatari MHPSS Group exercise (classify on level of IASC pyramid), request for a WG exercise on projects/interventions.

Objectives include:

- Outline fundamental components that should be considered in designing, implementing and evaluating MHPSS projects.
- Create a common understanding of MHPSS approach, and identify common terms, interventions and principles.
- Provide additional guidance in reviewing MHPSS projects for donors, RRP, ERF, etc.

- Complement the current Jordan MHPSS Inter-Agency Guidance Note and capitalize on existing resources including:
 - IASC guidelines
 - Current ERF & RRP6 criteria
 - Gaza & West Bank MHPSS WG guidelines
 - War Child Holland document on PSS
 - WHO/UNHCR Assessment Toolkit

Next Steps include:

- A task force was nominated to review available resources and finalize a draft guidelines. Suggested agencies include WHO, IMC, War Child UK, MSF, JRC, DIRC, UNICEF, SC Jordan.
- The draft will be circulated to MHPSS members for feedback, and presented during the next MHPSS meeting.

*** Please see attached presentation for further details.*

5. **Any Other Business:**

Gender Focal Point nomination: MHPSS WG members are encouraged to nominate a gender focal point to represent the WG at the Sector Gender Focal Point Network. The main areas of this network include gender mainstreaming strategy, technical support within sector meetings, capacity development and knowledge management. The focal point is expected to attend a monthly meetings, and will be supported by the IASC Senior Gender Capacity Advisor. **Interested candidates are encouraged to send their nominations by August 7th.**

*** For more details, please find attached the draft Terms of Reference for Sector Gender Focal Points.*

6. **Training Calendar:** The MHPSS Working Group maintains a shared Google Calendar to track their training activities. This calendar can be accessed with the following information:
Link: <<https://accounts.google.com/>>

Username: mhpsworking.group.jordan

Password: MHPSSworkinggroup

The next working group meeting will take place on **Wednesday, August 20th at 1:00pm** at the Ministry of Health.