

# SGBV Sub-Working Group

## Syrian, African and Iraqi Refugee Response in Egypt

### Summary of meeting minutes

**Date:** 08 Dec 2014

**Venue:** UNHCR Cairo, Zamalek Office

**Chair:** UNHCR

**Agencies present:** UNICEF, UNFPA, UN WOMEN, UNHCR, CARE, Caritas-Egypt, MSF, St. Andrew's Refugee Services, ACSFT, ICRC

#### 1- Updates on SGBV activities/issues:

- Update ACSFT: In 2014, ACSFT provided so far assistance in 47 legal and 12 administrative cases; in the past 2 months, proceedings regarding 2 legal SGBV cases were stopped due to fear of retaliation in the community.
- Update UNFPA: (i) The new Medical Protocol/Guidelines for Management of Victims of GBV, developed with MoH was launched, and 120 individuals were trained on how to implement it in practice; (ii) an agreement was signed with the Syrian Women's Association concerning two women/girls friendly spaces; (iii) CARE and UNFPA jointly concluded a theatre event that helped participants to express experience regarding SGBV through performance; (iv) GBV training for 30 community health workers in mental health was conducted.
- Update St. Andrews Refugee Services: Apart of its regular activities, StARS plans in the upcoming months to increase group work activities with Syrian women, specifically on the topic of response to SGBV.
- Update UNICEF: 2 new consultants were hired to develop case management SOPs for child protection.
- Update Caritas: Continuation of regular activities, including medical, financial, and psycho-social support to SGBV survivors. Total number assisted in 2014: 75 cases.
- Update CARE: It was noted that Syrian refugee women are beginning to open up and share more information on the topic of early marriage. CARE attributes this to awareness sessions, which focus on the lack of legal rights and protection of minor spouses in Egypt, rather than discussing religious/moral/cultural aspects.
- Update MSF: The number of individuals reporting sexual violence within the vital 72 hour frame remains to be relatively high and MSF appreciates all ongoing efforts and outreach activities on that issue. MSF further noted that, as the risk of pregnancy is a serious problem and medical deadline for using emergency contraceptive pills is 120 hours, ongoing awareness/information activities will be accordingly adapted to refer to both deadlines.
- Update UNHCR-Alexandria: 35 SGBV cases, including 5 minors, were assisted since the office opened in February 2014. Case-management is conducted with Caritas, PSTIC and EFRR. Gaps still exist especially regarding outreach to the communities and PoCs, which will be addressed through increased presence of UNHCR in the community centres.

#### 2- Thematic issues:

##### • Review SGBV SWG:

All participants agreed on the following key priorities for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2015:

- SOP Taskforce: compile SGBV SOPs in close coordination with CP SWG.
  - Review and update of the existing interagency SGBV strategy.
  - Outreach: increased focus on engaging men and boys.
  - Regarding future SWG meetings: SWG members agreed to focus in each meeting on a specific thematic issue, to provide space for a more in-depth discussion. Those could include topics, such as outreach, engaging men and boys, etc.
- Review SGBV SWG: The SGBV SWG information flyer has been finalized and will be shared with all members for comments. Purpose is to provide an overview of key activities, priorities, and achievements of the SWG.

#### 3- AOB: Next SGBV SWG meeting: 09 February 2015