



SGBV Sub-Working Group

SUB WORKING GROUP SYRIAN, AFRICAN AND IRAQI REFUGEE RESPONSE – EGYPT

SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES

Date: 09 March 2015 Venue: UNHCR Cairo, Zamalek Office Chair: UNHCR

Agencies present: UNHCR, UNFPA, Care International, Caritas, Refugee Egypt, EFRR, ICRC, MSF, Save the Children, St. Andrews Refugee Services, CRS

1- Updates on SGBV activities/issues:

- Updates included information about increased outreach activities, such as to refugee communities in Alexandria by EFRR, planned training programs on CMR by UNFPA in coordination with UNHCR, and distribution of leaflets and posters with '*personal safety messages*' to raise awareness.

2- Thematic issues: Livelihood activities for women

Participants shared their practice and experience regarding the implementation of livelihood programs and activities. All agreed unanimously that the national legislation, denying refugees and asylum seekers the right to work, poses significant challenges and problems to them, as most live in a protracted situation of displacement without income and access to livelihood. With jobs only accessible in the informal sector, most of the affected are more vulnerable and often exposed to harassment and discrimination.

3- Thematic issues: Engaging men and boys

Participants informed about existing approaches, good practices, lessons learned and shared recommendations on how to engage men and boys. Key points discussed included:

- Experience showed that when considering certain criteria, activities targeting men and boys proved successful. Participants further confirmed that also other men within their community expressed interest to enroll in such activities. The criteria include in particular:
 - Use of appropriate approaches that attract the interest of men and boys, such as e.g. sport activities and participatory theatre/art-based activities.
 - Flexibility regarding the timing of events, as many men are engaged in different activities during the day and could only participate in the late afternoon/evening.
 - Activities must ensure privacy, confidentiality and provide a safe space for participants to express their views and concerns.
- CARE reported about their positive experiences when conducting group activities with men and boys; about the general readiness of male participants to share their experience, as well as the positive feedback received afterwards. During the discussions, participants also acknowledged that they sometimes commit acts of domestic violence, however, that such activities help them to learn to express their frustration in a non-violent way.
- CARE further informed about their involvement in the UN WOMEN-Safe Cities Project that addresses GBV and sexual harassment in public space. As many complaints were received about

harassment by tuk-tuk drivers in one area, a day training was conducted including this specific group. The participants were actively engaged and at the end of the training noted that they would like to get further involved in positively addressing the issue of sexual harassment and to contribute to change.

- Regarding awareness-raising activities on SGBV, participants agreed that the ‘*traditional*’ way of information sessions is often not very useful and rather perceived as ‘*lecturing*’. It is important to find indirect and different entry-points and to adapt approach and topics to what participants would like to discuss. This proved to be very successful for UNFPA who used SRH sessions as an entry point to raise further awareness on related SGBV.
- SWG members agreed, that information has not yet reached all refugee communities and that there is still a high need for targeted outreach to those refugee groups typically not present at community meetings. The conclusion was, that whereas there is a need for increased outreach, the approach needs to be adjusted and new and innovative entry-points identified.

4- Update on current SGBV priority activities/projects:

- **SGBV SWG Terms of Reference (ToR):** Existing ToRs have been reviewed and updated, and were shared with all partners for final comments.

Standardization of classification of SGBV incidents: SWG members agreed to address the lack of common approach regarding classification of SGBV incidents, to explore the option of using the GBVIMS classification tool in their organization, assess challenges they might face when introducing this tool and to inform UNHCR if any support would be needed to facilitate the adoption of it.

Currently, UNHCR and CARE are applying the classification tool, StARs is about to introduce it. The GBVIMS classification tool will be included in the SGBV SOPs.

- **International Women’s Day:** Partners reported about different activities organized on occasion of the International Women’s Day, including:
 - A conference organized by UN WOMEN on the empowerment of women;
 - YPEER and a theatre performance on SGBV and SRH, organized by UNFPA;
 - Community based events conducted in various locations by community based organisations - Tadamon and Souriyat Association;
 - The launching of a short film highlighting the situation of a Syrian refugee woman in Cairo on UNHCR social media as well as on a social media platform established by UN WOMEN for all UN agencies and partner organisations on occasion of the International Women’s Day;
 - A public awareness raising event, including different activities, organized by the Alexandria Regional Center (ARC) for Women’s Health and Development and supported by UNHCR FO Alexandria and Caritas Alexandria.

AoB:

Next SGBV SWG: 20 April 2015

For further information, please contact **UNHCR Egypt:**
 Renate *Frech*, Senior Protection Officer (SGBV), frech@unhcr.org or
 Elizabeth *Morrissey*, Associate Protection Officer (SGBV), morrisse@unhcr.org