



Protection
Working Group

Meeting Minutes 1st June 2016

Protection Working Group Jordan

Agencies present: Acted, ARDD-Legal Aid, CARE, CVT, DRC, IMC, IOM, IRC, ICU, LWB, MSF, NRC, SDC, TDHI, TDHi, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNRWA, UNWOMEN, ZOA Middle East and WVI

AGENDA:

- **PWG Member announcements and updates, approval of minutes**
- **Updates and discussion on the border and new arrivals in Azraq (HCR plus partners operational in berm/Azraq)**
- **Information and analysis on Urban Verification:**
 - ✓ Updates from HCR on document return process and # of registered refugees who have completed the process
 - ✓ Updates from PWG members on assessments and/ or information related to Urban Verification challenges, refugees without updated documents, consequences
- **Livelihoods/work permits and linkages to protection:**
 - ✓ Update from Livelihoods Working Group and PWG members on current focus of WG and next steps
 - ✓ PWG linkages and where engagement could support
- **Q2 PWG Advocacy messages – Brainstorm/identification**
- **AOB**

1. PWG members announcement and updates:

CARE Jordan – World Refugee day event: CARE is organizing a world refugee day event on the 20th of June that will highlight refugees' issues, continuous needs and the situation at the berm. This event will include refugees from all the nationalities and will discuss their issues as well.

CARE also will be organizing a big publicity event with the attendance of donors, journalists, stakeholders and partners, this event will include the launch of the Annual Urban Assessment findings report and the market analysis report findings.

Action Point:

CARE to share a summary of findings of the Market Analysis report and the 5th Annual assessment report.

2. Updates and discussion on the border and new arrivals in Azraq (HCR plus partners operational in berm/Azraq):

Sector coordinator briefed members on the total registered population at the border locations (36,554 individuals / 8,340 cases out of which 26,258 individuals / 5,839 cases are in Rukban while 10,296 individuals / 2503 cases are in Hadalat). UNHCR registration proceeds at Hadalat on a continuous basis, with new arrivals registered shortly after reaching the location. A major second registration surge was scheduled to begin on the 27 May, however, security conditions did not allow for this surge to proceed. The total border population is estimated to be between 60,000 and 70,000 persons at Rukban and Hadalat, including the unregistered population.

Identification of vulnerable cases continued at both Rukban and Hadalat, for prioritized admission. After increasing to 500 persons admitted in the middle of the month, the number has fallen during the past week, with approximately 150 transported on average. Recently the newly arrived refugees that are staying in Village 5 in Azraq started to move to Village 3, 6 and parts of Village 2 after completing the security clearance process by the authorities.

Operational partners mentioned the challenges related to access to services in Village 5 and 2 for an otherwise vulnerable population prioritised entry from the berm and the high numbers of new arrivals waiting for extended periods of time in reception areas. Village 5 residents accessing health care both in and outside the Village was also mentioned as a particular challenge. IRC noted high numbers of UASC cases due to the increased admission to Azraq and operational challenges i.e. access to schools, girls with cases with early marriage and pregnancy.

3. Information and analysis on Urban Verification:

Updates from HCR on document return process and # of registered refugees who have completed the process:

Document return exercise has resumed this week after finalizing the joint work between UNHCR and the authorities to re-organize the document and indexing them at RAS. To date 120,000 documents were returned, while approximately 45,000 documents remained to be delivered.

By the end of May 366,134 MoI cards have been issued in total, 341,696 of the cards to UNHCR PoCs and 24,438 for non-UNHCR Syrians.

Updates from PWG members on assessments and/ or information related to Urban Verification - Challenges, refugees without updated documents, consequences:

DRC – In the south: noticing a large amount of cases that did not start the process to issue an MoI card for various reasons (waiting their docs, some police stations requesting extra documents such as old ASC or ‘bailout certificate’ and fear of approaching police stations due to, eg, possible relocation to camps.)

NRC – Approximately 17% of Syrian refugees that NRC came in contact with for the first time in April 2016 did not have a new MoI card across northern governorates. Amongst those without MoI cards are those who have left camps informally since 14 July 2014 and are unable to re-register in host communities, which impacts their ability to legally reside in host communities, access public and humanitarian services and register birth, deaths and marriages as well as risk of involuntary relocation to camps.

Action points: Request for UNHCR to share available disaggregated data i.e. governorate and demographics at next PWG. Potentially include UVE + unregistered Syrian refugees in host communities as a priority Q2 advocacy message with input from PWG members.

4. Livelihoods/work permits and linkages to protection:

Livelihood Sector Coordinator updated members on developments after London conference (Jordan Compact), as the government policy towards livelihoods activities for Syrian Refugees seems to have shifted which led to initiate the Livelihood Sector:

- The objective is to facilitate 200,000 job opportunities within the coming years.
- Government of Jordan started a grace period by waiving fees of work permits for Syrian refugees until 4th of July. Permits for Syrians increased from 5,400 to 9,300 working permits so far in 2016 (both before and during grace period and for Syrian nationals and registered Syrian refugees). The MoL records indicate approximately 200 work permits/day for Syrians during grace period.
- A joint MoL and UNHCR effort released an awareness campaign, FAQs were developed, messaging campaign, town hall meetings and awareness sessions ongoing. Awareness raising also with MoL/directorates of Labor and tracking how the policy is issued on the ground. New procedures have been agreed with MoL. MoI registration card and Asylum Seekers Certificates (for refugees) are accepted as basic documents. Entering Jordan legally and valid passport no longer required, MoL will also consider health certificate obtained for the MoI card sufficient, if not over than a year old (although not universally applied). Different procedures for agriculture sector and recent announcement that domestic work is now open to Syrian nationals.
- Challenges affecting the process to obtaining work permits have been briefed. The main constraints are quota system i.e. proportion of Jordanian and Syrian workers, the overall sponsorship requirements, requirement for employers to pay social security and employers passing there % down to employees, additional associated costs, lack of clarity in relation to home-based livelihoods, obtaining Ministry of Interior (MoI) cards, specific sector eligibility, in addition to concerns of Syrian refugees on the effect of obtaining work permits on their UNHCR/WFP and other assistance.
- LWG looking at a do no harm lens to engagement on this issue. Protection related issues were discussed, i.e. child labour especially females child labour in agriculture sector, labour rights.
- Next steps to enhance and emphasize on coordination, advocacy on legal protection for refugees, efforts are also heading towards extension of the grace period.
- Livelihood WG will start drafting their strategy that will be aligned with the JRP plan revision.

Action point: Continue to look at synergies between LWG and PWG to ensure protection integrated.

5. Q2 PWG Advocacy messages – Brainstorm/identification

Previous Q1 advocacy messages were circulated and sector chairs requested input from PWG members for Q2 advocacy messages to be developed ahead of next meeting.

Action Point: Members to propose areas of focus and prioritization for Q2 advocacy messages directly with sector coordinators.

6. AOB:

N/A

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