**Youth Taskforce (YTF) Minutes of Meeting**

Tuesday 11th October 2016

From 10.30am -11.30 pm

Base camp buffer zone #4

***Attendees***

Raed (NRC), Paul (NRC), Dima (NRC), Leana (UNFPA), David (IRD), Manar (QS), Fatima (SCI), Ala’a (MC), Aya (RI), Arabella (FPSC), Nadeen (IFH), Alejandro (MPDL – Gender Focal Point for the Protection Sector)

***Based on YTF Agenda:***

1. ***Protection Sector Gender Focal Point Discussion over Youth Indicator***

Alejandro, Gender Focal Point for the Protection Sector, has been looking into a youth indicator from Activity Info to understand what the overall protection situation is in the camp and in the urban settings. The indicator is:

* + 1. Syrians engaged as volunteers (with a focus on youth)

The Graph shows that there has been gender mainstreaming in youth activities because the average for male and female youth is similar.

Question 1: Even though there are more female youth in the camp, why are there less females in the youth committees?

Answer from QS: Culture of the camp, it is not easy to accept girls to go out. Early marriage is also something that affects access because there are instances of girls participating who then get married and stop attending activities. There is a fear of not knowing what the activities are, unless it is educational, which is more accepted. ICDL, Computer, English is seen as easier for girls to access. In the QS/UNFPA Youth Center, there are more girls attending the subjects mentioned than attending art, as parents feel that it is not necessary for the girls to put themselves at risk in walking to and from the center.

Question 2: Have agencies tried to make more efforts to engage girls?

Answer: Yes, whenever the numbers decrease, QS does outreach to try and convince the families and assure them that the activities are segregated and invite them to come. There are also community gatherings with sheikhs and community leaders who have influence so that they can know what is being done and inform families that it is safe for them to come. Transportation can be a problem. Districts 4,5 and 6 and sometimes 3 are well represented, but less beneficiaries come from other districts attend the center. Outreach has an influence for a certain period of time and then needs to be repeated every quarter. Even in faraway districts there are efforts to go to women’s caravans to talk to them about issues related to GBV, RH and other issues of concern to them. Behavioral change takes time.

IRD answer: Day care is something that has been brought up many times by the community as a need that would enable women to work. IRD is trying to implement this in all centers but it is a process. Also, what kind of work is offered in the camp? Is it considered masculine or feminine? I.e. guards are considered a masculine job. This kind of question can also be asked about volunteering, is it masculine or feminine?

Suggestion by GSFP: We should do an assessment on how youth (male and female) and men and women are volunteering and engaging in the community overall.

Question by GSFP: Is social work considered by the community to be more masculine or feminine?

IRD has many male art committee members but very few females. The women’s committees focus on soap making and things that are considered to be more appropriate for females.

NRC: Women in the camp have more household responsibilities and have less free time as a result, this includes getting water, rations and taking care of the children and house. Sometimes there may be more pressure from the male on the female if she volunteers and is then unable to complete her household tasks, she will be blamed more. If the household responsibilities were better shared then this would have a different impact. Culturally, art is often considered as being for wealthy people or for people who have nothing to do; even in school it is considered something to be done in free time. We can start to advocate more for volunteering (looking at time constraints, types of volunteer activities, level of commitment required – one day opportunities might attract more females than if they are required to give a lot of time).

It would be interesting to do more analysis on the roles and types of opportunities and what would be more appealing for women.

Training on gender marker would be a first step and then we could reassess our activities to see how to improve them to make them more accessible to male and female youth.

Assumption: Youth are volunteering because they already feel protected to a certain extent. It is a good impact indicator to show overall improvement of the protection environment. If women feel safe to go out in general and we see the number of female youth volunteering go up then we can assume that they are feeling more protected overall.

FPSC: volunteers (male and female) who have been involved for a long time have never done volunteering before-hand but have now participated in a lot of trainings related to protection, CP, gender and of course disability. As a result of volunteering they have become more aware and have become advocates within their families and communities, especially around the issue of disability.

QS: You need to build a sense of security for the beneficiaries. Volunteers have received trainings and now know where to go to and how to refer and for themselves. When they receive beneficiaries who need help, they know how to support them in where to go or how to speak with their own families. On the board, there are all the protection telephone numbers which comes with awareness of how the process works. They know that they are in a protected environment. It means a lot for girls especially if they know that they can speak opening and be supported and protected, for example in a divorce case.

Question: Should we have more of a focus on the most vulnerable youth to encourage on them and try to have the activities target those girls and boys, men and women. Could the youth committees be focused on?

Co-chair: we need to look into the root causes of vulnerable youth and community in general and see what can be done on a longer time scale and how. This should be done within the overall Protection WG and also look into what is planned under the 3 year Zaatari strategic plan.

Co-Chair: We should show more appreciation for volunteering that could support this and also encourage more people to engage in volunteering. Technical initiatives tend to be more appreciated than social initiatives.

NRC: Youth programs have a limit on youth participation like youth committees. Last year NRC did an evaluation which came back with the recommendation to find out what type of participation youth actually want. NRC is hiring a consultant early next year to consult youth on how they want to participate (youth leadership, youth participation). NRC can share these lessons learnt with the YTF when they get that feedback.

QS: Volunteerism is attractive for youth if it connects to something that can help youth in their own personal development and plans.

**Action Point:** conduct a training for field staff on gender marker that is more tailored to field work, design, implementation and reporting of projects with men, women, boys and girls, looking at the different types of tools available. Alexandro will follow up with Simon, the Gender Cap Advisor.

**Action Point for all YTF members**: Please make the difference in reporting between volunteering as pure volunteerism, which is what this indicator is about, and not for cash for work.

1. ***AOBs***
2. **YPEER 10 Days of Activism**

The 2016 YPEER 10 Days of Activism Campaign will focus on “adolescents’ rights and girl empowerment”. The main objective of this year’s theme is **to raise awareness of the critical period** that adolescents, especially girls, and the experiences they go through. The campaign also aims to **continue building the capacities of young people** through their participation in out-reach activities, and re-enforcing Y-PEER national networks in various countries.  The global network is **targeting participation in 30 countries, with a trajectory of reaching 30,000 adolescents and youths and 500,000 people via social media and other communication methods**.

The campaign is open for all the stakeholders from Non-Governmental Organizations to UN agencies, Private sector representatives, governments and individuals to participate.

The main structure of the Campaign in 2016 is to have an orientation training to build the capacities of the participating members in the adolescents' health and girls' rights with outreach activities in adolescents' gatherings from Health clubs to schools, universities, Streets, etc.  In parallel to that an ongoing social media campaign will be taking place on both the national and international levels through FB pages (National /International), Twitter, YouTube channel, Instagram, Twitter, etc.

**In order to assure a wider participation of the Y-PEERs, please check the below link that you can send to youth educators to share it with the volunteers who are interested to be a part of 2016 campaign:**

[التطوع للمشاركة في حملة عشر ايام من النشاط مع شبكة تثقيف الاقران Y\_PEER](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfBH_2gMPn8IkqozMQu4gK705hzn5HnFnzPthpb1VEI-Yotew/viewform#responses)

**Relevant meetings calendar:**

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| **Meeting** | **Day & time**  | **Location** | **Focal point** |
| **Youth Task Force**  | Tuesday @ 10.30 | Base camp Buffer zone (F5) | Raed (NRC) / Leana (UNFPA) |
| **Education WG (Za'tari)** | Every other Tuesday @ 11.30  | Base camp Buffer zone (F5) | Paul (NRC)  |
| **Education WG (Amman)** | Every other Monday @ 12:00 | UNICEF/SCJ | Paul (NRC) |
| **Community mobilization** | Tuesday @12.30 | Base camp Buffer zone (F5) | Irene (UNHCR) |
| **Camp management**  | Tuesday @ 13:00 | Base camp UNHCR | Leana (UNFPA), Raed (NRC) |
| **Youth committees** | Wednesday @ 12.30 | IRD community center district 10 | Mais (IRD) |
| **CP-GBV WG** | Thursday @ 11.30 | Base camp UNHCR #4 | Nizar (MC) |
| **Age and Disability TF** | Sunday @ 13:00 (every fortnight) | Base camp #3  | Arabella (FPSC) |
| **Protection WG (Zaatari)** | Thursday @ 13:00 | Base camp UNHCR #4 | Georgie (QS) |
| **Protection WG (Amman)** | Wednesday @ 11:00 (every fortnight) | UNHCR Khalda in EMOPS room | Leana (UNFPA) |
| **ISWG (Amman)**  | First Sunday of every month @ 14:00 | UNHCR Khalda in EMOPS room | Leana (UNFPA), Paul (NRC) |