



Protection
Working Group

DRAFT Meeting Minutes 14.02.2017

Protection Working Group Jordan

Agencies present: ACTED, ARDD-Legal Aid, CARE, CVT, DRC, ECHO, FCA, HI, ICMC, IMC, IRC, IOCC, IRAP, JIF, MC, MPDL, IFH, NRC, OXFAM, Questscope, PU-AMI, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNOPS and WFP.

AGENDA:

- **PWG member announcement and updates, approval of minutes**
- **Updates:**
 - Northeastern Border:
 - Urban Verification:
 - Education Access:
- **UNHCR Data Protection Survey (Harry Brown):** Introduction to UNHCR's ongoing data protection research, clarifying data protection context, mapping data flows, and identifying data protection needs
- **Protection-related Cash Assistance (PWG and BNWG):** With Basic Needs Working Group coordination, sharing of cash assistance programs contributing to protection outcomes: urgent cash assistance, and longer-term cash support. Basic Needs is aiming to develop guidelines on cash assistance programs, including urgent cash, and agencies are requested to provide updates on cash-based interventions contributing to immediate or longer-term protection impacts (outside of 'normal' basic needs monthly assistance programming), and highlights/challenges faced.
- **ActivityInfo** – Key Points for 2017 Reporting
- **Service Advisor** – Demo and Update on Service Advisor/4Ws
- **AOB**

1. PWG members updates and announcements:

- **CARE:** CARE started their 7th annual urban assessment for 2017. Discussion on ToRs is taking place, once finalized it will be shared with PWG members. Other nationalities will be part of this year assessment.
- **IOCC:** IOCC announced that they are expanding their programme that targets people with disabilities (Providing hearing and visual aids) to reach Mafraq and Azraq camp. Members who receive such cases are kindly requested to refer to IOCC – Loren Hyatt lhyatt@iocc.org
- **Mercy Corps:** Mercy Corps will start an assessment in March that will focus on GBV. Irbid city will be taken as a sample of this assessment and with partnership with WRC. The assessment will be on the course of 2 weeks that will include focus groups, interviews. Results and recommendation will be presented once finalized.
- **Sector Gender Focal Point:** CARE and IRC Protection Sector Gender Focal Points will cooperate with CP and SGBV SWG SGFPs (ICMC and UNICEF respectively) and will be undertaking the gender analysis for the whole protection sector expecting to produce a consolidated report.

2. Updates:

- **Northeastern Border:** By mid-January 2017 assistance to the entire population at the berm was completed, with another round of assistance (NFIs and food) starting tentatively by the 19th of February, pending the weather and security conditions, both of which have proven obstacles to the schedule.

The health clinic has begun to operate effectively, reaching 460 patients since the opening of the clinic. Some exceptional life threatening urgent cases were granted access temporarily to Ruwashed hospital and to other medical providers in Jordan when conditions or injuries were considered life threatening.

- **Urban verification exercise:** The return of Syrians' documents was on-going during January to reach 222,750 documents. As of end of December 2016 406,528 MOI cards were issued. Out of those documents 377,906 MOI cards issued for individuals registered with UNHCR.
- **Education Access (and clarification):** As the end of the first semester 2016/17, a total of 167,820 Syrian students (52% girls) accessed formal education. A 15% increase (22,352 additional students from the 2015/2016 academic year. [Note: these numbers are unofficial, yet to be confirmed as final.]

Learning for All campaign: School registration is open till the 28th of February for all out of school children. Refugee children aged 9-12 years out of school for more than 3 years – register for Catch-Up programme in public schools. Members who receive cases kindly to contact UNICEF hotline: +962-6-5509677 for details if the children are not able to be admitted or registered in the school. Unofficial statistics states that 64,000 children are still out of school.

- **Work Permits:** A letter received from MoL on work permits for camp-based refugees that was addressed to labour directorates and instruct them to proceed with granting Syrian refugees at camps with working permits and allow refugees to leave and return to camp daily for the purpose of work.

As of beginning February 38,000 work permits, 1518 were issued for females - 405 of them were issued during the month of January 2017 (the sudden increase in the proportion issued to women resulting from an increase in permits for work in agricultural cooperatives).

- **Increase in Deportations:** As several member NGOs have noted, there has been an increased in December and January in the number of Syrian refugees deported. Organizations who identify cases of detention or threats of deportation are encouraged to contact UNHCR as soon as possible to allow for interventions; while advocacy on cases that may involve security issues is difficult, advocacy on other cases is often successful; early response helps to improve the chance of release on bailout or to camp locations.

3. UNHCR Data Protection Survey:

UNHCR Data Protection Consultant presented and introduction to a project aiming to strengthen data protection within the humanitarian community. Starting with a self-assessment survey to map current data protection levels and information flows between organisations. The results will inform a report and strategy to help raise awareness and good practice data for information handling and sharing.

Action Point:

- Members are encouraged to fill in the survey and send it Harry Brown - BROWNHA@unhcr.org. Deadline is February the 28th COB.
- Summary of gaps and recommendations of the study will be shared with members once finalized.
- Interested members to have one-on-one interviews regarding the research for data collection, to contact Harry expressing their interest to be part of the research.

- 4. Protection-related Cash Assistance:** The Basic Needs Working Group started to discuss the development of guidelines/standards regarding Emergency/Urgent cash assistance by discussing cash approaches and modalities. The idea is to work with other agencies that implement cash interventions in order to come up with those guidelines. As it was noticed in Emergency/Urgent cash interventions that the selection criteria, the amount of assistance and what kind of expenses covered defers between organizations. PWG members who implement cash intervention will meet with the Basic Need Sector coordinators in a small group meeting to discuss a way forward to develop those guidelines collaboratively.
- 5. ActivityInfo – Key Points for 2017 Reporting:** UNHCR Coordination Associate updated members on the key changes that were reflected on 2017 ActivityInfo monitoring Database that member's access to report their achievements each month. Guiding note regarding the new Protection database structure was circulated to members explaining the new log frame, indicators and description for each indicator. Members that face challenges in reporting or that have questions are encouraged to attend UNHCR Information Management Unit refreshment sessions on ActivityInfo reporting (Wednesday – Sunday – 15, 16, 19, 20/02/2017), for any technical support inquiries members to get back to Coordination Associate shehadeg@unhcr.org or Sector Coordinator DiSalvo@unhcr.org
- 6. Service Advisor – Demo and Update on Service Advisor/4Ws:** UNHCR information Management Associate Officer presented the “Services Advisor” tool, which is used to record all the services provided to support the refugees in Jordan, the system was introduced last year and many NGOs used it to record their activities, the plan now is to encourage the participate to use it more efficiently and on a larger scale.

The way forward is to add more features, conducting new training sessions in the near future in addition to increase awareness of the system among the refugees. Training sessions open to Protection partners will be announced soon.

7. AOB:

- **Identification of priorities for the Jordan Humanitarian Fund by OCHA:** The Call for proposal of the JHF (Jordan Humanitarian Fund) will be launched on March 2017. Each sector is expected to submit their sector priority document that highlights the projects prioritized under your respective sectors and aligning to the JHF requirements/criteria.

Action Point:

The existing set of priorities to be shared with members. Members to communicate their recommendation and where they suggest for areas that needs more focus based on needs or have a gap in funding to Sector Coordinators.

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