



Protection
Working Group

Meeting Minutes 14.03.2017

Protection Working Group Jordan

Agencies present: AVSI, ACTED, ARDD-Legal Aid, CARE, Intersos, IRC, IRAP, IRD, CVT, DRC, ICMC, JRS, MPDL, IFH, IOM, PU-AMI, SDC, TDH-Italy, UNHCR, UNICEF, FCA, Vento DiTerra, WVI, UPP and NRC

AGENDA:

- PWG member announcement and updates, approval of minutes
- Updates:
 - Urban Verification
 - Access to Education
 - Northern east Borders
 - Return Movements
- Urban Overview and Update: Mafraq Area
- Informal Tented Settlements: Protection Concerns and Coordination

1. PWG members updates and announcements:

- **ARDD – Legal Aid:** ARDD-Legal Aid is implementing a programme to solve the issues of birth certificates for children who are above one year old in the urban and camps, members to refer such cases using the referral pathways.
- **APS:** APS will start a project in April in Irbid and Mafraq in cooperation with AWO by opening 2 women safe spaces providing SGBV services.
- **UN WOMEN** - announced a vacancy hiring a Senior Protection Assistant in Zaatari and Azraq camp the link to apply https://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=70010
- **NRC:** DFID has commissioned REACH to do national assessment on communication with refugee communities. NRC were asked to facilitate this assessment, members might be contacted for data collection and interviews. Assessment will start in April by conducting focus group discussions in both Irbid and Amman.
- **Data Protection Study:** Agencies are kindly requested to do the surveys to have more concrete data and results. The link to the survey <https://enketo.unhcr.org/#YYMK>
- **Jordan Humanitarian Fund (OCHA):** PWG were asked to identify more focused and specific priorities for the Protection Sector instead of the broad priorities of last year. The project review panel have been pre-selected and they are: WVI, IOCC, NRC, CARE, ARC, IRD, NEF (NGOs) – UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP (UN AGENCIES) - The committee should have 2 NGOs and 2 UN Agencies

– the organization on the review panel should be not applying for any JHF (protection) funding during this round. Thanks to those who volunteered.

The protection priorities for the JHF year are:

- Enhance access to case management services for children-at-risk, including children involved in or at imminent risk of child labour, particularly in underserved areas. Improve identification of children involved in child labour, and provide case management services or referral to appropriate support to address child protection concerns. Interventions should include components focused on identifying and ensuring timely response, mitigation of impact, and prevention of recurrence. Innovative means of response may be considered, including community-based and/or cash-based interventions focused on specific outcomes addressing protection concerns.
- Responding to Sexual and Gender-based Violence, including to individual cases of Early Marriage and other forms. Provision of case management, support services, referral to appropriate specialized services, monitoring, and/or mitigation of impact of early marriage. Interventions should focus on underserved areas or regions of the country, and should demonstrate coordination and/or collaboration to improve identification of early marriage cases and other at-risk women.
- *[Note: JHF includes emergency cash support for protection in recent call; please review call for details.]*

Action Point:

Organizations that plan to conduct assessments involving surveys of refugees, focus groups etc must follow the Needs Assessment registry SOPs to avoid duplication and to make sure for the study to be efficient and achieve the purpose. SOPs are available on the UNHCR data portal on the following link. These SOPs are under revision to ensure efficient and prompt consideration and approval.

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=12579>

2. Updates:

- **Northeastern Border:**

Two large Media/Press visits took place to the BERM to cover the current situation, weather challenges prevented the smoothness of the first visit.

The health center on the Jordanian side of the berm in Rukban receives and treats the most vulnerable medical cases brought in from the area, as well as assisting with referrals inside Jordan. Since its opening on 15 December 2016, 785 patients have been treated at the clinic and 50 referred to hospitals in Jordan. Supplies of water continue uninterrupted at both the Hadalat and Rukban informal settlements.

A first round of distributions, including through a purpose-built distribution point in Rukban, was completed between November 2016 and January 2017. The aid reached almost 15,000 Syrian households with food, water and non-food items, including blankets, warm clothing and plastic sheeting to help protect against the winter cold. A planned vaccination campaign will start tentatively on the 18th or 25th of March pending approvals.

There were 357 asylum seekers in the transit center in Ruwayshed and last month the GoJ agreed in principle to transfer them to RAS. At present, the transit center is empty, with all individuals either transferred to Azraq Camp, or screened out by authorities and returned to Syria (65 persons).

- **Urban verification exercise:** The return of Syrians' documents was on-going during February to reach 188,543 documents delivered. As of end of December 2016 412,188 MOI cards were issued. Out of those documents 382,874 MOI cards issued for individuals registered with UNHCR. The trends shows that 3000-4000 MOI cards are issued each month.

Action Point: Cash for documentation focal point list to be circulated with PWG members to refer documentation cases to the organizations that are part of the consortium

- **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.

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. UNICEF will advocate with MOI for the children to get enrolled with school. Unofficial statistics states that 64,000 children are still out of school.

Action Point: The roll out of the Service Advisor will be announced soon, a training will be conducted for Protection actors in order to be able to upload their services on the Service Advisor and have the 4Ws for the Protection, CP, GBV and PSS in one place.

- **Return Movements:** An increasingly return movements (mostly forcibly return) have been noticed in Jordan for a different reasons and mainly for national security reasons. PWG decided to develop key advocacy messages with the Government of Jordan in order to advocate against refoulement that increase risks on the life of refugees.

Action Point: PWG members to propose key advocacy messages on essential protection areas of concerns with sector coordinators in order to consolidate the messages in one documents and share with members for endorsement then share it with the Government of Jordan.

3. Urban Overview and Update: Mafraq Area

UNHCR Associate Protection Officer and Mafraq Coordination Group coordinator gave an overview on the Activities and services that are provided by different organization in Mafraq Governorate. Furthermore Mafraq Coordinator have highlighted the Coordination structure, issues, gaps and challenges that are currently faced and looking at how to enhance the coordination mechanism especially with national level with different sectors to overcome those challenges and gaps. Mafraq Coordinator also mentioned the monthly meetings that takes place in Mafraq such as Mafraq Coordination meetings and Referrals meetings that is enhancing the coordination on the ground and promote collaboration between actors in Mafraq.

4. Informal Tented Settlements: Protection Concerns and Coordination

It was noted that several ITS locations in Karak and Aqaba have been informed by authorities that they will be expected to change locations; sites in Karak subsequently moved to Mafraq. While it is not fully clear to what degree the move was voluntary and in accordance with seasonal migration, or involuntary and reflecting a more restrictive approach by authorities, UNHCR advises agencies to exercise cautious judgment and to maintain a low profile in any ITS-related work during the current period, as it appears that there is currently a focus on ITS sites, and high-profile assistance efforts and/or presence at ITS locations may impact the communities negatively.

ACTION POINT: Agencies recommended to maintain low-profile approach to ITS sites at present.

Protection Working Group to call meeting of agencies involved in ITS to update mapping, guidance, and coordination of ITS-related work. Once completed, mapping etc will be presented to PWG participants, and ITS will become a standing item on PWG agenda in future months.

Next Meeting: As usual: First Tuesday of the Month: 04 April 2017, 9-11 am,

UNHCR Khalda, EMOPS Room

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