



Protection
Working Group

Meeting Minutes 06.06.2017

Protection Working Group Jordan

Agencies present: ACTED, ICMC, ARDD-Legal Aid, APS, CARE, INTERSOS, IMC, IOM, IRC, IRAP, JIF, JRS, LWF, ECHO, DRC, DFID, CVT, Mercy Corps, MSF, Questscope, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNWOMEN and NRC.

NOTE: Next Meeting will be SECOND Tuesday of July, due to room availability:

11 July 2017, 9-11 am, UNHCR Khalda, EMOPS Room

AGENDA:

- 1. PWG member announcement and updates, approval of minutes**
- 2. Updates:**
 - **Urban Verification/MOI Card**
 - **Northeastern Borders**
 - **Livelihoods/Work Permits**
 - **Deportation/Return Movements**
- 3. Cash Assistance Transitions (Elizabeth Barnhart, Basic Needs WG)**
- 4. DFID Call for Proposals (Rana Nasser, DFID)**
- 5. Youth Assessment in Zaatari and Azraq Camps, REACH/NRC (Paul Fean, NRC)**

1. PWG members updates and announcements

- Jesuit Refugee Service – JRS noted the opening of two programs in Jordan: Online Programs and Community Service Learning Tracks (CSLTs) which provide e.g. online business/economic curricula and short-term certificate courses delivered on-site in response to community needs; and, urban refugee emergency support involving home visits and assessment, referrals, and cash assistance in accordance with vulnerability criteria and individual case needs.
- MECI and Education Sector Working Group - Preparations are ongoing for the start of summer schooling to accommodate children who had enrolled late during the academic year. It will run during 2 July – 20 for 3,593 students in 48 schools. UNICEF and Ministry of Education are also preparing the launch of a Learning for All campaign taking into consideration the lessons learnt by the previous post-campaign assessment.

2. Updates on Standing Agenda Items (see attachment for summary numbers)

- **MOI Card/Urban verification exercise:** As of end of May 418,063 MOI cards were issued. Out of those documents 388,136 MOI cards issued for individuals registered with UNHCR. The trend remains the same as for previous months, with several thousand MOI cards issued each month. A gap of some 120,000 urban-registered refugees without MOI cards still exists, PWG members have been undertaken increasingly focused efforts to identify those without MOI cards and provide interventions supporting issuance of cards.
- **Northeastern Borders:** During May the distribution of life saving assistance to the berm population has continued, but with intermittent delay due to weather and security issues preventing the distribution of life saving assistance. Implementation of IRIS scan has started for the population at the BERM, 30,046 individuals (3,759 cases) have been enrolled with IRIS scan and received assistance packages. Health center for general population and for children are operational, but the numbers of patients facilitated to cross the berm to the centers remain low; most patients are women with young children, and there is concern that not all those in need are able to access the health care available.
- A vaccination campaign began in Rukban on 27 May. With support of the Border Guards, and with guidance from Minister of Health, UNICEF and WHO staff, oral polio vaccination and doses of vitamin A supplement have been provided to trained Syrian supervisors/monitors to proceed with the vaccination campaign in the no man's land. In addition, the vaccination campaign is being carried out at the Rukban clinic: a Ministry of Health vaccination team provides injectable vaccines (tetanus and measles), oral polio vaccination, and vitamin A supplements to women of child bearing age and children between 0-15 years.
- **Livelihood/Work Permits:** As of end of May, 52,906 work permits issued or renewed for Syrians from January 2016. Permits have begun to be issued for refugees that lives in Zaatari, with around 500 permits issued, allowing for one-month leave permits, which can be renewed. Discussions around similar implementation at Zaatari Camp are ongoing.
- **Return Movement/Deportation**
 - The number of deportations has decreased since the alarming high figures of January and February; from a high of over 1,400 confirmed and possible/suspected deportations in January, some 620 confirmed and possible/suspected deportations were identified in April (confirmed deportations were 550 in January, and have declined each month to the current level of 260). This represents a declined of around 67%, though the deportation figure remains quite high. While a reduction in the number of family members deported is reported to have declined, some family members continued to be deported with the individual initially identified for a deportation order.
 - Spontaneous (voluntary) returns have varied inconsistently since the beginning of the year, around an average of 250 per month.
 - Deportation decisions should be made and applied on an individual basis, and not applied collectively. Family members of individuals subject to a final deportation order should be granted access to legal and humanitarian counselling to ensure they fully understand the situation and options, to allow for informed decision making.

- **A follow up session for interested organizations/staff to continue the discussion of Legal and Documentation issues, including deportation issues, and further Q&A discussion as needed, on Sunday, 18 June, from 9-11 am, UNHCR Khalda, EMOPS room.**

3. Cash Assistance Transitions (Elizabeth Barnhart, Basic Needs WG):

UNHCR's response to the needs of Syrian refugees is currently critically underfunded, with additional contributions required to avoid serious reductions in essential and life-saving services to Syrians in the second half of the year; advocacy for increased support is ongoing. As of end of May, USD 71 million is required overall for the Jordan response, including funding to ensure continued monthly cash assistance for 30,000 Syrian refugee families, support to the estimated 60,000 Syrians stranded at the Syria-Jordan border, securing 115,000 primary health consultations and 12,000 referrals to secondary health care services for refugees in camps and urban areas, as well as to ensure timely support this winter for 35,000 Syrians.

In the coming months (August and September), some 8,000 cases that have been on Monthly Financial Assistance for 24 months, and which do not meet profiles for exceptional vulnerability/fragility will be removed from the financial assistance recipient list, and will be replaced by cases that have been on the MFA waiting list, prioritizing particularly fragile cases (ie, those with no adult male capable of working, single female headed households, unaccompanied minors, etc). The first group of 4,000 cases has been informed that assistance will cease in August; the remaining 4,000 will be notified shortly, and will be removed from the list in September. If funding can be secured, this will mean that the same number of refugees continue to receive assistance at the same level, however, with a transition of approximately 25% of the caseload out, and vulnerable Waiting List cases added.

Action Points:

Basic Needs Working Group/Cash to share further information on criteria for removal/addition, as well as information on appeal and referral channels for those who may meet high criteria but are nonetheless scheduled to be removed.

4. Youth Assessment Results – REACH/NRC –

NRC Youth Programme Manager gave a brief presentation on NRC and REACH recently published the Youth Assessment in Zaatari and Azraq camps. The primary objective of this Youth Assessment was to inform youth programming the camps, through a detailed understanding of the diverse range of experiences and perceptions of Syrian youth, including their perceived gaps in programming, and to identify community-sourced recommendations for improvements. In order to assess the broader landscape of youth-targeted programming (YTP) in the camps, youth were asked about a wide range of programmes, including formal education, sports and recreational activities and skills training. Youth particularly emphasized programmes focused on livelihoods and skills development.

The assessment was qualitative, centring on a focus group discussion (FGD) methodology. In October to November 2016, REACH, in coordination with NRC, conducted 30 focus group discussions (16 in Zaatari and 14 in Azraq). To solicit sectoral expertise, a strong emphasis was placed on collaboration with the Zaatari Youth Task Force, key youth actors in Azraq, and the Education and Protection sectors under which they operate, throughout the assessment.

The presentation of the report focused on the following: Youth interest in types of YTP, the impact of youth-targeted programming, factors influencing access to YTP, inclusion of YWDs, challenges of youth not participating in YTP, gaps in current programming. The report can be accessed at: http://www.reachresourcecentre.info/system/files/resource-documents/nrc_reach_jor_report_youth_assessment_november_2016_5.pdf

5. Advocacy Messages Review/Approval (documents to follow)

Action Point: PWG members are kindly requested to review the draft of Key advocacy messages, and provide sector coordinators with comments/suggestions by Thursday 8th of June.

6. AoB:

- DFID call for concept notes has been circulated to all members, with dates and details: for inquiries, members to contact Ms. Rana Nassar - R-Nassar@dfid.gov.uk
- **Protection Sector Progress report/reporting on ActivityInfo :** Sector coordinator presented the progress report for reporting protection key activities on the activityinfo, many gaps have been found in the reporting/implementation, sector coordinator emphasized on the importance of reporting and how it effects the overall sector performance .Additionally sector coordinator highlighted the impact reporting has on the JRP Process, 3RP reporting and donors funding. Members who face any challenges in reporting to contact Protection Sector Coordination Associate shehadeg@unhcr.org. (see attached summary)

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