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| **PSN sub working group meeting Minutes** |
| **Date** |  **15 April 2020**  | **Venue** | Online  |
| **Agenda** | 1. Review of partner mapping of ongoing critical activities for PSNs
2. Update from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development on MGLSD COVID 19 response
3. Feedback on PSN sub working group business continuity plan
4. Discussion on key challenges / gaps faced by PSNs & service delivery under current conditions
5. Agreement on frequency of meetings
6. AOB
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| **Attendance** | UNHCR, MGLSD, HI, Help Age International, National Council for Disability, UNDP, Expanding Social Protection Team, DRC, LWF, IRC, CRS, Save the Children |
| **Facilitator** | Gemma Woods (UNHCR) / Emily Ajiambo (MGLSD) |
| **Discussion points** | **Recommendations/Action points** | **Responsible** |
| 1. **Review of partner mapping of ongoing critical activities for PSNs**

Partners have been completing a mapping template, detailing the ongoing activities / services that they have on behalf of PSNs under the current situation. The mapping template as it stands was shared with partners before the meeting.Some geographical gaps were noted in the template (e.g. Kampala, Nakivale, Palabek). Members also suggested to conduct some analysis of the activities included in the activity mapping, including consolidating activities around specific themes / focus, considering how actors are reaching PSNs / delivering activities under the current conditions to guide further discussion within the group on potential best practices or gaps in coverageUNHCR is in the process of developing a protection considerations document during the COVID 19 crisis – the document could be updated with feedback from the PSN SWG members to provide guidance to other sectors on issues which should be taken into account when developing COVID 19-related responses in order to include PSNs.A question was raised on the provision of MHPSS services to PSNs during the current crisis as this is not currently covered in the mapping document developed by the PSN SWG. The MHPSS SWG have developed a 4W tracking document which can be referred to for information on coverage of MHPSS services1. **Update from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development on MGLSD COVID 19 response**

MGLSD noted that older persons have been shown to be more affected by COVID 19, and they are therefore at heightened need of prevention and response activities. For persons with disabilities and older persons, advice on the need for social distancing may not be feasible due to their need for support from caregivers and others. MGLSD are in the process of developing SOPs on sensitisation of persons with disabilities and older persons on COVID 19 and how they can best keep themselves safe and also to caregivers on how to continue providing care during a COVID 19 outbreak and protect themselves. MGLSD are developing accessible messages for PSNs including in braille and sign language. The draft messages will be shared with the PSN SWG members for comment.MGLSD were asked to ensure that refugees are fully included in Government of Uganda responses to the COVID 19 responses, including responses led by the MGLSD, due to the fact that refugees have additional vulnerabilities which make them more susceptible to the negative effects of the crisis. MGLSD agreed that this was an issue which they are actively considering.1. **Feedback on PSN sub working group business continuity plan**

Some feedback had been received on the PSN SWG business continuity plan for COVID 19, namely that the plan needs to consider further the role of caregivers, how to empower them, and also to consider contingency plans in the event that caregivers are affected by COVID 19.Members suggested to focus on community-based forms of support, encouraging neighbours to assist should caregivers become ill (with guidance) and / or supporting caregivers with mild symptoms with protective gear and guidelines on how to continue to provide care at home for PSNs.It was noted that persons with disabilities in particular already face substantial levels of discrimination, which is likely to be exacerbated if they / their caretakers contract COVID 19. Therefore, substantial efforts should be made to as much as possible to avoid PSNs and caretakers from coming into contact with COVID 19, especially through speeding up sensitization and prevention measures targeting these groups.Partners working directly with elderly persons / persons with disabilities should start to work directly with PSNs and their families / caretakers to map out alternate care arrangements which could be activated should caregivers fall ill, ensuring that PSNs consent to any alternate care arrangements.Partners should also start to map put contact details of PSNs and caretakers who can be targeted with tailored messaging on COVID 19.The BCP should also make clear that the PSN SWG is coordinating with other sectors / working groups. A discussion followed on how to map the participation of PSN SWG members in other technical working group meetings and on discussing with other sector leads how the PSN SWG can best contribute.1. **Discussion on key challenges / gaps faced by PSNs & service delivery under current conditions**

SWG member organisations and DPOs are anecdotally reporting a number of specific challenges faced by PSNs under the current lockdown, including:* Lack of access to essential services (healthcare, collecting food distributions – as PSNs cannot travel on the same vehicle transporting their food rations back to their homes, etc)
* Increase in violence; there is evidence that domestic violence can increase significantly during lockdown, and women with disabilities are 4x more likely to suffer from violence so women with disabilities may be disproportionately affected
* A lack of access to information on COVID 19 and how PSNs and caretakers can protect themselves

It was agreed that the group would make efforts to gather a more formalized evidence base of the impact on PSNs in order to develop coordinated group responses (advocacy, mobilization of resources, etc)1. **Agreement on frequency of meetings**

It was agreed that the PSN SWG will meet every two weeks until further notice.1. **AOB**

MGLSD updated the group that the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2019 is now in force. Hard copies can be received from the Ministry (once lockdown is lifted)MGLSD also noted that the Ministry is starting consultations on review of the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities. PSN SWG members will be requested to feed into the review of the policy.**Next meeting: Wednesday 29 April, 11.30am (online)**Link to shared Google drive for PSN SWG with minutes of meetings and key documents: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1qh4gpf2cHNFrRCvOCyXaQpgV2GByOl_6>  | Follow up with Alight (for activities in the SW) and members of the Urban protection working group (for activities in Kampala)Conduct further analysis of partner mapping activities and share with PSN SWG membersShare draft UNHCR protection considerations document with PSN SWG members for feedbackShare MHPSS SWG 4W document with PSN SWG members for referenceShare draft accessible messages on COVID 19 for PSNs with PSN SWG members for feedbackUpdate PSN SWG BCP with additional feedback from group members and circulatePartners to start to engage PSNs / caretakers in discussions on planning for alternate care arrangements if needed and to map out contact details of PSN/caretakers to be targeted with tailored COVID 19 messagingShare matrix with SWG members to map which members are represented in other WG meetingsDiscussion with sector leads on PSN SWG participation in meetingsCollection of formalised evidence base of impact of COVID 19 measures on PSNsShare request to PSN SWG members to input into review of Policy on Persons with Disabilities | GemmaGemmaUNHCRGemmaEmilyGemmaAll partnersGemmaAll membersEmily |