



Protection Working Group Meeting - Minutes

Meeting			
Name	Protection Working Group	Meeting Date	17 July 2013
Meeting Location	Beirut	Meeting Time	10:00
Chair person	Samuel Cheung	Meeting Duration	2 hours
Minutes Prepared by	Samuel Cheung		
Purpose of Meeting	Protection Working Group Meeting		

Participants: UNHCR (chair), MOSA, MOI, DCA, DRC, FPSC, Handicap International, Heartland Alliance, Islamic Relief, InterSOS, IOD PARC, Makhzoumi Foundation, Mercy Corps, NRC, OCHA, OHCHR, Oxfam, Search for Common Ground, Solidarites, UNICEF, UNRWA, WFP, WRF

Summary of discussions and action points

1. General Sector Updates

A. Introduction/Administrative Matters

- The final Terms of Reference for the PWG at the national level were circulated prior to the meeting and considered endorsed, noting that further amendments can be introduced and suggested at future PWG meetings.
- The Draft 5W Matrix had been circulated with the Group but few comments received to date. Members are encouraged to send any last comments to Wali Ahedi at ahedi@unhcr.org.
- The new representative from the Ministry of Interior/Internal Security Forces to participate in the PWG was introduced. In addition to now MOSA and MOI, the Group will work to identify a representative from MOJ to also participate.
- A participant briefed the Group on the ongoing formation of a Disability and Older Age Working Group, a new cross-cutting thematic group. The DaOAWG will share proposed TORs and workplans with the PWG once they are developed.
- **ACTION POINTS:**
 - PWG members to share final comments on the Draft 5W Matrix.
 - PWG Steering Group to work toward identification of a representative from MOJ.
 - DaOAWG to share TORs and workplan with co-leads of PWG, once developed.

B. Report on National Protection Strategy Workshop (see powerpoint for more details)

- Results from the National Protection Strategy Workshop on 5 July 2013 were reviewed. The first part of the workshop concerned a protection situation analysis which was designed to 'unpack' the key protection problems and underlying causes, including their pattern and root causes. Group work during the workshop will serve as the starting point in identifying and analyzing key protection concerns by region. The second part of the workshop concerned drafting a protection strategy according to the egg framework. Group

work will serve as the starting point in outlining the key objectives, protection violations being addressed and the remedial, preventive and environment-building activities.

- **ACTION POINTS:**

- Matrices on protection situation analysis and protection strategy which were drafted by the workshop participants will be circulated to PWG members.
- Focal points to be identified by thematic rights group areas to ensure completion of matrices and consolidating additional edits/comments.

C. Palestinian Refugees from Syria Update

- As of July 12th there were 79,000 PRS recorded with UNRWA (15% in Tyre, 17% in Beirut, 29% in Beqaa, 27% in Saida, 12% in NLA). This does not necessarily mean that the PRS are all residing in Lebanon high numbers continue to move back and forth between Lebanon and Syria. UNRWA is moving towards targeting those that currently reside in Lebanon
- UNRWA LFO is coordinating closely with SFO to harmonize assistance and share information
- CP/GBV mapping is on going
- PRS are crossing the border at night due to Ramadan. The border remains open. It is confirmed that PRS will pay the 200\$ fee after a year in Lebanon.

C. Child Protection Update

- **CPIEWG Strategy Workshops.** Over the next couple of weeks the CPIEWG will be holding a series of workshops (03 in the field and 01 at the national level) to develop a CPIEWG strategy for 2013-2014 through a consultative approach that involves input from members in the field. The dates are as follows:
 - Bekaa - Tuesday, 23rd July in Zahle
 - North Lebanon - Thursday, 25th July in Tripoli
 - South Lebanon - Tuesday, 30 July in Tyre
 - National (inc Mount Lebanon) - Thursday, 01 August in Beirut
- **Technical working groups and links with other sectors.** The CPIEWG has established two technical working groups:
 - Case Management - to develop SOPs and identify priority cases (led by UNHCR)
 - Psychosocial Support - to identify minimum standards and harmonise PSS approaches (led by SCI and UNICEF) - links with the Health sector have been established to link PSS to Mental Health interventions.
- CPIEWG are currently in discussion with the Education sector to coordinate and mutually respond to CP issues in schools (bullying/discrimination, PSS) and clarify how to address the overlapping activities.

D. SGBV Update

- Expansion of the use of the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) with a technical support mission of UNHCR HQ and GBVIMS Global Steering Committee. 14 new organizations were trained and it is anticipated that case management agencies in T5, Bekka and the South will start using the system partially or fully. In addition, an information sharing protocol is being drafted.
- Case Management training was conducted by ABBAD-IMC in Beirut and a similar one is being organized by UNICEF-ABBAD for organizations working in the South the week of the 22nd July.
- One pager for other sectors and frontline workers on who to contact if they come across a survivor as well as leaflet for communities are under completion with support from field SGBV working groups, UNFPA and Heartland Alliance

- The Bekka field SGBV working group has developed a TOT for key stakeholders in order to roll-out the SOPs with municipalities, faith based organizations and representatives of refugee communities. TOT will take place on 13-14 August.

E. Situation / Operational Updates

Registration & Access to Territory (see powerpoint for more details)

- DRC reported a 12% decrease reported new arrivals with some 65% reported to have arrived through official borders from cities including Homs and Damascus. A training including components on protection, shelter and others will be conducted for all teams involved in new arrivals.
- Recent developments regarding visa entry to Egypt for Syrian nationals may frustrate Syrians from departing Lebanon to Egypt.
- **Masnaa:** Caritas information desk nearing completion. UNRWA noted that during Ramadan, large numbers were arriving late at night, which may pose additional protection concerns for new arrivals.
- **Aarida / Aboudiyah:** Contacts report increased flow in early July, including some 80 buses entering Lebanon and 100 buses departing to Syria in 5 days. Families interviewed continued to report that women and children were being prevented from departing Syria except near Masnaa. Payment of 5000SYP (30USD) per person may permit crossing with children. The Group discussed possible rationales for these obstacles to exiting Syria, including, at some times, policies to prevent only men from crossing and, other times, policies to prevent groups of only women and children from crossing due to concerns they were sending men through unofficial crossing points.
- **Shaba'a/Hasbaya:** Due to resumed fighting in Betjin and Sa'as'e villages in Syria, an influx of 50 Syrian families who crossed unofficially, including five injured, was reported end June. Municipalities reporting small numbers continuing to arrive.
- The Group reviewed registration figures, including mobile registration for undocumented refugees, Ramadan period scheduling and slight increases in waiting periods. The Group raised an action point regarding the Child-at-Risk identification and possible review together with child protection colleagues to better link this to intervention. The Group also reviewed results of the recent registration questionnaire, noting 89.5% already displaced once in Syria prior to arrival in Lebanon, 90.7% not anticipating return to Syria even if they are assisted there and 71.2% who did not face challenges approaching UNHCR.
- **ACTION POINTS:**
 - PWG members welcomed to submit suggest possible questions for use in the registration questionnaire. Suggestions can be sent to Rana Ksaifi at ksaifi@unhcr.org
 - Child protection and registration colleagues to discuss possible amendments in the Child-at-Risk identification criteria.
 - Upcoming training on, among other topics, protection, for new arrivals teams.
 - Discussion with MOI/GSO on possible protection concerns for arrivals late at night at the border.
 - Strategic meeting will be called for to discuss specific Strategies for Minorities

Legal, Documentation & Security

- **Regularization:** There continue to be concerns over increasing numbers of Syrians who may become irregular with the expiry of their 12 month period. There were some 63,000 Syrians currently irregular and, if trends continue, by the end of 2013 this figure would reach 120,000 Syrians in an irregular status. As of July 2013, more than 120,000 Syrians registered with UNHCR had arrived in country more than 12 months ago and presumably would be required to pay fees to renew their residency coupon. This number will increase to more than 300,000 by the end of 2013 and, by June 2014, at least the entire registered population of more than 500,000 Syrians will be required to renew. The NRC Legal Assessment on the

Consequences faced by Syrian Refugees who have limited legal status in Lebanon is ongoing with Wadi Khaled and Aarsal nearing completion.

- **Arrest/Detention:**
 - In Tripoli, there were at least 2 reported arrests of Syrian for irregular entry, one detained for 15 days. In Akkar, increasing arrests were reported at Chadra checkpoint in light of security situation.
- **Freedom of Movement:**
 - Curfews on Syrians continue to be reported in various locations country-wide (Mt Lebanon, Tripoli, South, Bekaa), typically beginning at 2100hrs.
 - A copy of one municipal curfew announcement was shown as an example. The Group discussed the legal standing of municipalities to impose restrictions, noting the role of village committees. It was suggested that municipalities were issuing some restrictions as precautionary measures but had no legal standing to enforce. The Group discussed the possible concerns over access to justice should Syrians be punished by communities for violating restrictions.
- **Security from Violence:** In the South, a male refugee who had reported a Lebanese man to the police after being physically assaulted by him was reportedly threatened to withdraw the complaint. Another reported anonymous threats received by Syrians known to support FSA as revenge for death of martyrs. In Tripoli, a Syrian was reportedly killed and another injured while buying bread during crossfire of recent fighting. At the same time, another family and their two children were attacked by unknown men and their belongings stolen.
- **ACTION POINTS:**
 - A smaller group discussion with ISF and potentially other related bodies will be held on strategies around municipality restrictions.
 - The mapping of current restrictions on freedom of movement, curfews and instances of confiscation of documents is ongoing and is being coordinated through field-based PWGs.

Community Outreach, Access to Services & Specific Needs

- The Task Force on Host Communities has now developed two specific groups on Social Cohesion and Livelihoods.
- The Group discussed the current status of the move toward targeted assistance and mass communication. The inter-agency vulnerability assessment (VASyR) found 65-75% of households to be vulnerable, depending on indicators applied. Around 70% of the visited households were living below the minimum expenditure basket (MEB) and only 25% of households had someone with a regular job. For this reason, UNHCR has decided that around 70% of registered refugees will continue receiving NFI assistance. UNHCR now working closely with WFP on finalising criteria and identification methodology.
- On mass communication, there is a poster (English and Arabic version; one for the South/Mt Lebanon where targeting will be introduced in September 2013 and the other for the Bekaa/North where targeting will start in October 2013). The posters will go to distribution partners and be set up in distribution and registration sites, SDCs, community centres etc. There is also an updated note on targeting and mass information as well as a Q&A to assist staff dealing with Syrians in answering anticipated questions.

Tented Settlements, Collective Shelters

- The Group reviewed the Protection paragraphs in the current ITS Action Plan as well as the draft matrix on areas of responsibility. The Action Plan is currently with MOSA for discussion. Nevertheless, additional comments on the ITS Action Plan are welcomed and can be sent to Samuel Cheung at cheung@unhcr.org.
- An eviction tracking tool was introduced and will be shared with field-level PWGs for implementation. The Group discussed ongoing concerns around eviction, including the role of ISF, concerns over trafficked persons in ITS and drafting of an advocacy note.
- **ACTION POINTS:**

- A meeting will be called to discuss eviction strategies with ISF, legal agencies and other interested participants. An advocacy note may be developed.

2. Validation of Contingency Plan

- The Protection section of the Lebanon Contingency Plan was reviewed for preparedness actions and response actions. Members were invited to submit any needed revisions to Samuel Cheung at cheung@unhcr.org.

3.	Agreed Action Points :			
	Issue	Deadline	Responsible	Comment
	Final comments on 5W Matrix from Members	1 August	OCHA + All members	
	Identification of MOJ participant	21 August	PWG Steering	
	National Protection Strategy matrices to be shared and focal points for completion identified	21 August	PWG Steering	
	Suggestions for Registration Questionnaire	Ongoing	UNHCR	
	Strategic Meeting on Minorities	21 August	PWG Steering	
	Meeting with ISF, Shelter on Evictions with possible Advocacy Note	21 August	Protection + Shelter	
	Roll-out of Eviction Tracking Tool	Ongoing	Field-based PWG	
	Discussion with ISF and legal agencies on municipality restrictions	21 August	PWG Steering	
	Validation of Contingency Plan	1 August	All members	
	Comments to ITS Action Plan	1 August	All members	

Attachments

Document	Location
PWG Meeting 17 July, Powerpoint Presentation	
Eviction Tracking Tool	
Contingency Plan	
ITS Action Plan	