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| **MAQ Coordination Meeting** | | | |
| **Date** | 22/06/2017 | **Time** | 10:00 am |
| **Location** | UNHCR Zahle | **Duration** | 2 hr |
| **Chair** | UNHCR |  |  |
| **Attendance** | UNHCR, GVC,NRC, IRC, ACF, WFP, UNICEF | | |

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| **TOPIC** | **ACTION** | **DUE DATE** |
| 1. **Sector Updates** |  |  |
| GVC is still receiving newcomers from Deir ElZour and Raqqa due to the security situation in the area. A cumulative of 365 individuals and 66 HHs new arrivals are currently in MAQ. Kurdish forces are very close to Raqqa so people are traveling out sometimes to the desert, de facto Kurdish controlled area to the airport and then to Damascus, then onto the Syrian border but they are not able to cross the Lebanese border in Masnaa and hence they are being smuggled by van drivers to MAQ – generally head to MAQ due to the presence of extended family members.  GVC is distributing new arrival kit and referring cases to NRC for birth registration until IRCs position is clarified. Around 177 cases were referred so far.  GVC also stated that plenty of raids mainly by the LAF are ongoing in MAQ. They visited four informal settlements and notices that a lot of men were detained and then released mainly due to lack of valid documentation or renewed residential papers. They are detained in the barracks in Ras Baaleck. They are mainly detained for 48 hours and up to three days and released with a notification to renew their documents.  GSO claimed to renew residencies free of charge but as known that they do not have the capacity to renew for the bulk of Syrians.  Previously GVC shared a list of 160 individuals with UNHCR for crosschecking and is to send the remaining 205 or so as soon as possible as to proceed with the needs assessment exercise. As well as new arrival cases in Hermel and Al Ain. Important to note that these cases are segregated per age and hence assist the health unit in identifying the children in need of vaccination.  GVC is referring informal settlements outside MAQ that refuse to grant approval for self-referral as they fear identification to IRC to gather general information and will do so in MAQ if deemed necessary. | Note | Note |
| UNHCR protection unit received a list of around 160 new arrival individuals, crosschecking took some time as more information was needed for crosschecking (Arabic name, DOB..). After crosschecking against UNHCR’s database, some cases were found already registered/recorded and hence were excluded from the list. A plan is to conduct a visit on the 1st of July, which is on a weekend, to do a needs assessment exercise to gather the information of these families onto UNHCR’s database in order to enable them access to services and possible assistance.  UNHCR registration unit already increased their daily caseload of appointments for renewals and housing attestation and hence difficult to allocate staff on weekdays.  UNHCR protection unit met with IRC on the 21st of June to discuss modality and where their support is needed. IRC and GVC to assist us in bringing in families and organizing them. IRC as well offered to take over the protection desk as well as a legal officer presence. UNHCR is still debating whether to provide appointments prior to the families.  The needed actions are as follow: identification of a location, transportation of equipment and refugees, clearances from military intelligence, GSO, LAF and UNDSS which requires a 72 hour notice as MAQ is still considered a red zone.  Two locations were identified by UNHCR, one location recommended by Barakat who is a local and knowledgeable of the area. This location is close to the GSO but poses a challenge in regards to cellphone coverage, internet accessibility, presence of latrines.  Another location is also close to the GSO on the right and might be considered as Al Qaa clearance wise. This location was used last last year for BLF distribution, in which a rub hole was built with a waiting area, distribution area, internet coverage especially important to sync information into our servers and avoid duplication, latrines and water. A challenge might be that refugees might fear approaching the site due to its close proximity to the GSO and this is where there is a need for agencies to emphasize the message in the field to the refugees that UNHCR is conducting a needs assessment to gather information.  Protection unit met with GSO headquarter in Zahle on the 21st to get approval to set up and initiate the exercise. GSO required a letter to be issued explaining what the plan is.  IRC. NRC and GVC is to continue identifying and referring new arrivals to UNHCR.  Btedaii and Dahr Al Ahmar are issuing cards for refugees, as previously stated by Mayor of Al Qaa- but no action was taken in that regards, they are setting up offices and the cards cost around 45000 LBP with a deadline two weeks after Ramadan. Protection unit will visit these municipalities to discuss. | Note | Note |
| WFP stated their interest in joining the exercise or mission as well as UNICEF. Protection unit recommended that the needs assessment exercise to be postponed for one week, giving more time to crosscheck new lists coming in and possibility of increasing the 45 HH as well as organize properly with other agencies interested to join to submit clearance- perhaps 7th and 8th of July. | Note | Note |
| IRC received access to MAQ a few weeks ago and sent an email to agencies informing them of that and hence is now fully operational. A meeting was conducted with GVC to discuss modalities and coordinate on protection monitoring as to not duplicate efforts and not exhaust refugees with too many visits.  Another meeting maybe necessary to clarify and ensure process.  IRC is the legal implementing partner (birth registration, late birth registration, marriage registration...) for UNHCR in MAQ as well as taking on case management (gbv cases...). IRC advocates for agencies to refer cases in regards to these aspects.  IRC has a bulk of caseload pending from last year and hence they initiated their intervention starting with reaching out to those families.  IRC is also implementing ECAP and referring cases for PCAP. Also in that regards IRC are ready to receive referrals for immediate and medium term cash assistance- of course keeping in mind the possibility that PCAP might have reached full capacity. | Note | Note |
| As for Education, Back to School campaign for 2017-2018 started and a workshop was held in UNHCR for around 21 NGOs with around 60 plus participants to discuss what is expected of agencies to start outreaching and referring based on a template linked to RAIS for second shift children. (mainly 6-14 years old)  IRC and GVC supporting inside MAQ in addition to the local NGOs Caritas and Lost. There is already one second shift school in Al Qaa and two in MAQ (with full capacity). Education sector is advocating to increase the number of second shift schools to increase the capacity and space, there is a possibility for one school that is not open as well as a secondary school that might be utilized. | Note | Note |
| NRC were conducting outreach activities in May, but stopped in June. These activities will resume next month with two teams and a lawyer as well as planning on identifying a team of volunteers for identification and legal presentation.  In that regards, IRC recommended to discuss legal presentation in MAQ during the legal partners meeting as to coordinate and avoid duplication. | Note | Note |
| ACF met with the governor of Baalbeck-Hermel area that stated that they are ready to support them to be granted access to MAQ as they are interested. If granted access, ACF has capacity to assist in implementing WASH activities solely. | Note | Note |
| 1. **Update on border** |  |  |
| There is 9 km distance between Syrian Border and GSO. GSO is considering placing an office at the border, no timeline was given though and it hasn’t been discussed in a while which might be that its unlikely to happen in the near future. | Note | Note |
| UNHCR is advocating for a reassessment of the security situation in MAQ as to reclassify it from red zone to amber zone to facilitate access and missions.  Recommendation is to wait until GSO opens the border formally and since there is no timeline, it is unknown when it is to happen. | Note | Note |
| 1. **Action Points** | **Partner** | **Date** |
| GVC to share the new list of newcomers, as only 160 individuals were shared previously, with UNHCR. As well list of newcomers from Al Ain to Hermel. | GVC | 23/06/2017 |
| IRC, NRC and GVC to continue identifying new arrivals and referring to UNHCR and spread the message that UNHCR is conducting a needs assessment to gather the information. | GVC, IRC, NRC | Ongoing |
| UNHCR to draft a letter to GSO for approval to initiate the exercise. | UNHCR | 23/06/2017 |
| UNHCR to follow up with municipality of Btedaai and Dahr Al Ahmar | UNHCR | 30/06/2017 |
| Discuss legal presentation in MAQ during the legal partners meeting as to coordinate and avoid duplication | NRC, IRC,UNHCR | Legal partners meeting |
| Submit a clearance for UNICEF and WFP to join the mission of MAQ tentatively on 7th and 8th of July | UNHCR, UNICEF,WFP | 29/06/2017 |
| **Proposed date of next MAQ coordination meeting** | **27/07/2017** |  |