**Youth Taskforce (YTF) Minutes of Meeting**

Tuesday 24th May 2016

From 10.30am -11.30am

Base Camp Buffer Zone F5

***Attendees***

Raed (NRC), Paul (NRC), Sonia (NRC), Wasef (IMC), Mays (IRD), Philmon (IRD), Abdullah (QS), Ziad (QS), Samia (Unicef), Bader (SCJ), Mohammed (LWF), Aya (RI), Irene (UNHCR), Abdelqader (UNHCR), Hadeel (WC) , Arabella (FPSC).

***Based on YTF Agenda:***

1. Presentation on early marriage.
2. AoB

***1. Presentation on early marriage.***

Both Katia (UNICEF) and Suna (UNHCR) updated the YTF on early marriage , the group found it to be a great refresher on the issue. Katia presented the findings and recommendations from the UNICEF report on early marriage: [http://www.unicef.org/mena/UNICEFJordan\_EarlyMarriageStudy2014(1).pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mena/UNICEFJordan_EarlyMarriageStudy2014%281%29.pdf)

Suna gave an update on the field level work on early marriage and mentioned the major challenges they face at the field level. Below are Suna’s shared notes.

**Action Point:** Co-Chairs to check with SGBV and CP if there is any kind of support that the YTF members can support with.

**Suna’s notes:**

Early marriage preview: (Early marriage has increased in 2015 in comparison to 2014)

* Early marriage under the age of 14 has been decreased in comparison to previous years, especially since such marriage prevention is supported by the JOR law. After UNHCR/GBV unit thorough counseling, a referral takes place to FPD, through UNHCR only, for their immediate intervention to stop this type of marriage if the family is found to be persistent to proceed with it. Any marriage conducted through Shiekh would require a 1000 JD fee to document it in the court.
* Early marriage at the age of 15 and above is increasing since it is permitted by JOR law.
* Early marriage cases are more vulnerable and exposed to other types of GBV.
* Refugees do not consider early marriage as a type of GBV but rather as a tradition and custom.
* All early marriage cases approaching the Shari’a court are referred by the court to UNHCR/GBV unit for deep counseling in the aim of prevention.
* The engagement of many early marriage cases is so short and does not give the child and her family the chance to get to know the fiancé very well. (Some girls get married to men after three days of knowing them, later on after marriage the child would discover that her husband has psychological issues or inappropriate behavior and thus exposes her to GBV and might end up with early divorce).

The benefits of early marriage counseling:

* It empowers the child and her parents and introduces them to new information they are not aware of such as SGBV services, and responses to domestic violence. But it does not prevent the marriage from occurring.

Obstacles and challenges:

* The marriage at the age of 15 and above is supported by law, culture and religion.
* The most challenging person to reach during the early marriage counseling is the child, who due to lack of maturity and the desire to wear the white wedding dress like other females, does not comprehend the legal and medical consequences of early marriage. Fathers are better in comprehending the legal consequences of early marriage rather than physical and emotional consequences, which the mothers comprehend more.

Suggestions:

* To address the three challenges: law, culture and religion that support early marriage. These challenges are not easy to address and cannot be changed overnight.
* Since the early marriage under the age of 15 is successfully prevented by law, an advocacy is needed with the authority to raise the age of the marriage above the age of 15 since apparently the law has an influence on controlling the marriages under the age of 15 (even though it is permitted by the Syrian culture and religion).
* To advocate with the judge to postpone documenting any early marriage case until the consumption of 6 months engagement minimum noting that the judge has the authority to do so, this would give the couple the chance to get to know each other as well as the two families. And to put the child attendance of some courses and services such as RH and other relevant topics as a pre-request to documenting the marriage. This might not prevent the marriage but would empower the child, widen her knowledge and give her a chance to say NO if the fiancé is found inappropriate.
* To conduct huge awareness sessions and whenever religious questions are imposed, religious answers would be given.

***AoB***

* Co-chair, Raed, discussed with the attending members Ramadan meeting frequency, it was agreed to have the meeting on a bi-weekly basis starting from the 7th, June.
* YTF meetings During Ramadan: **7th, June and21st, June**
* The **5th, July meeting is also canceled as it will be on the week of the Eid vacation**, the next YTF meeting will be after Eid on the **12th, July.**

**Relevant meetings calendar:**

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| **Meeting** | **Day & time**  | **Location** | **Focal point** |
| **Youth Task Force**  | Tuesday @ 10.30 | Base camp Buffer zone (F5) | Raed (NRC) / Leana (UNFPA) |
| **Education WG (Za'tari)** | Every other Tuesday @ 11.30  | Base camp Buffer zone (F5) | Paul (NRC)  |
| **Education WG (Amman)** | Every other Monday @ 12:00 | UNICEF/SCJ | Paul (NRC) |
| **Community mobilization** | Tuesday @12.30 | Base camp Buffer zone (F5) | Irene (UNHCR) |
| **Camp management**  | Tuesday @ 13:00 | Base camp UNHCR | Leana (UNFPA), Raed (NRC) |
| **Youth committees** | Wednesday @ 12.30 | IRD community center district 10 | Mais (IRD) |
| **CP-GBV WG** | Thursday @ 11.30 | Base camp UNHCR #4 | Nizar (MC) |
| **Age and Disability TF** | Sunday @ 13:00 (every fortnight) | Base camp #3  | Arabella (FPSC) |
| **Protection WG (Zaatari)** | Thursday @ 13:00 | Base camp UNHCR #4 | Georgie (QS) |
| **Protection WG (Amman)** | Wednesday @ 11:00 (every fortnight) | UNHCR Khalda in EMOPS room | Leana (UNFPA) |
| **ISWG (Amman)**  | First Sunday of every month @ 14:00 | UNHCR Khalda in EMOPS room | Leana (UNFPA), Paul (NRC) |