# Refuge Sector Gender Focal Points Network

**Minutes of Meeting 1st October 2020**

**Date/time/venue**

| Thursday, 01 October 2020 – 11:30 -12:30 - WebEx |

## Attendees

- SGFPN Co-Chair (UNHCR)
- SGFPN Co-Chair (UN WOMEN)
- UNHCR IACU team
- UN Women team
- VAF and RAIS Coordinator (UNHCR)
- SGFP Basic Needs Sector (Terre des Hommes Italy)
- SGFP Education Sector (NRC)
- SGFP Health Sector (International Medical Corps)
- SGFP Livelihoods Sector (Save the Children)
- SGFP Protection Sector (Relief International)
- SGFP WASH Sector (ACTED)
- Livelihoods Chair (UNHCR)
- Livelihoods Co-chair (Mercy Corps)
- SGBV Sub WG Chair (UNHCR)
- SGBV Sub-WG Co-chair (UNFPA)
- Child Protection Sub-WG Chair (UNHCR)
- Education Working Group Sector Leads (represented by Education Sector SGFP from NRC)
- South Area-Based Coordinator Chair (UNHCR)
- Common-Cash facility Task Team Chair (UNHCR)
- CBI Team (UNHCR)
- Protection Teams from Irbid and Mafraq Offices (UNHCR)
- Srn Development Officer/Livelihoods (UNHCR)

## 1. Welcoming remarks by UNHCR and UN Women

The Co-Chair of the refugee Sector Gender Focal Points Network [SGFPN], Susana Boudon opened the meeting and welcomed the audience. The Co-Chair presented the Agenda and recalled action points status from the previous meeting as follows:

**Agenda:**
- Welcoming remarks by UNHCR and UN Women
- Basic Needs Winterization: Poverty and Protection Targeting
- Intersectionality Workshop
- Sector Gender Focal Points Updates
- AOB
  - SGBV WG bi-weekly information
  - New ToR: draft circulating for comments [deadline: 11 October]
  - Monitoring gender exercise: [deadline: 15 October]

*For further information, please contact:*  
- Susana Boudon, Chair of SGFPN, boudon@unhcr.org  
- Amy Henderson, Co-chair of SGFPN, amy.henderson@unwomen.org

## 2. Basic Needs Winterization: Poverty and Protection Targeting

Maria Lagourou, VAF Coordinator from UNHCR, gave a presentation on “Mainstreaming Protection in Targeting for Basic Needs’ Winterization”. The Winter Assistance Programme is introduced typically in the first and last quarters of the year due to harsh winter months that bring additional costs for families to meet their basic needs. Existing multi-sectoral vulnerabilities have heightened due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, particularly in socio-economic and protection aspects. To intervene in this, the second allocation from the Jordan Humanitarian Fund (JHF) will focus on winterization assistance, including basic needs, shelter, and protection (PSEA) while prioritizing projects that address the needs of persons/household with several protection vulnerabilities. The allocation is open is currently open and proposals can be submitted.

Mainstreaming protection in targeting for basic needs, the targeting criteria is based on socio-economic elements, such as living below the national poverty line, high levels debt, and food insecurity, per which highly vulnerable and severely vulnerable population will be prioritized for the intervention based on specific needs elements including women, children, elderly, single parents, persons with disabilities and severe medical conditions.
UNHCR invited UN agencies and NGOs present in the SGFPN meeting that are interested in participating in the Basic Need Winter Assistance Programme to take the following steps:

▪ **Become a Basic Need Working Group member.** The next BNWG/WTF meeting will be held on Monday 5th October at 2-3 pm.
▪ **Obtain/renew RAIS Data Sharing Agreement (DSA).** There is a requirement to obtain VAF indicators and case information for eligible refugee families. It is also important to have the ability to monitor if a family/household has already received winter assistance from another partner (this can be received only once per season).

The floor was given to the participants who raised questions:

▪ **Who is eligible to become part of the WG:** Any NGO, INGO or UN agency is eligible given that they have funds available for the winter intervention. If your organisation has worked with refugee families, you can send their details to UNHCR who can include the families in this exercise.

▪ **Who should interested partners contact:** Maria Lagourou from UNHCR, who is currently replacing Veena, the Chair of the BNWG, during her leave. Both can be copied in the email followed by which interested partners will be included in the mailing list and invited to the next BNWG meeting.

*For further information, please contact:*
▪ Maria Lagourou, VAF Coordinator, lagourou@unhcr.org
▪ Veena Krishnamoorthy, Chair of Basic Needs WG, krishnam@unhcr.org

### 3. Intersectionality Workshop

UN Women proposed the arrangement of a remotely held Intersectionality Workshop focused on humanitarian work at the end of October generally to the participating organisations and agencies in the SGFPN as well as their partners who may benefit from this exercise. The proposal comes as a response to previous requests for training opportunities and capacity building exercises expressed by SGFPN members during discussions on the revision of the ToR and the future of the SGFPN.

With efforts to developing a capacity building plan to SGFPN members as per the ToR, a needs assessment survey is under preparation by UNHCR and UN Women co-chairs to map the type of capacity building and training needs in demand amongst the SGFPN members and their respective organisations and agencies. This will be completed by the end of October, but in the meanwhile the Intersectionality Workshop would serve as a value-adding starting point if SGFPN members are interested in participating.

The workshop will address the theoretical and practical application aspects of intersectionality. Intersectionality is a theoretical framework that directs attention to the ways in which sex and gender interact with several other factors (age, nationality, socio-economic status); the intersection of these factors is shaped by processes and power structures that create different vulnerabilities.

The workshop’s structure is the following:

1. Theoretical aspects of intersectionality
2. Practical application of the theoretical framework in the humanitarian response, especially in the context of COVID-19 in Jordan

If the workshop is of interest to SGFPN members and/or their organizations, they are invited to express this by responding to an email that will be shared about the Intersectionality Workshop by Amy Henderson after the meeting.

The floor was given to the participants who raised questions and suggestions:

▪ **Would the WS be organised for senior or field staff, or generally to all staff:** Generally, to all staff. The invitation can be shared with field staff, office staff, decision-makers, or anyone in the organisation, noting that the workshop will be held in English.
▪ **When the tentative list of participants is available, the possibility of engaging an interpreter can be considered.**
▪ **The importance of having the Gender Focal Point of the GBV Working Group was raised:** However, all staff beyond members and gender focal points are encouraged to join the workshop if they would find it useful for their positions.

Please find more information about intersectionality, COVID-19 interventions in the humanitarian response, and rapid assessments in the following publications produced by UN Women:
4. Sector Gender Focal Point Updates

- Co-Chair of the Education Sector Working Group, Sector Gender Focal Point, Dina Al Masri [NRC] updated that a 2021 Strategy is in a finalisation phase. The Strategy includes a gender analysis to support the Donor Working Group and partners in the sector to have a better understanding of the gender-specific challenges. The Strategy will be shared with the SGFPN for further feedback. Secondly, comments are being prepared for the revised draft ToR. Thirdly, this period comes with overall uncertainties for the education sector given that schools are not all aligned with their teaching methods during the current phase of the pandemic; some proceed with moderate and other with total distance and online learning. There are further challenges with schooling outside of the urban areas, particularly in the camps, which the education sector pays close attention to and aims to solve. Lastly, contemporary research in the sector is looking at gender sector analysis on the impact of COVID-19 in the entire group of stakeholders in the sector including students, teachers and the education of non-teaching staff at schools, as well as policy-level impact with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Interior – particularly with regards to the admission policies of non-Syrian refugees who are required to show proof of residency.

- Health Sector Gender Focal Point, Ruba Abu Taleb [IMC] will be on maternity leave and, thus, will not be present in the SGFPN meetings in the upcoming meetings until her return to work. Bayan Qadamani will replace Ruba, who will be briefed into the role and functioning of the SGFPN by her.

- Lubna Al Ajeeb, SGFP Protection WG has returned from sick leave. Comments on the ToR are under process.

- Chair of Livelihoods Sector Working Group, Najwan Aldorgham [UNHCR] shared a message on behalf of IOM; IOM is leading the SGBV Risk Assessment in Irbid on behalf of SGBV SWG. The assessment aims to assess the safety and improve the understanding of the risks of SGBV faced by different groups, collect localised views and recommendations to mitigate identified risk factors related to SGBV and livelihoods. The data is collected by qualitative means, mainly through focus group discussions and key informant interviews (respective of the current limitations posed by the pandemic and following Government’s restrictions). A task force will be created for the assessment including interested partners with field presence in Irbid working on GBV and/or livelihoods/women’s economic empowerment projects, particularly factories and agriculture, as the assessment will have a sectoral focus. For more information and interest in participating in the task force, please contact Rebeca Acin at racin@iom.int and Sammar Abu Khadra at sabukhada@iom.int before 4th October.

- Co-Chair of SGBV Sub-Working Group Mays Zatari [UNHCR] gave updates on behalf of the SGBV WG. Firstly, the SGBV gap analysis has been produced, which the SGBV WG would be glad to share with SGFPN. The analysis can also be found in the UNHCR Operational Portal.

- Secondly, the SGBV Sub-WG is also working on its strategy, which will be finalised soon and shared with SGFPN after this. Thirdly, the SGBV Sub-WG is undertaking preparations for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign taking place from 25th November to 10th December. A Task Force will be created for those who want to participate under the SGBV Sub-WG. The activities will likely be executed virtually due to the COVID-19 restrictions. The situation will be monitored, and necessary measures for the completion of the campaign will be taken accordingly. For more information and interest in participating in the task force, please contact Mays Zatari at zatari@unhcr.org and Pamela Di Camillo at dicamillo@unfpa.org.

- Co-Chair of Child Protection Sub-WG Group, Belal Khalifa [UNHCR] noted that once the ToR has been finalized, it would be beneficial to share it amongst the Child Protection Sub-WG members while introducing the SGFPN to them. This is to increase their awareness of the functions of the SGFPN and to see how and what kind of action could be taken to incorporate any elements from it into the Child Protection Sub-WG. The Chair of the Child Protection Sub-WG will reach out to the Co-Chairs of SGFPN to seek support in strengthening the linkage and coordination of gender in child protection as well as identifying gaps in current interventions.

For further information, please contact:
- Dina Al Masri, Education SGFP, dina.almasri@nrc.no
- Ruba Abu Taleb, Health SGFP, rataleb@internationalmedicalcorps.org
- Najwan Aldorgham, Chair of Livelihoods Sector Working Group, aldorgha@unhcr.org

For further information, please contact:
5. AOB

- The coordinators of the SGBV Sub-WG began to issue weekly newsletters on key information and resources related to SGBV, including assessments, research, new guidelines, training sessions and job opportunities at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic due to increasing demand. Currently, the newsletter is issued bi-weekly. Interested colleagues can contact Pamela at dicamillo@unfpa.org and Mays at zatari@unhcr.org to join the mailing list.

- New draft ToR has been circulated for comments, the deadline being 11th October. The comments are to be shared in track changes with Susana Boudon, Samira Smairat, Amy Henderson, and Anni Boiro. The final version will be shared once the comments have been incorporated.

- The template for the Monitoring Gender Exercise will be reshared with SGFPN members, including support contacts for any questions related to ActivityInfo. The reporting was anticipated to begin as of September. Any feedback from the SGFPN members is expected by 15 October.

For further information, please contact:

- Pamela Di Camillo, Co-Chair of SGBV Sub-WG, dicamillo@unfpa.org
- Mays Zatari, Co-Chair of SGBV Sub-WG, zatari@unhcr.org
- Susana Boudon, Co-chair of SGFPN, boudon@unhcr.org
- Amy Henderson, Co-chair of SGFPN, amy.henderson@unwomen.org
- Samira Smairat smairats@unhcr.org
- Annaklara Eriksson annaklara.eriksson@unwomen.org

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<tr>
<th>Action Points</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Share an email with a summary of the contacts of the colleagues to whom address questions or express interest in participating in: SGBV Sub-WG Risk Assessment; Intersectionality Workshop; and SGBV Risk Assessment / Focus Group Discussion.</td>
<td>SGFPN Co-chairs</td>
<td>After the meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN Women to share an email about the Intersectionality Workshop.</td>
<td>UN Women</td>
<td>After the meeting</td>
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<td>Receiving inputs on the draft ToR from SGFPN members by the 11 October and final ToR to be shared with SGFPN members.</td>
<td>Members</td>
<td>11 October</td>
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<td>Monitoring Gender Dashboard to start reporting as of the end of October.</td>
<td>Members</td>
<td>15 October</td>
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Next SGFPN Meeting

The next meeting will take place Thursday, 5 November 2020 from 11:30 to 13:00 via WebEx