

Disability Task Force

Meeting Minutes

Date: 11 November 2020

Time: 10:00AM - 12:30PM

Venue: Remote Via Microsoft Teams

Chairs: Huda Al-Shabsogh (UNHCR), Lauren Schoenster (UNHCR), and Marwa Mubarak (HI)

Minutes prepared by: Shada Malhas (UNHCR)

Participants: ARCS, HI, HCD, JOHUD, Mercy Corps, Medair, NHF, TDH Italy, UNHCR, UPP, IOCC

Meeting Highlights

Agenda Item 1. Terms of Reference for Disability Focal Points

- DTF members reviewed and discussed the TOR for Disability Focal Points (DFPs) and their role within the sector working groups.
- Main responsibilities of DFPs will include disability mainstreaming within the sectors of the response, provision of technical support for national and international actors, awareness raising and information sharing. The focal points will also act as the link between the DTF and the sectors working groups. They will be present in all working groups since inclusion and disability are cross-cutting issues.
- The Sector leads will nominate their respective disability focal points, who will attend DTF and working groups meetings (protection, shelter, education, food security, WASH, livelihoods, health, basic needs, inter-agency coordination).
- DTF members made a series of suggestions regarding the TOR, they noted that it should be more specific about the focal points' role within disability mainstreaming; it should mention that disability mainstreaming must be done throughout the whole programme cycle (i.e. planning, design, budgeting, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation) and focal points should provide technical advice for partners at all stages of the response; focal points should encourage persons with disabilities and their representatives to participate in DTF and sector working groups meetings; focal points should promote inclusivity for persons with disabilities and, with their advice, identify barriers and challenges, in order to facilitate their inclusion in projects and activities; the TOR should include the percentage of persons with disabilities that should be included in interventions.
- DTF members also suggested that the DTF/Focal points should conduct an accessibility audit of the sectors response and prepare a checklist/document with specific activities/indicators of disability inclusion within the response in line with HCD's plan.

- HCD offered their technical support to the revision of the checklist and other technical documents related to disability.
- DTF co-chairs noted that focal points will undergo a capacity building training on disability and inclusion when they undertake their post as focal points.

Action Points

- DTF co-chairs to review the TOR to incorporate suggestions made by DTF members. The revised document will be sent to the DTF members for any further comments before finalization.
- DTF co-chairs to follow up with sector leads in order to inquire about the focal points for each sector.
- DTF co-chairs to organize capacity building sessions with focal points in January/February.
- Accessibility audit of the response to be conducted early next year after the appointment of focal points.

Agenda Item 2. DTF Survey for DTF members

- DTF co-chairs will send DTF members a short survey to establish DTF priorities for next year and assess training needs of DTF members and frontline staff. The survey aims to improve our response as DTF.
- The first part of the survey focuses on the DTF's development. It requests basic information from each organization; specific areas and location of services; sectors of work; feedback from members on the work of the DTF; as well as priorities for the DTF as a group in 2021.
- The second part of the survey focuses on capacity building and training needs assessment. This will facilitate the identification of preferred training by members, the types of training that each organization requires and can offer, and how the training will be conducted.

Action Points

- DTF co-chairs will prepare a report with the survey results to be presented to the DTF members.
- DTF co-chairs to send DTF survey to members.

Agenda Item 3. Service Mapping (4Ws and 1H)

- DTF is highly recommended to update our countrywide mapping exercise/contingency plan in case there is a lockdown so we can obtain key information on sector activities to better coordinate, manage, and monitor the service delivery to persons with disabilities and the elderly. Due to COVID-19, DTF members are working to update their service mapping.

Action Points

- DTF co-chairs to send 4Ws and 1H excel sheet for DTF members to update/fill it out.

Agenda Item 4. DTF Members Updates

The Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD)

- The HCD was monitoring the status of the general elections, especially as seven candidates with disabilities are running for Parliament. They noted that it was 23 electoral centres were made accessible for persons with disabilities. They asked DTF members to look at their Facebook page as they have many updates on COVID-19 and recent developments, available in various accessible formats. They also noted COVID-19 cases among persons with disabilities.
- The HCD technical team had a donor meeting on 21 October during which HCD presented eight projects to donors. HCD is still waiting on their feedback on some of the projects. Projects are related to the national inclusive education strategy and national accessibility strategy (i.e. sign language, improving teaching capacities to teach those with hearing impairment and persons with disabilities who cannot read and write).

Nour Hussein Foundation (NHF)

- NHF continues to provide services on rehabilitation, special education and counselling in camps and in urban areas through remote modalities.
- NHF is still conducting outreach services with all the protective health measures taken in place.
- NHF is also providing mobility and assistive devices, such as hearing and visual aids.

Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD)

- JOHUD is preparing to provide persons on the waiting list with assistive devices, including hearing and visual aids and mobility aids. Budget is being reviewed in the process.
- JOHUD is preparing and updating the contingency plan during the COVID-19 pandemic, for elderly cases in shelter and receiving in-home care.
- JOHUD has resumed remote psycho-social activities related to counselling, group therapy and the elderly club. The activity plan for November and December to be updated and reviewed, including whether activities will be implemented online or onsite.
- achievements on RAIS and activity info is updated.

Mercy Corps

- Mercy Corps is currently working on two projects, the inclusive education and the non-formal education projects. The non-formal education project being implemented in Mafraq, Irbid, Ajloun and Zakra governorates, were shifted to an online modality due to the lockdown and school closures. They created a WhatsApp group for each centre, on meet me and Zoom applications.

UNICEF

- UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to continue integrating children with disabilities in formal education and providing them with the needed inclusive education services support.

- UNICEF is undertaking an evaluation study of its programme to inform future planning and support to the National Strategy.
- UNICEF continues to support children with disabilities during schools' closure in both camps and HC with printed material, home visits, rehabilitation sessions and regular follow up with care givers.
- UNICEF, in coordination with partners and MoE, is working on referring eligible children with disabilities who were identified as Out-of-School Children Initiative (OOSCI) from the Safely Back to School campaign, to formal education in both camps and HC.

IOCC

- IOCC with the partnership with IFH and support from BPRM is starting the second year of the project "inclusive relief and Empowerment for Syrian Refugees with Impairments and Disabilities in Jordan".
- The project has already started in Amman and Zarqa in three locations in the first year and now it's expanding to Irbid governorate; providing visual and hearing diagnosis and treatment, assistive devices such as hearing aids and eyeglasses, rehabilitation sessions such as Occupational therapy, Speech Therapy, and Special Education.
- Moreover, the project provides urgent ears and eye surgeries that prevent disabilities (if not treated)

[Agenda Item 5. Discuss activities for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 03 December](#)

- DTF members will observe the annual International Day of Persons with Disabilities on the 3rd of December under the theme “Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World”.
- The International Day of Persons with Disabilities will take place in parallel with the 16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.
- Notably, the COVID-19 pandemic has deeply impacted persons with disabilities lives and well-being, with increased feelings of isolation, disconnect, and disrupted routines as well as reduced services
- DTF members are encouraged to send the activities that will be conducted on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to the DTF for further circulation and sharing with others (i.e. UNHCR/JOHUD online magazine, working groups, Facebook pages, etc).

[Action Points](#)

- DTF members to submit any activities conducted on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities to the DTF co-chairs for further circulation and dissemination.
- DTF co-chairs available to provide technical support to make these activities more inclusive.

[Agenda Item 6. AOB](#)

- DTF members to select success stories, good practices and challenges relating to persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- HCD to provide trainings in Arabic to DTF members and frontline staff related to concepts of disability, the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities No. 20 for the Year 2017, accessibility for persons with disabilities, and effective communication with persons with disabilities. HCD mentioned that they could provide interpretation for this training in English.

Action Points

- DTF members to send good practices during the COVID-19 pandemic to DTF co-chairs for further discussion.
- DTF co-chairs will revise the good practices template.
- DTF co-chairs and HCD to follow up on providing the trainings for frontline staff and DTF members in Arabic.
- Next DTF meeting to take place on 09 December at 10am.