

Disability Task Force

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 09 December 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: Margherita Gastaldi (ARCS), Esraa Janajrah (CVT), Alia Zureikat (HCD), Tala Jallad (Help Age), Meg McManus (IOCC), Raya Freah (Mercy Corps), Medair, Muammar Fuad (NHF), Hadeel Sharaf (TDH Italy), Osama Sabbah (UNHCR Azraq), Chandra Jeevanathan (UNHCR Azraq), Maisa Al-Qaisi (UNHCR Education), Mohammad Almustafa (UNHCR Irbid), Rana Kawar (UNICEF), Zahraa El-Dakar (UPP), Mayada Elsabah (UNRWA), Giulia Capuani (Vento Di Terra), Matteo Mancini (Vento Di Terra),

Meeting Highlights

Short presentation by the Health Unit to the DTF members on the new policy of integrating Non-Syrian refugees into the Jordanian national health system.

Presenter: Duha Abulawi (UNHCR)

- In 2021, non-Syrian refugees will have access to public health services at the same rate of uninsured Jordanians. The non insured Jordanian rate is a subsidized rate that is used for Jordanians who do not have government health insurance and is about 35-60 per cent of what non-Jordanians (foreigners) pay for the same services.
- All registered refugees are encouraged to go to the Ministry of Health (MOH) facilities to access public health services.
- UNHCR will keep providing primary health care through its network of clinics in urban settings (Amman, Irbid, Mafraq, Zarqa, and South Medical Mobile Units (MMU) for vulnerable refugees. Refugees can contact Caritas or call UNHCR's helpline to verify their eligibility.
- UNHCR's Health Unit PowerPoint presentation was shared with all DTF members.

Terms of Reference for the Focal Points on Age and Disability Inclusion (FPAD)

Facilitator: Lauren Schoenster (UNHCR)

- DTF members reviewed and discussed the TOR for the Focal Points on Age and Disability Inclusion (FPAD) and their role within the sector working groups.
- DTF co-chair informed that the DTF's initial feedback had been incorporated into the TOR. The DTF co-chair noted that focal points with the support of the DTF and sector leads will conduct an inclusion audit of the response with indicators at a later stage.
- Some DTF members recommended separating the focal points to focus on disability and older age separately, while others agreed with having the focal points for both groups at this stage.

- DTF members noted that persons with disabilities and older persons are often more marginalized and excluded in their communities.
- DTF members informed that there were many challenges in providing services to persons with disabilities because of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and noted the need to advocate for increased services to persons with disabilities.
- HCD highlighted the need to ensure that the language of the TOR is reflective of a social and rights-based model of disability, and offered their technical support to revise the TOR and other technical documents related to disability.
- HCD suggested including the The National Council for Family Affairs in the DTF as we focus on older age inclusion in the refugee response.
- DTF members reviewed and agreed on the DTF's Focal Points roadmap for 2021.
Action point: DTF co-chairs will resend the TOR to DTF members and send it to external actors (Protection Working Group, Gender Network, etc) for their review. Deadline for receiving inputs will be December 31st.

DTF Members Updates

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

- The HCD will be working with the Royal Court on some of the interventions highlighted in the meeting with his Majesty the King.
- The HCD, along with the MOH and GIZ, participated in a donor meeting related to the education sector. A follow up meeting will be held in January to discuss an action plan based on the national ten-year strategy on inclusive education.
- The HCD issued a [press release](#) on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities highlighting challenges and interventions over the past months in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- HCD highlighted the need to make immediate interventions sustainable on the long term.

Humanity & Inclusion (HI)

- HI hosted a workshop on improving disability inclusion through good practices in Jordan. The workshop featured presentations from HI, Caritas, Oxfam, UNICEF, and British and Australian representatives. Participants highlighted challenges and achievements regarding the inclusion of persons with disabilities in public services and the humanitarian/development response in Jordan

Nour Hussein Foundation (NHF)

- NHF Community Based-Rehabilitation (CBR) team organized several campaigns and initiatives to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, including the distribution of 150 wheelchairs.
- NHF conducted an information session and training for parents, support persons/caregivers and persons with disabilities on how to use the wheelchairs in order to improve their level of independence.
- NHF CBR team also conducted a rapid needs assessment in order to gather information on challenges faced by persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic as well

as gaps of the response. NHF will share the results of this exercise with the DTF once the assessment is finalized.

- NHF continues to provide music, sports and literacy classes to persons with disabilities.

UNHCR (Azraq Camp)

- UNHCR team in Azraq organized a remote meeting to commemorate the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. UNHCR and NHF also launched a [video](#) that was circulated online and among refugees and partners.
- UNHCR is working on identifying persons with disabilities that face stigmatization, neglect and/or isolation in their communities in order to partner with them to create awareness campaigns and to sensitize the population in the camp.
- The UNHCR CBP team in Azraq is also working on their TOR DTF and is encouraging humanitarian actors to implement activities (i.e. vocational trainings, livelihoods) which are inclusive of persons with disabilities.

UNHCR (Education Unit)

- UNHCR Education Unit continues to provide special education services to children with disabilities; conduct home-based early interventions using an online educational system; and engage with children through home and field visits.
- During the COVID-19 pandemic, services were delivered through remote modalities.
- UNHCR Education Unit is providing parental counselling and awareness sessions on integration and communication to parents of children with severe disabilities. A total of 100 families benefited from this programme.

UNRWA

- On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, UNRWA organized an art competition focused on disability inclusion for children with disabilities. UNRWA is preparing an exhibition to present all the art work by children with disabilities to the general public.

IOCC

- IOCC hosted an online webinar on the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and invited a guest speaker from HCD and a representative from organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs). IOCC and IFH also launched a video that was shared online during the webinar for raising awareness about disability.

CVT

- CVT center is closed until the end of December 2020. CVT is providing services remotely. Referrals to be submitted to their focal point Salwa Saeed (Ssaeed@cvt.org).

[AOB](#)

[Facilitators: Lauren Schoenster and Huda Al-Shabsogh](#)

- DTF members provided feedback on the DTF's logo.

Action Point: DTF co-chairs to incorporate feedback from DTF members and present logo options during the next meeting.

- DTF co-chairs asked DTF members to respond to the DTF's short survey by 03 December.

Action Point: DTF co-chairs to analyze survey results and draft DTF workplan for 2021 to be discussed during the next DTF meeting.

- Service Mapping to be updated by the DTF members by 13 December.

Action Point: DTF co-chairs to send updated matrix to the sector working groups and publish it online.

- DTF members agreed to hold the next meeting on the 13th of January 2021.
- Season's greetings and happy holidays shared by the DTF members.