



## Disability and Age Task Force Minutes of Meeting

**Date:** 18 April 021

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

**Venue:** Remote Via Microsoft Teams

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

**Participants:** ARCS, ARDD, AVSI, AIDOS, Care, Durrat Almanal, HCD, Mercy Corps, Medair, MSF France, IOCC, SAB, LTUC, Terre des Hommes Italy, JOHUD, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR (Azraq), UNHCR (Irbid), UNRWA, UPP.

### Meeting Highlights

#### **Agenda Item I. DATF co-chairs update**

Presenters: Huda Al-Shabsogh (UNHCR) and Marwa Mubara (HI)

- DATF co-chairs conducted meetings with the chairs of the sectors and sub-sectors of the humanitarian response, including WASH, Livelihoods, Education, Health, Mental Health and Psycho-social Support, GBV, Child Protection, Food Security, Basic Needs, Reproductive Health, Shelter. DATF co-chairs introduced the work of the DATF and discussed the appointment of Disability and Age Focal points to the sectors.
- DATF also presented a brief about the DATF and the Disability and Age Focal points to members of the Basic Needs and WASH sector working groups.
- DATF co-chairs have provided five letters of support to DATF members to support their grant application to the Italian Agency For Development Cooperation (AICS) and the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the U.S. Government.
- DATF and the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities have coordinated to disseminate information about the vaccination campaign targeting persons with disabilities. The campaign started on 31 March but has been suspended due to a low turnout. UNHCR hosted HCD to talk about the campaign during a Live session on UNHCR's Facebook page. UNHCR also disseminated an SMS message about the campaign to over 14,000 persons with disabilities and through UNHCR's Community Support Committees and WhatsApp trees.
- DATF co-chairs thanked the Government for this campaign and continuous cooperation on disability inclusion.
- DATF co-chairs attended the Help Age International virtual launch of the Health Needs Assessment and the Brussels V Conference side event on disability on 24 March conducted by Humanity & Inclusion. The objective of HI's side event on disability was to call on donors to consider the latest evidence on the drivers of extreme vulnerability when deciding funding priorities, such as heightened prevalence of disability, barriers to humanitarian assistance and

protection risks affecting the majority of the Syrian population. The event also emphasized the need for inclusion mainstreaming and called for more donor engagement in regard to inclusion. The event highlighted the situation in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. DATF co-chairs are planning to have a presentation about this event during the next DATF meeting.

## **Agenda Item II. Presentation of the 3D Printed Prosthetics initiative by Luminus Shamal Start Initiative in Irbid**

Presenter: Amro Sawan, Nadine Hasan Abu Tuhaimeer and Ibrahim Faza (FabLab) and Dr. Muhannad Hatamleh (LTUC)

- Introduced their 3D printing application project. Informed that they are trying to establish an Excellence Center to assist people with congenital deficiencies or who were injured and have lost some of their limbs due to accident or war.
- The objectives of the project is to provide specialized dental and medical services to patients missing dental and/or oral tissues (teeth, gums), or patients with issues in their face, head and/or body using state of the art technologies; introduce new aspects of using additive manufacturing in the medical sector; build team capacity on using additive manufacturing in the medical sector; and collaborate with local and international organizations to provide better care for those in need.
- At FabLab in Irbid, they design and create various materials through digital controlled machines, 3D modelling software, electronic materials, tool machines and tools.
- The FabLab network extends to about 1,600 sites worldwide. In Irbid, they are aiming to be among one of the five biggest labs in the world.
- Presented different cases of people who have benefited from the work of the FabLab, including children and adults from refugee and Jordanian communities who were in need of prosthetics (i.e. face, limbs, ocular, dental, etc).
- Noted that prosthesis help people build their self-esteem and improves their integration within the community.
- FabLab has collaborated with doctors at the King Abdullah Hospital and with Doctors Without Borders.
- They have also created face masks, face shields, and an oxygen device/ventilator, to be used in extreme emergency cases.
- FabLab is looking for actors to collaborate on this initiative as they would like to scale up their project to establish a medical center.

### **Action points:**

- If any organization would like to collaborate with FabLab please contact Ibrahim Faza; Project Manager; Luminus Shamal Start; 07 9732 4324; ifaza@shamalstart.com.

## **Agenda Item III. Presentation of services being provided by Habitat for Humanity Jordan**

Presenter: Marwa Mubarak (HI)

- Habitat for Humanity Jordan was not able to do the presentation due to unforeseen circumstances.
- They have a project on shelter rehabilitation and maintenance in Marka and are focused on providing reasonable accommodation and making shelters accessible to persons with disabilities and older people based on their specific needs.
- Habitat for Humanity Jordan is requesting DATF members for referrals of cases that require inclusive shelter services. They will do a presentation during the next DATF meeting.

## **Agenda Item IV. DATF Members Updates**

### DATF co-chair update by Lauren Schoenster (UNHCR)

- The Jordan Humanitarian Financing Unit is in the process of preparing for a new call for proposals which is expected to be launched by mid -May 2021. The sectors leads are now starting the consultation to define the sector strategic response priorities and activities.
- Called DATF members to please advocate for disability and age inclusion in the sectors that members are part of; this means disability and age mainstreaming and targeted actions for persons with disabilities and older people.
- Note that sector leads are requested to encourage local NGOs to apply and support them in the application process.

### Azraq camp update by Chandra Jeevanthan (UNHCR)

- The Disability and Age Task Force at Azraq camp developed a questionnaire to assess challenges faced by persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 lockdown and how the lockdown has impacted them. The questionnaire is going to be asked to 500 individuals living in the camp through DATF partners; they have already contacted 400 people and expect to finalize the data collection by next week. They will share the report findings with DATF members once it is finalized.
- A meeting is going to be organized in the coming week to get the perspectives of persons with disabilities and older people about what they think about the COVID-19 vaccine. This is going to be done in coordination with UNHCR's Health Unit. Some initial conversations with persons with disabilities have showed that many are sceptical about the vaccine and not interested in registering.

### HCD update by Alia Zureikat

- HCD had announced a system by which people with disabilities could go to specific and allocated centers according to their impairment and disability type in order to be vaccinated. This announcement was disseminated by DATF co-chairs.
- Since then, because of a low turnout of persons with disabilities, especially in the governorates outside of Amman, HCD suspended the campaign.
- Recently, HCD had a meeting with the Crisis Management Center for COVID-19 and the Government is putting in place a new system to facilitate the process and the flow of information to HCD.
- There is a huge need for vaccination among persons with disabilities, however some do not want to get vaccinated.
- HCD to provide more information in the coming week. The objective is to make vaccination of persons with disabilities as easy as possible, and deal with cases as they come.
- There is a mobile team that can come to the houses of persons who cannot leave their houses and/or are bedridden to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. If the person chooses the mobile vaccination option, the only vaccine they can receive is Sinopharm as it is the only vaccine that can be carried from the vaccination centers to the houses.
- Noted that there is a gap in the COVID-19 platform system right now, because it is not clear for people that they can receive the vaccine at home. The option included in the system right now is "need assistance getting to the vaccination center", but some did not know that this was an opportunity to include health related reasons or disability.

- Highlighted some videos that have been posted in HCD's Facebook page; the medical team can come to the car and administer the vaccine for those who are not able to leave the car.
- HCD offered to review any grant applications about disability, including the recent call for proposals of the EU. HCD asked that DATF members share their application at the very beginning of the project design and noted that they have a process of verification that should be done at the beginning, which includes the identification of roles and responsibilities of different entities.

#### IOCC update by Meg Mccanus

- Working with IFH to equip community-based rehabilitation workers to provide more information and awareness about vaccination as they come into the clinics. They are assisting beneficiaries that were unaware/did not have access to information about vaccination, to help them register on the COVID-19 platform.
- Recognize lack of information and misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine; IOCC is scaling up efforts and make COVID-19 vaccine awareness a part of their regular activities going on with their projects in four different clinics.
- They want to at least ensure that persons with disabilities have access to registration.

#### Souriyat Across Borders update by Bara'ah Al Dalati

- Souriyat Across Borders is a charity registered in the UK and working in Jordan through their sister agency Al'Adoun which is registered in Jordan as a non-profit company providing development projects and training services.
- Started to work in Jordan in 2012 as part of the emergency response to the Syrian influx. They established a rehabilitation center for persons with disabilities, including medical care, physiotherapy, etc. They also provided capacity building, peer-support groups, etc.
- They focus on livelihoods and education services and want to join the DATF in order to be included within the referral system and find opportunities for collaboration.
- Souriyat Across Borders will conduct a presentation about their services in the next DATF meeting.

#### AVSI update by Fausta Genovese

- Currently managing a protection project with a component to support to persons with disabilities. Conducted a training in coordination with a local partner about disability inclusion in their activities
- Implemented 15 activities in Aqaba and Zarqa involving persons with disabilities and without disabilities. The objective of the activities was to reduce stigmatization within communities and foster learning about disabilities. They focused on activities for children, including sports and arts activities.

#### JOHUD update by Raneem Al-Sa'di

- JOHUD continues to provide services to persons with disabilities and older people, including provision of assistive devices, rehabilitation services, psycho-social support services, as well as early intervention and portage services to children with disabilities in different governorates (i.e. Amman, Irbid, Mafraq).
- There is a new rehabilitation unit in Hashmali; added the portage programme in the unit in addition to the physiotherapy sessions.
- After the presentation by Mercy Corps during the last DATF meeting about the inclusion of children with disabilities into the schools. JOHUD contacted Mercy Corps and registered about

40 children with disabilities into inclusive governmental schools. JOHUD is continuing to register more children.

- JOHUD provided awareness sessions at Community Support Committees (CSCs) about autism and Down syndrome during the World Autism Awareness Day and World Down Syndrome Day, targeting parents of children with disabilities.
- JOHUD is delivering food packages to old people and persons with disabilities during Ramadan.

#### **Agenda Item V. DATF Microsoft Teams Group**

Presenter: Lauren Schoenster (UNHCR)

- Presentation about the DATF Microsoft Teams group, which includes chat and library functionalities and is linked to the DATF e-mail.
- Referral contacts to be included in the DATF Microsoft Teams Group.

#### **Agenda Item VI. AOB**

- DATF co-chairs asked members to share nominations to participate in the Service Advisor training.
- HCD to provide a briefing about the new modality of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign targeting persons with disabilities and answer any questions by the DATF members. The briefing will be conducted in Arabic and Alia can translate.