

SGBV Sub-Working Group (SGBV SWG)

Syrian, African and Iraqi Refugee Response in Egypt

Meeting minutes

Date: 20 October 2014

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Venue: UNHCR Zamalek, conference room

Chair(s): Daniele Tessandori (**UNHCR**)

Participants:

(Nouran Gamal), (Cristina Barco) - **ACSFT**; (Reham Hassain) - **MSF**; (Mariam Fouad), (Eman Hanna) – **Caritas Egypt**; (Mohammed Farahat) – **EFRR**; (Heba Al Azzazy) – **Care International**; (Sarah Al Araby) – **UNFPA**; (Nader Wahba) – **UNICEF**; (Elizabeth Morrissey), (Renate Frech), (Abir El Menshawy), (Elizabeth Downing), (Kimi Sekhon), (Huda Ali), (Steven Choka) – **UNHCR**.

Agenda:

1. Endorsement of September meeting minutes and review of action points
 2. Roundtable: updates from all participants
 3. Protection Working Group: update
 - a. SGBV advocacy priorities to be presented to Protection WG
 - b. 3RP
 4. SGBV/CP campaign: key messages
 5. 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign
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Overview of Agenda point 1:

- ✓ The September meeting minutes were endorsed without edits.
- ✓ It was noted that UNHCR and UNFPA would meet to discuss GBVIMS next steps and report back to the SWG in due course.
- ✓ Members were requested to submit the names of their communications focal persons to UNHCR.

1- Overview and updates on the newly initiated SGBV Case Management Panel by Care International:

- Update point 1: The SGBV case management panel was initiated to discuss complex cases and coordination around such. These are chaired by UNHCR. It was noted that it would be useful to have agreed guidelines, and the panel is discussing the issue of consent. Future meetings will be held before the SGBV SWG so that any identified trends, gaps and coordination issues can be reported to the SGBV SWG the same day.

Overview of Agenda point 2:

1- Update from UNICEF:

Update point 1: In Alexandria, it has been noted that youth are being detained in Youth Centers and not in police stations. Currently, UNICEF does not have access to the detention Centers or the Youth Centers. Caritas does have access and agreed to share information regarding the detainees and detention conditions with UNICEF.

Update point 1: The UNHCR Field Office Alexandria Child Friendly Space is now operational. In Damietta one CFS is open and three more will open soon.

2- Update from UNFPA:

Update point 1: In association with the Arab Medical Union, the training for medical practitioners is almost completed. UNFPA are also working with Johns Hopkins to develop a screening tool for SGBV. UNFPA noted the need for partners to assist in the process of referral.

3- Update from Care International:

Update point 1: Care noted that they are still facing challenges with regards to case identification. They requested the members for any links to new CBOs. Care also acknowledged the limited capacity of CBOs and noted that they started with the planned group art-therapy sessions for women and men.

4- Update from UNHCR:

Update point 1: In order to prevent and respond to the issue of early marriage in the refugee community an *Early and Forced Marriage Task Force* is being created. The first meeting will take place before the end of October and it will be co-chaired between UNHCR and UNICEF. The first meeting will be dedicated to draft TORs, initial strategy and work plan. The work of the Task Force will be reported back to the SGBV and CP SWGs.

Update point 2: An Inter-Agency Task Force will work on the current draft of the SOPs with a view to their finalization and endorsement. The Task Force will comprise, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, StARs and Care International. The Task Force will report back to the SGBV SWG. The first meeting will take place on 10 November.

5- Update from MSF:

Update point 1: MSF requested that SGBV SWG members ensure anyone in need of MSF services and gave their informed consent, are referred. MSF also noted that their physiotherapy service is almost ready.

6- Update from ACSFT:

Update point 1: ACSFT are mostly seeing cases of rape, threats of violence and domestic violence however they noted that many applicants drop out during the legal proceedings, due to different reasons. ACSFT requested support in encouraging survivors to continue with their proceedings. They acknowledged that the length of court proceedings is also an issue for survivors as well as a lack of evidence or lack of sufficient identifying information of the alleged perpetrator.

7- Update from Caritas:

Update point 1: Caritas planned to hold an event on 15 October called '*I refuse to be exploited.*' They use the national definition of exploitation in their events. They further noted that the general security situation is having a negative impact on refugee women.

8- Update from EFRR:

Update point 1: EFRR noted that they had been granted access to detention facilities in Alexandria. Many of the cases they handle in Egypt concern proceedings for birth certification. It was noted that there was no difference between refugee populations with regard to birth certification issues. They noted that Syrian refugees must go to the Syrian Embassy to register the new born baby. If there is no official marriage contract the Embassy can arrange for it.

Overview of Agenda point 3:

Update point 1: As not many members had the opportunity to contribute to the 'SGBV Advocacy Priorities' document, participants have been asked to submit their input until next SWG latest. The document will be circulated with the minutes and contributions can be shared. Once finalized the 'SGBV Advocacy Priorities' document will be shared with the Protection Working Group for their information and further action.

Care international noted that, as the Ombudsman Office is not open any longer, that specific reference should be removed from the Advocacy Priorities document. The Office closed due to lack of funding.

Update point 2: Regarding the 3RP process, country and sector inputs are currently finalized. All Heads of Sectors have been called upon to revise the respective chapters to ensure that gender/SGBV and protection is effectively mainstreamed – UNHCR SGBV FoP is providing support on that issue.

Overview of Agenda point 4:

Update point 1: Regarding the SGBV/CP campaign, the following thematic topics were agreed by the SGBV SWG as key priority areas:

- Domestic violence;
- Sexual harassment;
- Sexual exploitation (including e.g. domestic work);
- Access to medical and other response services;
- Trafficking;
- FGM.

It was agreed that the messages would be developed around these topics and presented at the next SGBV SWG.

UNICEF has agreed to submit priority topics and key messages until end October.

Overview of Agenda point 5:

The ‘16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence’ (GBV) is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991. Information about the Campaign can be found at: <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/> and on the official Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/16DaysCampaign>.

Members agreed to consider activities for the Campaign to be updated at the next SGBV SWG meeting. The activities should focus on raising awareness of SGBV prevention and response in the community.

As thematic areas, the UNHCR global focus ‘Protecting Rights and Preserving Childhoods: Working Together to Address Child Marriage’ as well as the national topic will be considered as priorities. Regarding the latter, UNFPA agreed to inquire about it and inform UNHCR asap.

Summary of Action points:

Action	Lead Organisation	Deadline
1. Early and Forced Marriage Task Force, first meeting	UNCHR	28 10 2014
2. Members to submit the mapping of their activities to morrisse@unhcr.org	All	24 10 2014

3. UNHCR and UNFPA to conduct a bilateral meeting on GBVIMS	UNHCR and UNFPA	02 11 2014
4. Members to submit the names/contact details of their communications focal persons to ek@unhcr.org	All	27 10 2014
5. SGBV/CP campaign topics to be suggested to morrise@unhcr.org and consolidated key messages to be tested in the community	All	30 10 2014
6. SOP Task Force initiation	UNHCR	10 11 2014
7. UNFPA to check on national theme for the 16 Days Campaign	UNFPA	27 10 2014
8. ACSFT to share the number of prosecutions they reached and the number of drop outs.	ACSFT	10 11 2014
9. ACSFT to check on medical documentation requirements for filing and processing legal claims.	ACSFT	10 11 2014
10. Members to consider activities organised by their organisation for the 16 Days Campaign.	All	10 11 2014

Other:

Next SGBV SWG meeting will convene on:

Date: **10 November 2014**

Time: **10:00**

Venue: **UNHCR Zamalek**