

Workshop: Disability inclusion in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) programming

Thursday 19th June 2014

Alqasr Metropole Hotel, Shmeisani Al Aroub St, Amman



An estimated 26% of Syrian refugees in Jordan have impairments.¹ Group discussions conducted with persons with disabilities have identified that they are vulnerable to range of protection concerns, including violence, abuse and exploitation, but that they may not have the same access to prevention and response programs as other community members.² The SGBV and CP sub-working groups are seeking to strengthen coordination and capacity development on disability mainstreaming in SGBV prevention and response activities in Jordan. This workshop builds on previous discussions in the SGBV and joint sub-working groups to:

- Expand understanding about risk and vulnerability of persons with disabilities to SGBV
- Share strategies to promote access and inclusion in SGBV response and prevention activities
- Identify actions to advance disability inclusion in SGBV programming at organizational and working group levels

What factors increase vulnerability of persons with disabilities to SGBV?

Discussions about case studies highlighted the following factors that may increase the vulnerability of persons with disabilities and their families to violence, abuse and exploitation:

- Social isolation
- Knowledge of family members relating to disability
- Attitudes of family members relating to disability
- Capacity to share care-giving in the household
- Type of disability – Impairment, as well as length of time that the person has their disability
- Age of person with disabilities (e.g. adolescent girls)
- Change in gender roles for men and women in a household with a person with disabilities – Increases vulnerability both inside and outside the home
- Dependency on others for daily care – Results in an additional workload for women who are caring for persons with new disabilities in a household
- Size of family, age and gender of children in the family

¹ Help Age International & Handicap International (2014) *Hidden victims of the Syrian crisis: disabled, injured and older refugees*

² International Rescue Committee & Women's Refugee Commission (2013) *Building capacity for disability inclusion in gender-based violence programming in humanitarian settings – Jordan November 2013*

- Lack of education
- Community support networks

Ideas and / or strategies

Common understanding on disability inclusion among SGBV actors

Develop messages and / or positions on:

- The approaches or models to be used by SGBV actors when interacting with persons with disabilities
- Promoting diversity among SGBV staff (e.g. recruiting persons with disabilities, men as well as women as staff and volunteers in SGBV activities)
- Assessing and responding to vulnerability and resilience
- Mainstreaming “requirements” (e.g. in assessments) → Could start with the desk review of assessments currently being undertaken as part of the preparation for RRP7
- Non-discrimination (e.g. defining different types of discrimination that persons with disabilities might experience)
- Partnerships between SGBV and disability organizations

Capacity of SGBV practitioners

- Integrating disability inclusion into case management training
- Focus on mapping assets and strengths of an individual and their family

Note: This activity is currently underway and is being coordinated through the Case Management Task Force.

Access to services

- Strengthening the referral system for survivors with disabilities
- Expanding partnerships between SGBV and disability organizations
- Ensuring information on available services is accurate

Community-based approaches

- Mapping assets and strengths / support networks for families of persons with disabilities
- Recruiting persons with disabilities as focal points and volunteers
- Ensure representation of persons with disabilities and their families on women’s committees

Action points

Workshop participants developed the following actions to implement over the next six months:

Group 1: Inter-agency coordination

The SGBV sub-working group can promote disability inclusion in SGBV programming through the following actions:

- Integrating disability questions into assessments on SGBV
- Integrating disability into tools (e.g. safety audits)
- Analysis of data and information sharing through the GBVIMS (which is already disaggregated for disability)
- Highlight information on disability inclusion in the SGBV Briefing Note
- Map safe spaces and develop common understanding and standard for inclusion in these spaces – Integrate standards on disability into these guidelines
- Messaging for the community, but also for the SGBV sub-working group – Go back and look at the campaign materials. Make sure that disability is reflected in a positive way in community messaging
- Develop a guidance note and/ or position paper for programming that details how to integrate disability into GBV programs (e.g. through quotas and monitoring data)

The group will need to map out some of the tools that are already available and establish a mechanism for sharing these tools.

Group 2: Access to services

This group proposes to:

- Review the SOPs to ensure better partnership matching between GBV and disability organizations in relation to specific protection concerns
- Update the 3 Ws to reflect disability organizations
- Include disability in activity targets for prevention activities
- Strengthen the piece about identifications and outreach in the SOPs

A review of the SOPs is planned for later this year.

Group 3: Community based approaches

Recommend a task force to look at appropriate models for participation. In RRP there are notions about including refugees in management committees, but there needs to be more clarity about the models that are used for establishing these committees and ensuring diverse representation, including representation of persons with disabilities and their families. They will need to identify participation models that are already being used globally to understand lessons learned, and get feedback from different agencies. Ultimately, they would like to come up with the process so that persons with disabilities have a say over decisions that affect them. This process needs to promote accountability and be harmonized across the work of SGBV actors.

Final thoughts and suggestions

- Need to also engage with the MPHSS sub-group on this issue.
- Developing the expertise may be a challenge – This might take a little bit longer. But this could be achieved by strengthening the partnerships between protection and organizations; looking to the community for advice and inputs; and starting with small, tangible goals that facilitate learning and development.
- Approach the Higher Council for the Disabled to participate in upcoming meetings.

Next steps

Co-leads of the SGBV sub-working group will share information and action points from the workshop with the wider group for feedback.