Mafraq Monthly Coordination Meeting – Minutes
21.03.2016

Agenda
- Highlights from the last meeting.
- Security updates: UNHCR
- Main outputs of two days’ workshop on strengthening community initiatives – UNHCR
- Main outcomes of ILO assessment
- Overview of the ACTED/REACH Cities in Crisis consultation
- Main outcomes of ILO assessment
- Berm – update
- AOB

Highlights from the last meeting:
- A highlight of the previous Mafraq coordination meeting was shared, the main topics covered were: information on Eye-cloud, preparation for the world humanitarian summit, feedback on the community based initiatives meeting, discussion on gaps and areas of focus during 2016, in addition to other updates such as announcement on British counsel class and eastern border situation.

Security updates: Abdel Majeed Hailat (UNHCR).
- Update on the current security situation in Zaatari camp and Mafraq Urban have been shared by UNHCR security staff, it was noted that the overall situation is going smoothly without major incident of concern to UNHCR or NGOs staff.
- Few minor incidents related to refugees have been reported, in regards of entering/leaving the camp illegally or attempting to smuggle items inside/outside of the camp.
- A security working group meeting, chaired by UNHCR and joined by NGOs and SRAD, in being held in Zaatari camp on a bi-weekly basis, where host community security situation is being discussed as well.
- The security working group is using UNHCR security alerts system through SMS. NGOs and partners who wish to receive the security alerts need to provide the security working group with a focal point contact information.
- NGOs have been encouraged to share security incidents with the security working group to have a better response by altering staff in due time.
- After discussion, it was agreed (1) not to create a separate mechanism (no need as for now the security situation is good overall; also avoids multiplication of meetings) and (2) to strengthen the mechanism which already exists in Zaatari camp to ensure that security issues related to urban areas are discussed comprehensively, (3) to have regular security update during Mafraq coordination meeting. Ad hoc security meetings will be organized to address specific areas of concern (such as ITSs) if required.

ACTION POINTS
- Strengthen the existing mechanism by covering the security situation in host community during the security working group meeting Zaatari camp.
- Have regular security update during Mafraq coordination meeting, and potentially to have an ad hoc meeting regarding specific areas of concern such as ITSs if required.

Main outputs of 2-day workshop on strengthening community initiatives – Irene Omondi (UNHCR).
- 37 participants have attended a two-day workshop on strengthening community initiatives, the participants showed a high level of engagement,

ACTION POINTS
- Humanitarian actors to adapt their current community projects to
participation and openness that reflected positively on enriching the discussion and covering key concepts of community based protection.

- The main outputs of the workshop in regards of the way forward and action plan are:
  - To work closely with the community and to have a better understanding of its role, resources and the reasons for lack of participation.
  - To advocate for remote areas and community empowerment.
  - Information sharing and mobilizing community resources (ex. youth).
  - To strengthen the existing community network to support vulnerable groups (ex. women & PWD).
  - Capacity building for staff involved directly and indirectly with the community.
  - To attract donors attention to support community led initiatives.
  - To empower PoCs engagement and participation.

**Main outcomes of ILO assessment - Irene Omondi (UNHCR).**

- ILO launched their Local development strategy for Mafraq that was very clear in terms of objectives and action plan. The strategy focus on vocational training, agriculture and tourism with the idea of benefiting from lessons learned from the experience of other cities in Jordan. The strategy aims to improve social prosperity by reducing unemployment, creating job opportunities and encouraging investment in the area.
- ILO expressed their interest in performing detailed presentation in regards of strategy objectives and action plan.

**Overview of the ACTED/REACH Cities in Crisis consultation - Katie Richard (REACH)**

- The first world humanitarian summit will take place in May 2016. Mafraq city was among the cities selected for a consultation on urban response to crises that involves key actors, NGOs and governmental entities. A draft report of the consultation will be shared with participant NGOs for their feedback and input.
- The consultation main key recommendations are:
  - To continue using VAF, and to conduct assessment targeting the local community to have information about vulnerable Jordanians.
  - To have a process to convey the actual needs on the ground to the donors, and to have clear procedures and systems in place.
  - To encourage effective coordination among actors and to have regularly updated stakeholder mapping.
  - To engage local institutions to have more focus in the local community.

**Berm update - Catherine Philippe (UNHCR)**

- An update about the number of registered individuals on the berm (Rukban and Hadalat) has been shared: approx. 30 000 have been registered by UNHCR. The registration was done to facilitate the provision of humanitarian services, not to provide individuals with a legal status.
- UNHCR is working closely with WFP to facilitate access to food distribution, all registered individuals in Hadalat have been covered. A backlog of individuals in Rukban are waiting to receive the ration card.
- The rate of entry of refugees to the joint registration center (RAS) for final
screening increased from 40 to an average of 100 individuals/day. Azraq camp is receiving the new arrivals.

- An increase or decrease of new arrivals in RAS will depend upon the government decision on how to release the registered individuals in Rowaished. Protection actors (ICRC, UNHCR & UNICEF) are advocating for the most vulnerable individuals to be prioritized for entry, and community mobilization is one of the keys to identify vulnerable individuals.

- Security situation in the berm continue to be challenging due to the high concentration of population and the hard living conditions and poor weather condition. PoCs tried to cross the berm to reach the services area (on the Jordanian border side), the tension erupted as the government controlled the situation, some facilities of ICRC and UNICEF have been damaged and assistance distribution has been stopped several times.

- ICRC handed over the food distribution to WFP on early March, food is being distributed based on criteria. Registered individual are receiving the support, while unregistered are being referred to UNHCR for registration.

- UNICEF and OXFAM are working on WASH sector, water tanks have been installed with a foreseen challenge on water demands with the approaching summer.

- UNICEF and ICRC are working closely with the Royal Jordanian medical services, to provide health and nutrition services, were cases of malnourishment and delivery are being referred inside Jordan. ICRC health team is present on the berm on daily bases.

A.O.B.

Update on livelihood:

- The TOR of establishing a livelihood working group is under discussion, update in regards of work permits and livelihood opportunities will be shared once a clear information are available.

- The need to have an introductory meeting with the new governor was raised. Some NGOs suggested approaching the governor as one body, while others have already approached him bilaterally.

UNHCR will look into the modalities for the official introductions.

ISWG plan for 2016 - coordination unit

- The ISWG plan have been presented, the key focus areas include continued usage of the Vulnerability Assessment Framework, maintaining transparent data collection and information management systems, promotion of inter-sector Linkages, building capacity of coordinators and strengthening gender equality measures. The work plan available at the inter-agency information sharing portal. [http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=10342](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=10342)

NEXT MEETING: Monday 18 April, 11:00 am, UNHCR Mafraq.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael McDonald</td>
<td>ACTED</td>
<td>Mafraq Area Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:michael.mcdonald@acted.org">michael.mcdonald@acted.org</a></td>
<td>079 086 2980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atif Iqbal</td>
<td>Handicap International</td>
<td>Field Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:fieldco.irbid.jd@hi-emergency.org">fieldco.irbid.jd@hi-emergency.org</a></td>
<td>078 559 3872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hind Akooly</td>
<td>ICRC</td>
<td>HOSA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hiakody@icrc.org">hiakody@icrc.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omar Meizel</td>
<td>IMC</td>
<td>Team Leader</td>
<td><a href="mailto:omeizel@internationalmedicalcorps.org">omeizel@internationalmedicalcorps.org</a></td>
<td>079 830 1259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hussam Ghaleb</td>
<td>IRC</td>
<td>Field Coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hussam.ghaleb@rescue.org">hussam.ghaleb@rescue.org</a></td>
<td>077 506 6651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Philippe</td>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Protection Officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:philipp@unhcr.org">philipp@unhcr.org</a></td>
<td>079 895 8969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irene Omondi</td>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>CSO</td>
<td><a href="mailto:omondii@unhcr.org">omondii@unhcr.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Richard</td>
<td>REACH</td>
<td>Assessment officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Katie.richard@reach-initiative.org">Katie.richard@reach-initiative.org</a></td>
<td>0790212747</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria chiara delloa</td>
<td>VdT</td>
<td>Project manger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mariachiara.dellora@ventoditerra.org">Mariachiara.dellora@ventoditerra.org</a></td>
<td>0778237211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nawaar M Abu ramin</td>
<td>VdT</td>
<td>Local coordinator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nr1md1@gmail.com">Nr1md1@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>0799861917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Banan Al Jarrah</td>
<td>TDH</td>
<td>Case mangers supervisor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Cmsup.north.jo@tdh.ch">Cmsup.north.jo@tdh.ch</a></td>
<td>0790070845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waleed Kayed</td>
<td>ICRC</td>
<td>Ass. HOSD</td>
<td><a href="mailto:WKayed@ICRC.org">WKayed@ICRC.org</a></td>
<td>0776708126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam Slman</td>
<td>ICCS</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
<td></td>
<td>0780330441</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rana Battah</td>
<td>IRC</td>
<td>ERD deputy</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rana.Battah@rescue.org">Rana.Battah@rescue.org</a></td>
<td>0790570709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawid Odeh</td>
<td>LWF</td>
<td>Acting cash project manger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Cash.pro@dwslwf.org">Cash.pro@dwslwf.org</a></td>
<td>0796513479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdulla AL Mahmoud</td>
<td>HI</td>
<td>Filed</td>
<td><a href="mailto:co.assist.hi@gmail.com">co.assist.hi@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>0780555739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shadi Abu Gharibeh</td>
<td>ICMC</td>
<td>Coordination case worker</td>
<td></td>
<td>0790482984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aya Lafi</td>
<td>IOCC</td>
<td>Health project educator</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aalqader@iocc.org">aalqader@iocc.org</a></td>
<td>0796140683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ala’a Al suqar al</td>
<td>NRC</td>
<td>Cash officer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Alaa.asaqaral@nrc.jo">Alaa.asaqaral@nrc.jo</a></td>
<td>079138872 *</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abdel Majeed Hailat</td>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Coordination associate</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hailat@unhcr.org">hailat@unhcr.org</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruba Saleh</td>
<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>Coordination associate</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Salehru@unhcr.org">Salehru@unhcr.org</a></td>
<td>0796320052</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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