



Protection Working Group Meeting

Tuesday, 17 January 2022, 14:00-16.00 hrs

[In-person and virtual meeting]

Participants: AAR Japan, ACAPS, ADWG, ATWG, CARE, Caritas, CBM, Christian Aid, CPSS, DCA, DRC, Educo, GBVSS, GDPWG, Helvetas, HI, HLP Technical Forum, IOM, IRC, LAW, MHPSS WG, MSF, Mukti, Oxfam, Translators without Borders, Protection Sector Coordination, PSEA Network, RI, Save the Children, UNFPA, UNHCR, Winrock and WVI

Agenda

1. Review of action points from previous meeting
2. Operational updates (Sector, Sub-Sectors and Working Groups)
3. PSEA updates and highlights of recent assessment (PSEA Network)
4. Brief on onward movement and protection situation in camps (UNHCR legal team)
5. AoB

Item	Key Discussion Points	Summary of Action Points
1.	<p><u>Action points from the previous meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Sector to circulate updated Service Mapping Dashboard for the third quarter of 2022 (done)• The Sector to circulate further instructions on needs assessment approval (done)• The Sector to circulate messages to raise awareness against fake resettlement Google forms (done)	
2.	<p><u>Operational updates / Key updates from PWG members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• JRP 2023 The JRP 2023 document is currently being discussed with the Government at Dhaka level and is aimed to be launched around the first week of February.• Service Mapping 2022 Q3 and Q4 The Service Mapping Dashboard for the third quarter of 2022 has been finalized and the dashboard can be viewed on the humanitarianresponse.info website. The Sector has circulated request for inputs for the fourth quarter. Organizational focals are requested to comply with deadlines.• Volunteer Policy	



	<p>The revised volunteer policy was shared in December 2022, and a presentation was provided by ISCG in the last meeting. The roles/titles of volunteers for the Protection Sector have been revised and the revised document will be circulated soon. The document exhibits some revisions, including:</p> <p>Allowance for Skilled Bangladeshi Volunteers: An increase of the transport and tiffin allowance from BDT 2,000 to BDT 2,500 per month (increase of BDT 500 per month) only for fully Skilled Bangladeshi Volunteers (Skilled Levels 1 & 2).</p> <p>Duration of engagement: the duration of engagement is limited to eight hours per day and 22 days per month. Exceptions may be made due to exigencies such as emergency response, Safety Unit, Disaster Management Unit, etc.</p> <p>Hazard pay: In exceptional cases, a hazard stipend may be required. This falls under two categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- BDT 1,100: Daily functions involving the removal of environmental and/or hazardous waste (such as desludging roles under the WASH Sector)- BDT 1,500: Functions for emergency response (such as COVID-19 response roles under the Health Sector or emergency response during floods or fires under the SMSD/SNFI Sector) <p>• Protection Sector SAG 2023</p> <p>The Protection Sector will invite application the new Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) for 2023 which will be responsible for providing strategic direction and guidance to the Protection Sector. The SAG will include 4 UN agencies and 7 NGOs (national and international) as members. Organizations applying should be fulfilling the following minimum requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Implementing a current general protection program within the JRP2. Existing participation to the PWG and committing to participate to the PWG regularly and actively and contribute to its work and tasks3. Operational presence on the ground in the Rohingya response <p><u>Child Protection Sub-Sector Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPSS Coordinator Ms Krissie Hayes has completed her assignment in Bangladesh and joined UNICEF in Myanmar. Currently, Ms Melissa Bencick is acting as the CPSS Coordinator. The IMO position of the CPSS is also currently vacant, and will be filled next month.• CPSS organized a training for all CP focals and alternate focals, with a session on GBV.• CPSS has finalized partners for each of the camps for 2023, with two partners responsible for each camp based on the rationalization conducted towards the end of last year. <p><u>Gender Based Violence Sub-Sector Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The GBVSS convened the first monthly meeting of the year yesterday, 16 January.• The SS is currently conducting assessment on readiness of partners in case management and plans on conducting the assessment every year. A survey conducted earlier last year showed that out of the 67 partners of the SS, 42 are planning on carrying out case management in 2023. Quality assessment of the partners will also be conducted in relation to this.	<p>Protection Sector to circulate revised Protection volunteer roles and titles.</p> <p>Protection Sector to invite applications for the new SAG for 2023.</p> <p>For details, please contact: Ms Melissa Bencick, mbencick@unicef.org</p> <p>For details, please contact: Ms Rebecca Nakaweesi nakaweesi@unfpa.org</p>
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- The SS conducted workshop with all implementing partners in December on case management.
- Service audit workshop to take place on Thursday, 19 January, to ensure that facilities available in the camps provide quality services and following proper guidelines.
- GBV AOR has developed electronic pathway system and GBVSS to ensure that all partners use it starting from February. Currently, the referral pathways are available in HRinfo, but the new system has been introduced so that partners in camps can access it without internet. A training will take place during the second week of February on the new electronic pathway system.
- GBVSS conducted a strategy workshop in December. A draft has been prepared on the outcome of the workshop, but further discussion is required to finalize the strategy for 2023-25.

Anti-Trafficking Working Group Update

- The first ATWG monthly meeting of the year will take place on 24 January.
- Key messages on onward movement that were produced by the ATWG has been shared with the ISCG to disseminate with all Sectors.
- The WG is in the process of following up with some of the recommendations provided by the Special Rapporteur last year during her visit. The recommendations have been shared with the Protection Sector earlier.
- The WG is in the process of updating the Service Mapping dashboard on Anti-Trafficking, in collaboration with GBVSS and CPSS.

Age and Disability Working Group Update

- ADWG has provided trainings on Washington Group Questionnaire to 150+ humanitarian workers in Cox’s Bazar during Nov – Dec 2022, and will be providing the training to the UNHCR registration team in January 2023
- The WG conducted a workshop to draft the annual plan for 2023. It will be shared with partners for suggestions, once ready.

Gender Diverse Population Working Group Update

- The GDP WG has drafted the workplan for 2023 which will be finalized after incorporating inputs from partner organizations.
- The monthly meeting will take place tomorrow, 18 January.
- Hefajat Ullah has left his position as Co-Chair of the GDP WG, and the position is currently vacant right now.

House, Land and Property Technical Forum

- Ms Rhoda Kadama has recently joined the Shelter and NFI Sector as HLP Coordinator.
- HLP TF plans for 2023 includes
 - improving HLP case management, which is not present in all camps yet, and mobile support is provided in camps that do not have HLP focal presence
 - prioritizing capacity building, with the main focus to provide access and tenure of tenure
 - continuing with advocacy, in preparation of policy

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HLP TF is looking into the issue of unavailability of empty shelters for Bhasan Char returnees, and are using direct interviews with tenants to identify the causes. ACAPS will provide analysis on data collected so far. The TF will present results of the analysis, once ready.	
3.	<p><u>PSEA updates and highlights of recent assessment (PSEA Network)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">PSEA network has started receiving requests for PSEA mainstreaming trainings, and looking forward to providing half-day trainings to protection focals and PERU team members.No excuse cards are ready and should be available in all offices. Posters have been prepared on the six core principles and the option to include contact information of PSEA focals of the respective offices. These posters are applicable for humanitarian workers, and not refugees.Revised PSEA SOPs are now available. Partners are requested to go through the document which will be revised in mid 2023.PSEA action plan for Cox’s Bazar as well as the entire Bangladesh operations in 2023 has recently been endorsed by the Un resident Coordinator in Dhaka, and has been submitted to the Special Coordinator at the UN Headquarters. A presentation on the workplan will be provided soon.A survey has been conducted on Compliant and Feedback Mechanism in the camps and has reached 509 individuals in 6 days. About 50% of the respondents were female and 50% male. The survey was divided into two sections – general issues and sensitive issues. On the general issues, 96% said that they are familiar with the mechanism and 97% mentioned having used it recently. However, on the sensitive issues, only 6% admitted using the mechanism since they consider family and relatives, CiCs and women and girl safe spaces as the three most trusted points for sharing sensitive issues. Only about 2% were aware of the existence of the email and hotline numbers. A more detailed presentation will be provided once the report is finalized.	<p>PSEA Network to provide a presentation on the final workplan for 2023.</p> <p>PSEA Network to provide presentation on Compiants and Feedback Mechanism survey in the camps and circulate the final report.</p> <p>For details, please contact: Mr Bora Ozbek bora@iscgcb.org</p>
4.	<p><u>Brief on onward movement and protection situation in camps (UNHCR legal team)</u></p> <p>Onward movement</p> <p>Since November 2022, 6 boats have disembarked in Indonesia. One boat has also disembarked in Sri Lanka in December, with 5 refugees who left from the camps in Cox’s Bazar. The aproximate number of refugees to have disembarked is estimated to be around 800. The last boat that disembarked in Indionesia was on 8th January with 184 refugees. UNHCR Press releases were circulated requesting countries to abide by international and maritime law for the boats stuck at sea, with the boat being stranded in the sea for a month and about 20 refugees reported dead. Advocacy was done at regional level with the states in order to rescue the boats and allow debarcation. The UNHCR bangladesh team is working closely with UNHCR Indonesia and supporting relevant states in conducting screening of refugees arriving by boat.</p>	<p>For details, please contact: Ms Barbara Colzi colzi@unhcr.org</p>



	<p>A trend has been noticed recently on disembarkment in Myanmar – both on boats and on land. Although very difficult to understand the number, roughly 300 - 400 refugees may have disembarked in Myanmar. Most likely to move onward from there to other countries.</p> <p>Refugees have also been arrested within Bangladesh for onward movements. They tend to move in smaller groups and then gather in a larger group for departure. The smaller groups are being intercepted by authorities, and temporarily relocated before being sent back to the camps. Sometimes, UNHCR is requested to provide food and other support during this relocation period. Around mid-December, 3-4 smaller groups were intercepted in Teknaf just before leaving. On 12 January, one group of 23 refugees have been intercepted in Teknaf. Cases have been lodged under the trafficking act. Authorities can detain refugees for up to two days before sending them back to the camps, and no further legal steps are taken against them for trying to leave the camps.</p> <p>Security situation in camps</p> <p>Clashes between different armed groups continue in the camps. The APBn has increased its presence in some of the camps, with restricted movement of refugees outside the camp at night, and sometimes during the day as well.</p> <p>Increase in number of abductions and kidnappings for ransom has also been noticed in Teknaf area. In some of the camps and surrounding areas, violent robberies committed by criminal groups have been reported. The incidents take place mostly during the night and do not seem to be targeted kidnappings.</p>	
5.	<p><u>AOB:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New protection Coordinator and Protection officer scheduled to arrive soon, a handover is being arranged to help them transition.• The next PWG monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, 22 February 2023 at 14:00 – 16:00 hrs.	

For any more information on the PWG meetings, the PWG mailing list and other related issues, please contact Mr **Michel Huyghe** (huyghe@unhcr.org) and Ms **Mostarin Shamanta Rahman** (shamanta@unhcr.org).