



## Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

<http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/field-support/field-protection-clusters/bahamas/>

|  |  |                            |                                |                    |
|--|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Date</b>  | 22/10/2019 – <b>Meeting #11</b>  | <b>Location</b>            | National Training Agency       |                    |
| <b>Chair</b>   | Maeve Murphy <murphym@unhcr.org>, Senior Protection Coordinator, UNHCR   | <b>Minutes prepared by</b> | Deneisha Moss <moss@unhcr.org> |                    |
| <b>Participating organizations</b>   | <b>UNHCR / WFP / UNFPA / Social Services / Office of the Attorney General &amp; Ministry of Legal Affairs / Ministry of Health / IOM / IFRC / Ferreira Foundation / Active Citizen Bahamas / Child Evangelist Fellowship</b>   |                            |                                |                    |
| <b>Agenda</b>  | <p><b>Endorsement of previous PWG minutes</b></p> <p>Agency updates on specific issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration</li> <li>• 3W, Activities Tracking &amp; Referral</li> <li>• Documentation</li> <li>• Psychosocial/Mental health</li> <li>• Human Rights</li> <li>• Cash based interventions</li> <li>• Communication with Communities</li> </ul> <p>Update from Sub-working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child Protection,</li> <li>• GBV/PSEA</li> </ul> <p>Field Update – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc.<br/>AOB</p> |                            |                                |                    |
| <b>Previous meeting action points</b>  |  |                            | <b>Status</b>                  | <b>Responsible</b> |
| Frequently asked questions by community – it would be helpful if people can share frequently asked questions which are being asked by the community to clarify |  |                            | Pending                        | All agencies       |
| All PWG members to complete PSEA online training before end of Month and to share cert with Edoard   |  |                            | Pending                        | All Agencies       |



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| Referral form to be agreed by subworking groups to include psychosocial referrals   | Pending                              | IM to call meeting regarding same |
| <b>Child Protection – Confirmation of when school starts with location details and confirmation of locations waiting to be accommodated, also details of child friendly spaces to be shared</b> | <b>Pending</b>                       | <b>UNICEF</b>                     |
| <b>OAG to confirm when decision is made regarding the death certificate</b>   | <b>Pending</b>                       | <b>OAG</b>                        |
| <b>Discussion on way forward for 3W-activities tracking</b>   | <b>Presentation for next meeting</b> | <b>IM</b>                         |
| <b>Criteria used by Social Services dept for those eligible for support would be beneficial and where the documentation centres might be established and where</b>                              | <b>Pending</b>                       | <b>Social Services</b>            |
| <b>Details of obstacles and gaps for documentation replacement to be shared</b>   | <b>Pending</b>                       | <b>All Agencies</b>               |
| <b>Minimum expenditure basket</b>   | <b>Pending</b>                       | <b>Social Services/ICRC</b>       |
| <b>Details of names and details of students who may be impacted with moving to the gym to be identified for possible replacement of uniforms</b>  | <b>Pending</b>                       | <b>MoE/SS</b>                     |
| Different communication strategies for different locations could be developed – i.e. where international agencies were providing services – no cost   | <b>Pending</b>                       | <b>MoH/Various agencies</b>       |
| Mobile teams to be considered while documentation not replaced to ensure access to health clinic  | <b>Pending</b>                       | <b>MoH/various agencies</b>       |
| Accreditation of NGOs to be shared in advance of PSEA implementation of complaints system   | <b>Pending</b>                       | <b>SS/UNFPA</b>                   |

### AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSIONS

| By Agenda Item      | Main Points and Decisions from Discussions  | Agreed Follow-Up Actions | Responsible |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Registration</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SS/IOM shared latest figures from shelters: 809 at Gym (1% change from previous day), 154 at Bahamas Academy and 57 at Calvary Haitian Church</li> </ul> |                          |             |



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SS noted there are plans to close Calvary Church by the end of this week, and persons will be transferred to the Gym</li> <li>○ Rep for disability commission questioned the number of persons at the gym with disabilities. SS would need to confirm but suggested that those with chronic illnesses into that figure.</li> <li>○ Chair questioned whether there was any feedback on joint assessment for Gym, because those with specific needs and overall situation should be improved. SS did not have feedback on the joint assessment and Chair questioned whether the same could be received by Thursday 4pm meeting. Chair also recommended for there to be a representative from the disability commission in the assessment.</li> <li>○ Chair noted there will be a ‘verification brainstorming’ session in the morning whereby agencies are expected to come together and determine what a verification exercise would look like and what each sector would need – if it got the go ahead.</li> <li>○ OAG raised the question on whether this exercise would be able to quantify how many kids are not in school? Chair confirmed this is exactly the type of information we hope to garner from such an exercise, because there is currently a gap.</li> <li>○ SS updated that MOE have processed 1,500 students and are ready to provide them with letters once their parents produce NIB or identification. This allows them to go to school, as all kids have to be to school. Approximately 900 letters have been distributed so far, with 500 not collected amongst those pending/not collected. 150 letters are being withheld because parents have no ID. Query from the floor how parents can provide documentation if they have no legal status or lost documents, it is not possible.</li> <li>○ Moreover, despite the letter, some schools are still not letting the kids attend because they don’t have space/teachers, etc. There was a question on the actual document required from MOE, to which SS confirmed MOE would need to answer that. Chair mentioned that catch up classes in the interim were likely to be solution if it could be raised at the appropriate level.</li> </ul> | <p>SS to revert with number of PWD in the shelters</p> <p>SS to share feedback from joint assessment</p> | <p>Social Services</p> <p>SS</p> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ IFRC questioned whether re: tent cities, has there been consideration of where children will go to school? SS was not sure, but noted that teachers have been reaching out to prepare classes. It was noted that as per media all the schools won't be open until 2020.</li> </ul>  |  |  |
| <p><b>Survey/Needs assessment</b></p> <p><b>3W, Activities Tracking &amp; Referral</b></p> <p><b>Documentation</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NSTR</li> <li>○ IM support noted they been working with DTID to revise existing 3w, and this week they will be training colleagues on a new system on indicators. The have been migrating from previous systems and while there are openings for additional indicators, the number of indicators are restricted and the whole process must be simplified.</li> <li>○ IM support noted the global working group provides reports that guide what to report in certain time frames – and noted that this might be the future going forward, but for the moment, the focus will be on weekly reporting at the moment</li> <li>○ ESF5 in Abaco participated for the first time there is the need for training asap, which could take place as early as next week</li> <li>○ OAG noted the question of what will happen with death certificates has not been decided.</li> <li>○ OAG also updated the Eugene Dupuch law School is currently keeping a low profile given the number of cases they are working on - 162 children of whom they are trying to document. They are mainly working with children's homes to replace birth certificate and NIB. As they currently were overwhelmed there was thus a gap in supporting children's replacement documentation which could be shared with donors.</li> <li>○ UNHCR noted the significant costs associated with replacing documentation, in some cases (depending on context) exceeding 900 USD. Noting that these costs were significant in the absence of a workable waiver, it was noted that details of the waiver remain elusive.</li> </ul> |  |  |



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair – noted that the costs were gaps which could potentially be filled by donors noting the importance of understanding the costs in the event that there would be assistance to help with this</li> </ul>  |  |  |
| <b>Psychosocial/<br/>Mental health</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MOH noted there was no timetable from Bahamas Psychological Association on when they will have sessions at the govt. clinic but there were currently conducting clinics at doctors hospitals and the national art gallery (in addition to the shelters)</li> <li>○ In GB they are also working, MOH is working on a two year strategy with CRS to support services there. No update available for Abaco.</li> <li>○ OAG mentioned there was also the Seahorse institute working with people who in the shelters, and in the past week there were concerns regarding suicidal thoughts coming from those in the shelters.</li> <li>○ SS raised the point that people should be aware with messages they receive since they weekend they observed message indicating there was no food and water at a shelter, but upon verification by SS, this was found not to be true.</li> </ul> |  |  |
| <b>Human Rights</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair clarified that the position of the UNOHCHR which appeared in news media this week, highlighting that while the State is sovereign and thus have right to carry out certain functions, the same must be done in accordance with due process</li> <li>○ Noting that the advocacy is from the UN vis-a-vis the verification is to include statelessness persons in order to safeguard their rights to nationality rights in the future. Notwithstanding, there is the need to differentiate the groups</li> <li>○ OAG noted that deportation is a legal process, so people would have the opportunity to raise issues/questions, however, the Chair noted there were questions surrounding certain incidents, because in some cases for example, deportees claimed they had legal documents, but did not have the opportunity to retrieve the same.</li> </ul>                   |  |  |
| <b>Cash Based Interventions</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WFP noted CBI should remain on the agenda, with SS or IFRC maybe updating on that because it's a cross cutting issue that impacts across sectors.</li> </ul>  |  |  |



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| <p><b>Communication with Communities</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ferreira Foundation noted that it continues to follow up with BTC lead on the FM transmission, to share pertinent information on the islands, but has not made progress in that regard.</li> <li>○ Chair requested an update from SS on whether there any plan to compile a FAQ from all agencies to be shared by for NEMA? SS welcomed leaflets setting out information, but cannot make a final decision on distribution</li> <li>○ IM support suggested the possibility of a focal point on a specific topic to channel topics in a particular category – e.g. how to replace documents or where to go for certain information. The Chair added that this also helps persons as it related to identifying which agencies are not accredited, so community will be better placed to understand these issues</li> <li>○ SS agreed with the idea and promised to follow up with FAQs</li> <li>○ IOM shared a sample ID, and demonstrated the same could be used in concert with the accreditation system</li> </ul> | <p>SS to look into the question of producing FAQs</p>        | <p>Social Services</p> |
| <p><b>GBV/PSEA</b></p>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PSEA Consultant was introduced and questioned who amongst the group had completed the PSEA training. - <a href="https://extranet.unfpa.org/Apps/PSEA2017/story_html5.html?lms=1">https://extranet.unfpa.org/Apps/PSEA2017/story_html5.html?lms=1</a></li> <li>○ Noted that the risk of PSEA is higher where you have situations of discrimination or GBV, there is an urgent need to act to prevent PSEA</li> <li>○ Noted he will work closely with Government Ministries developing TORs for PSEA network in the country, FPs and managers</li> <li>○ Possibility to do a training of trainers on PSEA</li> </ul>  | <p>Certificate to be sent back to UNFPA – fgul@unfpa@org</p> |                        |
| <p><b>Child Protection</b></p>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ IFRC raised the issue of the lack of background check on volunteers coming in to shelters and overall. Suggested the Govt. may wish to consider including this protocol going forward as there is no legal framework on volunteers. Chair noted that there are good examples of how volunteer programmes can be managed from Greek situation (contact Yasmine)</li> </ul>   |  |                        |



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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MOH noted that people should go through the correct channels, i.e. register with NEMA, whereas IOM flagged again the good practices from Greece, and that education is key because people need to understand why there are rules around this.</li> <li>○ Chair noted that confidentiality agreements and code of conduct are two critical components should be included from the outset.</li> <li>○ MOH noted that in health – EMTs and independent volunteers sign a waiver and confidentiality form, to which the Chair noted that perhaps health is probably the only one agency that has done this.</li> <li>○ Chair introduced the concept of PSAE and noted the online training should be completed by all.</li> </ul> |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|

### OTHER ISSUES TO NOTE

AOB – from Field

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|---------------------|---|--|--|
| <b>Next Meeting</b> | <i>National Training Agency, 29/10/2019 @13h30 – National Training Agency</i>   |  |  |
| <b>Next Agenda</b>  | <p><b>Endorsement of Above PWG minutes ( )</b></p> <p><b>Agency updates on specific issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Registration</li> <li>● 3W, Activities Tracking &amp; Referral</li> <li>● Documentation</li> <li>● Psychosocial/Mental health</li> <li>● Human Rights</li> <li>● Cash based interventions</li> <li>● Communication with Communities</li> <li>● PSEA</li> </ul> <p><b>Update from Sub-working group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● GBV</li> </ul> |  |  |



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- Child Protection,

Field Update – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc.

AOB – Any other Business

