



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

Date	29/10/2019 – Meeting #12	Location	National Training Agency	
Chair	Maeve Murphy <murphym@unhcr.org>, Senior Protection Coordinator, UNHCR	Minutes prepared by	Deneisha Moss <moss@unhcr.org>	
Participating organizations	UNHCR/IOM/Americares/MOH/UNFPA/C.E.F.			
Agenda	<p>Endorsement of previous PWG minutes</p> <p>Agency updates on specific issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • 3W, Activities Tracking & Referral • Documentation • Psychosocial/Mental health • Human Rights • Cash based interventions • Communication with Communities <p>Update from Sub-working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection, • GBV/PSEA <p>Field Update – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc. AOB</p>			
Previous meeting action points			Status	Responsible
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
Referral form to be agreed by sub-working groups to include psychosocial referrals			Pending	IM to call meeting regarding same



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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	Pending	UNICEF
OAG to confirm when decision is made regarding the death certificate and also to share details of Eugene Dupuch Law school to develop leaflet on services being provided	Pending	OAG
Discussion on way forward for 3W-activities tracking	Presentation for next meeting	IM
Criteria used by Social Services dept for those eligible for support would be beneficial and where the documentation centres might be established and where	Pending	Social Services
Details of obstacles and gaps for documentation replacement to be shared	Pending	All Agencies
Minimum expenditure basket	Pending	Social Services/ICRC
Details of names and details of students who may be impacted with moving to the gym to be identified for possible replacement of uniforms	Pending	MoE/SS
Different communication strategies for different locations could be developed – i.e. where international agencies were providing services – no cost	Pending	MoH/Variious agencies
Mobile teams to be considered while documentation not replaced to ensure access to health clinic	Pending	MoH/various agencies
Accreditation of NGOs to be shared in advance of PSEA implementation of complaints system	Pending	SS/UNFPA

AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSIONS

By Agenda Item	Main Points and Decisions from Discussions	Agreed Follow-Up Actions	Responsible
Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The verification/registration process continues to move forward. Charlene Laing has been identified as project manager for the project; however as she is currently away, so a Ministerial and technical meeting will be convened on the activities after her return. Anticipated these meetings will take place next week. 		



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<p>3W, Activities Tracking & Referral</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chamber of Commerce is also pushing the need for registration/verification as well as the Chair for the Disaster Relief Committee, so that's positive ○ Chair updated the IM coordinator is currently in Abaco conducting trainings ○ Noted that Activities Info is the agreed upon format going forward, as opposed to 3W. There were initially concerns related to the XL format of the activities info, and the idea was to simplify and make the platform more manageable to help reflect the needs on the ground. 		
<p>Documentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No update on death certificates or replacement of docs from the OAG, however on work permits, there is a realization that labour will be needed and therefore potential support is being considered by the Government for the transfer of work permits. This is currently being looked at and PSWG will continue to advocate for this as vital to have confirmation before verification exercise 		
<p>Psychosocial/ Mental health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair updated on the situation in Abaco, regarding the immigration exercises which are exacerbating psychosocial issues amongst the affected the population, and even the identification of those people is now becoming a protection issue. PSS concerns have increased. People are staying overnight in a church with the lights out of fear that once lights are out, immigration will raid them. ○ IOM noted that department of immigration is conducting raids at night and it is further traumatizing an already traumatized community who are now living in fear – including amongst evacuees. ○ Noted that people have been picked up and sent back to Haiti, and there was a mention of an individual case reported in the media, where a family from Abaco went out of collective shelter to go to local restaurant (father is on a work permit, mother children are not) and the latter was detained by immigration. ○ MOH indicated they were sending psychiatrists and psychologists to Abaco for the response, and they are still waiting on Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to start in Grand Bahama. 		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MOH further noted that they are building the relationship with Red Cross and the mental health nurses working with them on PSS efforts to get a better understanding of their outreach. ○ It was highlighted that with the concern over immigration that a more effective response is needed to ensure patients in need can access public health care and psychosocial response as without which their mental health could significantly deteriorate 		
<p>Human Rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The most recent detention figures were shared as of the 29 October which stood at 187 persons (inclusive of 2 persons in the safe-house). ○ The issue of abuse allegations by Immigration Officer was raised and it was noted that the allegations were also brought to the attention of the Attorney General. The AG noted that any such allegations should be reported and investigated. However there is the fear by victims of retribution and therefore they will not come forward. ○ OHCHR noted that in the current climate one cannot be expected to come forward and report abuse and torture, because there is no guarantee of justice nor transparency and accountability of how the same will be investigated. Therefore it is preferable for the AG to develop and publish clear policies and procedures in a transparent and accountable manner to encourage people to report cases. Noting the due process, access to independent legal counsel and other guarantees are not clear, OHCHR noted there is no trust in a system that is discriminating against people of Haitian origin. ○ Chair highlighted that screening for those at risk of statelessness as part of the verification process– from protection perspective –would be a safeguard if people are in the process, but in the absence of verification, they are risk of being picked up. ○ OHCHR will be in Nassau on 10th for one week, and the RC a.i. will join for 2 days. Both will write to MoFA requesting a follow up meeting, and will try to organize with all relevant ministries to respond to our concerns on protection. ○ Chair suggested that RC meet with the PSWG on 10th November to provide feedback on her meetings 		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Americares asked whether the RC and OHCHR will come to the shelter. OHCHR indicated that they will try to visit Abaco and the shelters and also the Detention Centre, but this also depends on answers from the Government. ○ IOM noted that with respect to deportations, some people were deported to Cape Haiti where there is no assistance or reintegration possibility there. According to the families of people deported there, immigration purchased the tickets on their behalf, even though those individuals do not originate from there and have no family there. Five of those claimed to be abused. ○ Concerning the 17 deported on the weekend, OHCHR enquired whether IOM or the Haitian embassy had any updates on their situation and that it would be good to find out. 		
Cash Based Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSTR 		
Communication with Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair updated that hopefully there will be a response from Mr. Cargill before the end of the week with respect to the FAQs compilation sent to him last week. ○ MOH will follow up on their side and are waiting for some responses to be submitted. There was also a question of how frequently they are to be updated, since some of the responses may change. ○ Chair noted the offer on the table for publishing same however will depend on if the FAQs need to be updated regularly, but for those answers that will invariably change, they do not need to be put in print form but can share via whats app. ○ IOM noted once we have the first round of information we can start with that. 		
GBV/PSEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WFP PSEA FP noted that he was developing a context specific, sector specific roll out of the PSEA and that he would be asking for nominations (by sector) for focal points. ○ The priority is to train whichever locals or internationals who will remain on the ground. It is ½ day training, how to identify risks and how to report. ○ CEF are interested in joining the training and can act as FP for the PSWG 		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MOH – requested pertinent details for the training: profile of person needed, time frame for training, expectations, etc. ○ Chair recommends training the focal points and then getting them to recommend appropriate contacts for the formation of a taskforce ○ MOH – PSEA – how does it correlate to trafficking? FPA, GBV coordinator doing TIP training. Chair explained the objective of the PSEA, noting its particular relevance in the context of hidden population, who are afraid to go to the authorities. ○ MOH – who will support the individual? NGOs? If so where will they be getting their info for that support? Committed to sharing a single access hotline, but still have to figure how it ties in with existing hotlines ○ Chair noted we need to identify which NOGS and other will be most appropriate to make the referral. ○ FWP noted the training would be in the coming week for protection, GBV, Shelter, Health, mental health livelihood, food security and cash working ground – which will be broken into three training groups. ○ Chair recommend to first offer the broader training, then identify those for task force because people are based on three islands and needs to be replicated in all locations. ○ FPA – will share TORs with the managers as well as potential dates 		
<p>Child Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new education person has arrived to replace Lisa but there are still gaps in child protection and no update on UAM numbers, still gaps in education registration, and still gaps for specifics of those out of school. That said, classes are starting in the love tents for those not registered in school, and that is a positive pragmatic approach. ○ CEF updated that they started classes this morning with 50 kids. Will offer classes twice a week on Tuesday and Thursday. This morning they also had 3 parent volunteers. ○ Kids were mostly 4-15 years old, most challenged with reading, and numeracy, so they are working on a plan moving forward. ○ Chair informed that the AGs office raised with access to education issue with the Ministry of Education, but no response as yet 		



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OTHER ISSUES TO NOTE

Next Meeting	5 th November, #1 London Terrace, Silk Cotton Villas
Next Agenda	<p>Endorsement of Above PWG minutes ()</p> <p>Agency updates on specific issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • 3W, Activities Tracking & Referral • Documentation • Psychosocial/Mental health • Human Rights • Cash based interventions • Communication with Communities <p>Update from Sub-working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBV/PSEA • Child Protection, <p>Field Update – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CEF raised the question of who is assisting evacuees on other islands like Eleuthera because those providing assistance are getting very little support. - Chair noted that if there is information, it would be welcomed but highlighted that a registration would facilitate identifying where people have been dispersed and their specific needs - IOM asked information on those persons to be shared because they will use the DTM to look at people on other islands. - CRS took the opportunity to thank the Snr. Protection Coordinator for her service, as her final mission date arrives. <p>AOB – Any other Business</p>



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