



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

Date	11/05/2019 – Meeting #13	Location	UNICEF	
Chair	Deneisha Moss Balboni <moss@unhcr.org>, Associate Protection Officer, UNHCR	Minutes prepared by	Deneisha Moss <moss@unhcr.org>	
Participating organizations	UNHCR/ UNFPA /UNICEF/ IOM/CEF/GSTM/OAG/IFRC/CORE/CWS			
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 • PSEA <p>Update from Sub-working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection, • GBV <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/Various 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"> Chair updated that there a ministerial meeting with various actors on the verification exercise was planned but had not yet taken place, following on which a technical meeting would be called with the technical staff from relevant ministries 		



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<p>Survey/Needs assessment</p> <p>3W, Activities Tracking & Referral</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ○ IOM updated on the training it undertook together with IM support with partners in Abaco. ○ The objective of the training was not to replace existing systems, but rather to enhance the reporting mechanism through Activity Info with partners ○ Participants in the training included Samaritan’s Purse, Heart to Heart, WFP and UNICEF. ○ Altogether 15 partners were inscribed into the system, and this week efforts will be focused on following up with the usage of the system 		
<p>Documentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OAG updated that they will be receiving on this coming Thursday, an official response from the Department of Immigration on the process to replace lost documents ○ There will also be updates forthcoming on the position relating to the issuance of death certificates 		
<p>Psychosocial/ Mental health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSTR 		
<p>Human Rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair updated about reports of the situation at The Farm – that check points had been set up in the front thereof, and cars entering were being blocked to ensure no building supplies were going through. ○ The point was raised that in the current environment, people may be blocked from leaving to collect food from the Govt. distribution point. ○ It was noted some had observed the blockage and noted that some food items were not allowed to go through, only water. However UNICEF later confirmed that World Central Kitchen were still allow to go in and deliver meals. ○ CORE questioned whether the Government had articulated a position on this stance, especially in light of reports that people were now being asked to show ID to obtain humanitarian assistance/food. 	<p>OHCHR will undertake a mission to Abaco in the coming week and monitor the situation and share observations with Government and PWG</p>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There were also reports that the Hope Town community were recommending for all ‘new’ people to the community (Haitians) be wristband, although clarification was subsequently received that the position of the Hope Town community was that all <i>old</i> residents (Haitian and Bahamian) should be wrist banded, to distinguish themselves. This idea was reportedly discussed openly within the community, however no action had been taken in this regard. ○ The chair announced the mission OHCHR and the RC – OHCHR underscored that there were positive messages coming from the Government on the one hand – the permanent mission sent a letter, and asking OHCHR to visit and support. However situation on the ground remains worrying. ○ OHCHR noted the registration verification is still a not confirmed, and they were expecting that there would be no further deportation until registration/verification is up and running to ensure, independent body monitoring the process. ○ IOM from Haiti reported that in their screening deportees once again reported abuse again, and it was reiterated that it is insufficient for the State to ask to have the report, when there environment is not conducive, and people are afraid of retaliation. ○ The point of the reputation risk of the UN was raised, as there is a need assistance to be distributed in an impartial, neutral way. If the UN is unable to operate in that manner or deliver assistance, in accordance with its principles, then the issued must be raised. ○ IOM noted they visited 32 sites and have observed a large influx of population in some areas ○ IOM on protection noted there are many needs on the island and underscored that agencies should be careful in their operations so as to not jeopardize the safety and security of residents. ○ IFRC noted that is there was a reduction in humanitarian space, this should be flagged as an issue 		
<p>Cash Based Interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 		



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Communication with Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 		
PSEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNPFA PSEA Coordinator supporting the Resident Coordinator Office in PSEA efforts through process oriented pillar approach updated on the roll-out of training package for the PSEA focal points, the establishment of PSEA network, free hotline service through Bahamas Crisis Centre. The purpose of the PSEA efforts is to build that capacity of the engaged sectors’ partners to identify, prevent, mitigate and respond to SEA in the field. The focal points will come from various organizations - including those UN agencies in country for the next 6 months UN. ○ PSEA Coordinator emphasis on the participation of the PWG partners in the PSEA focal points which be held on 13 November at the Ministry of Gender and Family Affairs. TORs for focal points have already been developed and circulated. ○ PSEA Coordinator also encouraged PWG members to take the online training, if not yet done. Link was previously shared by the PSEA Coordinator with the PWG, but also all other sectors ○ PSEA Coordinator further updated on the hotline number – which Bahamas Crisis Centre has agreed on to manage for hotline services and referrals. They will also have legal counselling available through the service. ○ PSEA Coordinator shared that volunteer call operators on PSEA were trained today and that the hotline number will be will shared with all sectors for PSEA related cases 	<p>FPA to share the hotline number and information</p>	
GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last GBV working group was held last Friday during which time it was agreed to revise the tools. Therefore they will be returning to talk with women and girls in the shelter. ○ The point was raised that they may have issues accessing – in particular some of the civil society organizations ○ Gender department is planning to hold a series of GBV trainings with police, lawyer, shelter managers and anyone who is not a GBV expert, to enhance the capacity to receive reports 		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nov 16 days of activism is upcoming and the gender department is hosting events in Nassau, Abaco and GB and which will involve Haitian community; details to be shared by FPA ○ Recently FPA distributed 400 dignity kits to social series, schools and communities, and urban renewal, as well as 400 dignity kits (backpacks for girls) in Grand Bahama ○ Concerns were raised about an abandoned community in Grand Bahama at the Gate to Haria –an old building Haitian housing migrants. Residents have no electricity, and although urban renewal staff have indicated they receive, food, clothes and water, FPA was concerned that the building should be visited. ○ In Grand Bahama, school restarted this week, and FPA distributed bags for adolescent girls. In Abaco, mainland and public schools remain closed – some are being used for distribution services, although this will be phased and distribution relocated. ○ UNICEF – noted they would be in Abaco next week, working with UNDP on debris clearance and school materials. UNICEF is waiting for VAT waiver for supplies with customs - OAG to follow up w/ customs ○ UNICEF working with WASH cluster to put water tanks to fix plumbing. 	<p>FPA to share details of 16 days of activism activities</p> <p>OAG to make enquiries with customs on the VAT waiver</p>	
<p>Child Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNICEF updated that they were introducing a total of four child friendly spaces in GB – starting with the Salvation Army and YMCA; two in NP: national art gallery and the love tent. On Abaco they will open spaces in the north and south and will be working with Israid to identify exact spaces in order to update the next PWG. ○ New CP staff updated on discussion UNCHR on the situation of UAM/SC and their specific risks linked to a lack registration, referral pathways and processes thereafter. ○ CP WG will reconvene on Tuesdays at socials services with Deputy Director Sawyer ○ MOE – training cadet core to assist with education in shelters for those not in school. Currently there are ongoing assessments for the placements ○ CEF noted their informal lessons were still being enthusiastically received, but noted that they still need more teachers 		



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CEF further noted they were aware of the MOE assessments at the gym and recognized the current structure was not sustainable, so welcomed the possibility for the Ministry to step in. | | |
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OTHER ISSUES TO NOTE

Next Meeting

12 November, UNICEF, #1 Silk Cotton Villas

<https://goo.gl/maps/vLXwZh4V86D2Pdvu8>

Next Agenda

Endorsement of Above PWG minutes ()

Agency updates on specific issues

- Registration
- 3W, Activities Tracking & Referral
- Documentation
- Psychosocial/Mental health
- Human Rights
- Cash based interventions
- Communication with Communities
- PSEA

Update from Sub-working group:

- GBV
- Child Protection,

Field Update – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc.

- IOM noted from their last mission that around 6-8 sites that needed to be addressed in terms of garbage management. Although Bahamas Waster will eventually come, there are sites where they is no disposal and this raises health risks



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- IOM also raised the issue of were at water – in the context of residents using it for washing, etc but not drinking. Despite the best efforts by the WASH team to get people to believe the water was potable, the preference is to drink bottled water. Discussion on the need for outreach in this regard.

AOB – Any other Business

