

Protection Coordination Meeting-

Sept-20-2019

Present: IOM/UNICEF/UNHCR/UNFPA/ICRC/IFRC

UNFPA

- Results of UNFPA focus group discussions have now been shared within the protection coordination structure
- Department of Social Services currently have a master list of all government services, e.g. health, social, drug, HIV/AIDS/various hotlines. Very simple format, and currently Social Services is conducting spot-checks on those services and developing guidelines on how they should be used and adapted by persons in the shelter. UNFPA expert who is being deployed to Nassau will working on translating these documents into Creole
- Revision of Domestic Violence Domestic Law underway
- Location of UAM might be sensitive – need to have some guidelines around communication of sensitive issues...
- Referral pathways are still being identified

Action Point: UNFPA to share the social services checklist

UNICEF

- An estimated 1000 children have been registered through the one stop shop, of which 400 are to receive placement letters signed by Minister of Education. In addition, this targeted population of girls and boys are documented by the Dept. of Social services to identify and respond to child protection risks
- There is not yet a central depository of database services, but discussions are ongoing with the Dept of Social Services to having in place a Child Protection Information Management System.
- Currently drafting TORs for CP sub-working group and to convene the first meeting of the CP sub-working group. UNICEF will meet with the Dept of Social Services next week to plan inaugural meeting for the sub-working group.
- Re: UAMs at Ranfurly Home, there are currently 46 children at the home (last meeting there were 53). In addition to 23 transported from child care institutions in Grand Bahama. There are 2 UAMs aged between 15, to17 (appx) from Abaco who need family tracing and reunification services. The Director of the Home has informed the Department of Social Services of these two cases.

Action Point: UNICEF to share draft TORs of the CP sub-working group.

IOM

- IOM is conducting the second round of site assessments in Nassau – first report shared was this week shared at the shelter meeting.

- Still awaiting Government approval on their registration proposal
- On the camp situation, the Government is interested in freeing up the shelters in Nassau, not a good image, and want to move ahead with plans to relocate shelterees to Wilson Bay in Abaco.
- Formal process to release pressure on unofficial shelters in Nassau, mostly for people who want to go back to Abaco noting that this would be voluntary.
- The original plan was to create two fenced in camps in Abaco to hold people (families/workers) for one year. The time frame to implement this move is over the next three weeks. Camp plans appeared to have a single entry/exit point. IOM noted this was a bad idea for multiple reasons, and if the Government decides to go forward with this original plan, the international community can withdraw support.
- IOM suggested multiple sites as opposed to one, with basic infrastructure, transitional shelters, with possibility to expand with small plot of land.
- Noted the Government seemed open to suggestions, but further noted in the meeting with the PS of Immigration it was made clear that immigration laws (in Nassau) will be enforced.
- Temporary cessation of immigration exercises extends to affected islands only. IOM noted that there were already reports that people were afraid to leave the shelter because they don't have documents.
- It was further noted however that the government was open to flexibility on replacing documents, possibly waiving fees, and may be flexible on the citizenship applications where people could not produce necessary documents such as death certificates.
- The PS stated once missing list is not established, they are willing to grant flexibility. At the moment Rights Bahamas have sent up 400 names of missing people to NEMA and have about 100 more that have not yet been sent.
- There is no comprehensive IM systems for shelters, and no clear mapping so IOM are hoping to assist with this. For now, the lists are being shared with social workers in the shelter.

Action Point: IOM to share first report of site assessments

ICRC/IFRC

- ICRC is here supporting the Bahamas Red Cross in coordination with the Federation
- They have initiated tracing for the case of the 2 UAMs from Abaco, and a main focus for their work will be restoring family links since the evacuation effort resulted in the separation of families.
- ICRC will also be looking at the management of dead bodies and how they can link families, noting that it's a complex issue to organize the data on missing persons, which now stands at 1700
- Carmen Delgado is the database of missing persons

Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday 23 Sept at 13:30

Protection Cluster IM support

Action Point:

- Small technical working group to be conveyed around registration and to include IOM for their registration proposal, ICRC for their work on list of missing, UNICEF for Child Protection case management & UNFPA for GBV case management
- Will formulate a plan for the records of “who’s doing what where” in light with activities reporting needs & interagency referrals.

List of presence

See attached list of attendance records.