



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

Date	23/09/2019 – Meeting #3	Location	National Training Agency	
Chair	Maeve Murphy <murphym@unhcr.org>, Senior Protection Coordinator, UNHCR	Minutes prepared by	Deneisha Moss <moss@unhcr.org>	
Participating organizations	IOM/UNICEF/UNHCR/UNFPA/ICRC/IFRC/PAHO/WFP/OHCHR (phone)			
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorsement of Friday's PWG minutes (20/09/2019) 2. Agency updates - specific protection gaps and challenges 3. PWG draft TORs (participation) 4. Child Protection: draft TORs/UAMs/children with specific needs 5. GBV: draft TORs, referral mechanism (PSEA/GBV) 6. AOB 			
Previous meeting action points			Status	Responsible
Sharing GBV Response capacity			Shared by UNFPA – see example of Referral	UNFPA
Sharing DTM Product			Attached to meeting invite	IOM DTM
Discussion on way forward for 3W-activities tracking			Presentation for next meeting	IM Support
AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSIONS				
By Agenda Item	Main Points and Decisions from Discussions		Agreed Follow-Up Actions	Responsible
Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o IOM is still awaiting approval from the Government for its DTM registration proposal o No known data regarding those with specific needs, the breakdown of legal status and those in need of support at this time 		Standby waiting for Gvt position	IOM IM Protection WG



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On education, UNICEF reconfirmed the current registration is focused on formal shelters 	<p>Need to convey technical working group on registration</p>	
<p>Survey/Needs assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IOM undertook a small survey amongst evacuees who are currently residing outside of shelters (families, hotels, airbnb, etc) ○ The focus of the survey was to understand <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) why did people decide not to go to shelters; 2) what were their intentions; 3) what were their main concerns. ○ 15 HH were interviewed: 9 Haitian, 8 Bahamian. While they did not target people from Abaco, all families interviewed were from Abaco. The composition of the group was diverse: female headed households, elderly persons, people with family in US, a family of 8 with three generation all present, etc. ○ In response why they did not go to shelters people shared that they did not go to shelters because they did not consider them safe or suitable for families. Also, people had relatives in Nassau. ○ Regarding their intentions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 31% wanted to return to place of origin - 50% wanted to stay in Nassau - 2 wanted to go to be relocated to a foreign country - 1 wanted to be relocated within The Bahamas ○ Notably, within Haitian community, only 1 person wanted to stay in Nassau, which was the opposite amongst Bahamians. From the overall outlook – Haitians appeared ready to return to Abaco, while Bahamians preferred to stay in Nassau. Those who preferred to stay in Nassau had better employment prospects, whereas Haitian prefer to return to their community 	<p>Will share 2 DTM reports (attached to this email)</p>	<p>IOM DTM</p>



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	<p>where they could find short term employment and are familiar with the available services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Main factors influencing decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Bahamians –no rental support, finding an apartment is expensive with a requisite 3 months’ rent for moving in costs. Also, most Bahamians were only willing to stay in certain parts of Nassau because they don’t feel safe. - For Haitians – they prefer to improve conditions and have the opportunity for employment. ○ A few people highlighted need for psycho-social support. In addition, the Haitians raised the issue that aid being reduced to force people to move on, noting the Salvation Army had reportedly reduced its food. ○ Concerns people’s needs – they have lost everything. The Bahamians – want to start over; Haitians, want to get back to the lift they had. ○ IOM noted the importance of thinking through different contexts when thinking of solutions – people have no transportation, which impacts how/whether the kids go to school. In order to move into an apartment, flexibility is required in rental deposits. Also, necessary to think about how the household may split is if the HH goes back to work, leaving the rest of the family behind ○ In terms of documentation –8 out of 9 were documented, still – this was not a representative group and both Bahamian and Haitian communities need documentation replaces e.g. land title, id documents, etc including for example for those who wish to move abroad 		
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<p>3W, Activities Tracking & Referral</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OCHA’s 3W will be handed over to NEMA at the end of the week, when OCHA leaves. There is a clear willingness for NEMA to continue operating however clarification on capacity to maintain system is needed. ○ The PWG needs its own deliverables, so will be mapping what’s available/necessary to inform society. ○ The recommended starting point is a harmonized referral form that can be used by all and linked with the referral pathways 	<p>Will work on a proposal for a harmonized referral form which would cater for referrals for child protection, GBV and psychosocial referrals</p>	<p>Protection IM support</p>
<p>Documentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Protection Coordinator provided an update on this morning’s meeting with Immigration Minister. It remains unclear who will be responsible for registration, however, the Government steered away because they wanted to indicate assistance is being provided to all without discrimination. ○ The Government is open to addressing rumours through messaging and they confirmed a waiver will be issued to replace documents, without providing details on how long the waiver will be in effect, and to whom it applies ○ Gaps exist in addressing the response: costs associated with replacing documents, transportation, etc. Protection co-ordination will compile a list of the gaps and their implications and share with the wider group. We can also provide overview of the various immigration documents which will help to guide and inform messaging. ○ Noted the position of the Government that if people hold work permits, they will be replaced and if people can sustain themselves they can return. Protection Coordinator noted that there were mixed messages going out and recommended mobile documentation as a solution. We can put together the advocacy points on this 	<p>Protection working group to coordinate details pertaining to confirmation of waivers for what documents and length of time</p> <p>Questions being asked by communities and individuals to be shared and compiled so that responses can be secured from Gvt when information is available</p>	<p>UNHCR/Rights Bahamas</p> <p>All agencies</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On the camp: – people on the farm started clearing – their future remains unclear, but the Govt. did confirm they are also looking for plots of land for the returnees. ○ Protection Coordinator noted that it was emphasized camps are not the preferable route and the Minister confirmed they were rethinking this noting that some concerns have already been expressed. ○ IOM interjected that Government is moving quickly and taking into account suggestions. Unless the camp is transitional village, then it will be a slum. Tent, transitional structure and then a plot – the Government appears to be moving to that approach and we should stimulate that. ○ One gap identified was how to move forward in light of proposed building code and the implications that exist in ensuring that building regulations can deal with cat 5 storm ○ ISRAID posed the question whether there would be guarantees sought from the Government on access to water, electricity, to which IOM responded the Government is looking organize the site properly, so they are listening. There were even enough toilets and light planned for the site. IOM confirmed the site is in Spring City, a suburb of Marsh Harbour. ○ Protection coordinator noted that the health team have confirmed there are sufficient health services in Abaco and Gran Bahama but we need to continue to advocate for the re-establishment of schools – if that happens then education will ensure that the whole family can relocate together. ○ Rights Bahamas provided a brief update on their meeting with the Prime Minister. The takeaway being that the Govt remains focused on its 4 week plan to relocate people to Abaco. It was further confirmed that that process only includes those with legal status, and all others will be considered to be deported to country of origin. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rights Bahamas noted with concern that once that information gets out, it will cause panic – so the main concern is how to get message to those persons and control the outcome. Rights Bahamas also noted that they won't have the breakdown of the evacuees unless they get access to the shelter. ○ The Protection coordinator noted the need to understand people's intentions, where they wish to stay noting that relocation should be voluntary. ○ Rights Bahamas raised the question of the Haitian embassy and whether it had sufficient checks and balances, for the fraud concerns raised by the PM. The Haitian Embassy will waive fees on passports that had not yet expired. Also raised the concern for those about to apply for citizenship – without death certification of a parent for example, the individual may not be able to comply with requirements. Although there was a request to take DNA, it remains unclear how it will work. 		
<p>Child Protection</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Draft TORs have now been shared with the Department of Social Services and within the PWG. The meeting to plan inaugural CP sub working group is anticipated to go ahead this week, and any further invites to the group will be contingent of Social Services extending an invitation. ○ ISRAID interjected with a point on the need for community based psycho-social and mental health for children, and UNICEF confirmed they were looking at MHPSS in the context of children and adolescents together with the Depart of Culture. There are plans to make use of community centres between 30 Sept – 31 Dec ○ Protection principal questioned whether there was a hotline (for children), to which UNICEF confirmed that currently there is not, but that SS is setting up a desk. 	<p>to share TOR once approved by Government</p> <p>Details of locations of child friendly spaces needed to be shared with those who are liaising with those in private shelters noting the urgency of having psychosocial activities</p> <p>to advice on hotline number/contact for</p>	<p>UNICEF</p>



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<p>Education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNICEF is also currently planning mission to GB to scale response in that location. ○ UNICEF indicated that formal school approval is being received this week but acknowledged that uniforms may take time. Distribution is managed by Social Services. Asked whether there is any stumbling block to provision of same. ○ ISRAID – Further noted the situations with the schools in Gran Bahama - most schools are not functioning; of 22 schools, only 3 are clean enough for resume classes, and most need mould remediation and confirmation that they are structurally sound. ○ Team Rubicon USA noted that they are assisting with the cleaning of schools in Gran Bahama, and that so far 8 schools in GB have been cleaned out. WFP noted they sent a logistician to GB today and they were working closely with NEMA. 	<p>referral of child protection issues</p> <p>to confirm start date of schools and ensure that information is available to parents in shelters and those outside of shelters. UNICEF to confirm what uniforms will be provided.</p> <p>Abaco and Grand Bahama co-ordination on prioritization of schools reponse needed</p>	<p>UNICEF</p>
<p>GBV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNFPA has shared with the Ministry their draft TORs and once they receive feedback/approval they will circulate further. ○ FPA is currently planning on a GBV TOT for GBV shelter managers and will expand to the communities once they complete the shelters. ○ They noted some of the smaller shelters are lacking supplies and their needs are not fully met – this includes for training, NFI, so there are placing some emphasis on how to further support them. Will also be providing remaining dignity kits to smaller shelters. ○ The Protection Coordinator noted the need to commence messaging on PSEA in the communities: women and children home, and men are out, and there are many organizations roaming around, so this needs to be taken into consideration. Pointed out to WFP that the door to door delivery observed in Abaco gave rise to concern. 	<p>to share TOR once cleared by the Government</p>	<p>UNFPA</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WFP confirmed they have distribution points around Abaco, not GB, and that they are monitoring sites to ensure people actually received the food. They are in the process of developing a questionnaire on this. ○ UNFPA confirmed they are already considering setting up PSEA mechanisms 		
Psychosocial/ Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PAHO expert highlighted that in Abaco last week, some mental health workers indicated that people are asking for mental health support and that also health and front line workers who remain working are also undergoing trauma and also need to be supported. 		
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recommended the deployment of protection officers to two islands, maybe as part of CERF proposal. ○ Further raised the point on the need for key messages within CP sector to emphasize the need to attend school so as to not miss out on education ○ Finally, OHCHR raised the need for a joint strategy on short and long term the solutions for Haitian migrants. 		

OTHER ISSUES TO NOTE

Grand Bahama Response

- ISRAID – highlighted the difficulties they were facing in GB - limited access issues, inability to work effectively outside of Freeport. They also noted not much is in place and things are uncoordinated.

Abaco

- Heart to Heart – raised the question on what will happen to those on Abaco, who the EOC requested to leave?
- Heart to Heart noticed the last week, people are asking for more psychosocial help. Speaking with AmeriCares for training: briefing and debriefing for those MOH employees being deployed to islands.

Next Meeting

National Training Agency, 25 sept – 13h30



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Next Agenda

1. Endorsement of Above PWG minutes (23/09/2019)
2. Agency updates on specific issues
 - Registration
 - 3W, Activities Tracking & Referral
 - Documentation
 - Psychosocial/Mental health
 - Human Rights
 - Cash based interventions
 - Communication with Communities
3. Child Protection
4. GBV
5. Other Islands – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc.
6. AOB

