



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

Date	25/09/2019 – Meeting #4	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/ USCG/ IFRC /OHCHR (phone)/ GSTM / OM / Team Rubicon UK / Team Rubicon US / Americares / Gov			
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Endorsement of Monday's PWG minutes (23/09/2019) 2. Agency updates on specific issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 			
Previous meeting action points			Status	Responsible
Frequently asked questions by community – it would eb helpful if people can share frequently asked questions which are being asked by the community to			Pending	All agencies
Child Protection – Confirmation of when school starts with locations			Pending	UNICEF
Child Protection -working group date to be confirmed and TOR of working group to be shared			Pending	UNICEF



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

GBV -working group date to be confirmed and TOR of working group to be shared	Pending	UNFPA	
Discussion on way forward for 3W-activities tracking	Presentation for next meeting	IM	
Will work on a proposal for a harmonized referral form which would cater for referrals for child protection, GBV and psychosocial referrals	Presentation for next meeting	Protection 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"> ○ IOM is still awaiting approval from the Government for its DTM registration proposal. IOM is still consulting w/SS on their registration proposal. Anticipate answer before Tuesday. ○ There are some concerns about the movement of people out of the shelters following media declarations, and therefore a question on how to identify people. IOM are considering individual registration possibility ○ The point was made by the Chair on the need to have a break down the needs of the registration– to help identify issues like those with solutions, those without; specific needs need to be identified, referral mechanisms need to be clear. ○ Noted the need for to discuss the specific vulnerability criteria that can be used to prioritize assistance, especially as organizations like IFRC and others are considering the possibility of cash assistance – need to identify and feed into the process of prioritization from a protection perspective ○ OAG asked regarding what is hampering the approval of the registration needed. Chair explained the need for baseline data with vulnerabilities to target assistance. What is needed is an understanding of who would have ownership of the information from Government side so decision remains pending 	<p>Standby waiting for Gvt position</p> <p>Need to convey technical working group on registration</p>	<p>IOM</p> <p>IM Protection WG</p>



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

Survey/Needs assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Concern raised regarding the high movement out of shelters over last couple of days – close to 5% in one day. 3 shelters also due to close in the first week of October. ○ Messaging raising concerns for population to become hidden which will result in them becoming more vulnerable and unable to access healthcare due to ID being requested. Need to provide ensure provision of support in nondiscriminatory fashion with ID requirement. 		
3W, Activities Tracking & Referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be discussed in more depth at the next protection working group ○ IM reviewing what is available and what kind of individual referral form is possible noting that the Government needs to maintain ownership -All encouraged to keep reporting activities, in the system, Cluster support is available for this ○ Protection sector met with MOH had a discussion on the referral services available. Up 25 hotlines on CP/GBV alone. Now discussing how to develop a system which could operate as a triage – whether it is possible to have one single number to be dialed and then press for specific services. That could also be continued after the response is completed ○ Also started referral form for organizations to identify those with specific need and facilitate the referral. First presentation on Friday ○ Team Rubicon UK noted they are leaving in Oct, but have lots of relationships and information that they will share in advance of leaving 	<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>
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rubicon UK questioned the messages on documentation and way forward from the government - what are they as people are getting mixed messages. ○ The Chair confirmed this was raised with the Immigration Minister – fees waived, but what does it mean? Replacement of documents – but how long will it take? Is there a temporary proposal? Noted Chair has requested 	<p>Protection working group to coordinate details pertaining to confirmation of waivers for what specifically</p>	<p>UNHCR/Rights Bahamas</p>



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

	<p>meeting with technical people to ask these questions. We will share for others to input. Need to build the blocks where the gaps are – is there support we can provide to support the issuance of documentation: processing fees, cost medical tests required, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gaps exist is addressing the response: costs associated with replacing documents, transportation, etc. Protection coordination 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. ○ IOM met with Charge d’Affaire at Haitian Embassy who confirmed they are waiving the fees to replace passports – if they were valid. For those that were expired, they are not eligible. It is not clear if these are locally issued passports or not, but likely. 	<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>To clarify if replacement of passports can be done for those who may have obtained them in Haiti</p>	<p>All agencies to provide inputs on frequently asked questions</p> <p>IOM</p>
Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Unfortunately, no -one from UNICEF present. Would be good to share updates in advance of meeting ○ Volunteers at the gym confirmed some kids started school, others are waiting for parents’ number to be called/uniforms to be provided 	<p>Details of locations of child friendly spaces needed</p>	<p>UNICEF to co-ordinate to share information</p>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 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 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 	<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</p>	<p>UNICEF</p>



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

GBV	<p>noted they sent a logistician to GB today and they were working closely with NEMA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question was asked regarding PSEA and Chair confirmed that this issue is being addressed considering setting up PSEA mechanisms 	<p>prioritization of schools response needed</p> <p>to share TOR once cleared by the Government</p>	UNFPA/UNHCR
Psychosocial/ Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair noted there was a high number of people who were seeking psychosocial support, met with health to ensure greater outreach. Will put visualization info on where people can go, need to compile this information to put out for those. Highlighted all the frontline staff must also be equipped with support, and if not available internally, organizations in the group might be able to help. Reaffirmed the need for Child Friendly Spaces – brief provided by XX 59 kids from the shelter started swimming through partnership with Lets Swim Bahamas. Started today until next Friday. Kids are given a with swimming stuff getting – starting with 8 sessions currently at Kendal Isaacs gym IOM added there could be the opportunity through NetHOPE to provide chrome notebook for the kids, so they could consider a proposal to them Volunteer from wonder why? – have been at the shelter engaging kids, explaining to them the processes like registration, and why it's important. have been present 10 days at the gym. Chair noted some organizations are offering jobs – need to remember men, to avoid feeling disengaged, depressed, we can make those referrals 	Visualization of Psychosocial referrals to be compiled	Protection IM
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OHCHR yesterday had a debriefing with RC and special procedures in Geneva. Joint discussions on the need for an analysis of the overall human rights situation, identify key issues of concerns, and the need to document in case the situation deteriorates and results in deportation, or forced relocations. 	OCHCR to draft paper on concerns regarding treatment of those affected of Haitian origin if discriminated	OCHCR



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paper will be prepared because there is no certainty on govt plans. RC highlighted ready to discuss in NY and that she will use it as an advocacy tool if needed to go to Bahamas again, for all those affected, including of Haitian origin. OCHCR will share internally once ready. ○ IOM noted they are happy to support OHCHR on this 		
GBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No update provided on GBV 		
PSEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Question was asked regarding PSEA is being dealt with and Chair confirmed that this issue is being addressed with setting up PSEA mechanisms ○ Protection highlighted that there was a discussion with MOH on referral how to have one coordinator for each island so they can make one phone call if approached by someone on GBV and PSEA and they would know the appropriate channels 	Process to be confirmed with respective Ministries	UNFPA/UNHCR
Cash Based Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No update from ICRC, on the cusp of starting and looking how to identify the right beneficiaries. Protection would like to influence as PWG because there are increased vulnerabilities for those most in need and vital to have that discussion with social services. ○ OAG – they have a service already in place – credit card is provided where cash is put on a card each month. Can revert on criteria. Need to have a discussion with SS if any of those affected were receiving assistance previously. ○ Potential three types of cash assistance which could be provided –urgent cash ass, longer term cash assistance and then assistance for documentation. Criteria to be agreed with SS on how to prioritize the most vulnerable ○ Declaration time for those who may have passed – officially what might be put in place to overcome the 7 year delay of declaration for people to access NIB and have closure. 	<p>OAG to revert on criteria adopted for those below poverty line prior to Dorian</p> <p>OAG to revert on potentially what may be put in place regarding official death certification</p>	OAG



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Team Rubicon USA asked if anyone had details on a temporary bank in the local market. ○ Cash was discussed in shelter meeting – very limited for families – once per month, not good for longer term need. Government considering putting in place 1/last month for families, screening, just for the most vulnerable families. ○ IOM noted usually the cash cards are not for non-nationals and whether this might be the case in this response ○ OAG indicated Eugene Dupuch Law School wanted to do a documentation program for kids, starting with the Ranfurly home, will do that free of charge, for orphanages. ○ UNHCR emphasized these were the gaps to be filled. Noted discussion with MOH on referral how to have one coordinator for each island so they can make one phone call if approached by someone. 	<p>OAG to share details of Eugene Dupuch Law school to develop leaflet on services being provided</p>	
<p>Communication with Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Necessity to compile information on issues raised by communities ○ IOM noted there are undertaking Social media analysis and further noted the changes in the shelter population: down by 5.4% overall and 33% overnight in Pilgrim Baptists church after the announcement from Government 	<p>Questions to be shared when raised by community by all agencies</p>	<p>Protection working group to compile leaflets to respond to questions raised</p>
<p>OTHER ISSUES TO NOTE</p>			
<p>Grand Bahama and Abaco Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSTR 			
<p>Next Meeting</p>	<p>National Training Agency, 27 sept – 13h30</p>		



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

Next Agenda

7. Endorsement of Above PWG minutes (25/09/2019)
8. Agency updates on specific issues
 - Registration
 - 3W, Activities Tracking & Referral
 - Documentation
 - Psychosocial/Mental health
 - Human Rights
 - Cash based interventions
 - Communication with Communities
 - PSEA
9. Child Protection
10. GBV
11. Other Islands – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc.
12. AOB



Join the Whasapp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/GTzklBa86Uu7gnQlLeNuEv>