



## Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

<b>Date</b>	27/09/2019 – Meeting #5	<b>Location</b>	National Training Agency
<b>Chair</b>	Maeve Murphy <murphym@unhcr.org>, Senior Protection Coordinator, UNHCR	<b>Minutes prepared by</b>	Deneisha Moss <moss@unhcr.org>
<b>Participating organizations</b>	IOM/UNICEF/UNHCR/PAHO/UNDP/USCG/OHCHR (phone)/ GSTM / Team Rubicon UK / Americares / Dept. Social Services/Child Evangelism Fellowship		
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Endorsement of Wednesday’s PWG minutes (25/09/2019)</li> <li>2. Agency updates on specific issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Registration</li> <li>- 3W, Activities Tracking &amp; Referral</li> <li>- Documentation</li> <li>- Psychosocial/Mental health</li> <li>- Human Rights</li> <li>- Cash based interventions</li> <li>- Communication with Communities</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Child Protection</li> <li>4. GBV</li> <li>5. Other Islands – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc.</li> <li>6. AOB</li> </ol>		
<b>Previous meeting action points</b>		<b>Status</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Frequently asked questions by community – it would be 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



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<p><u>GBV – working group – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup>, led by the Gender Department. ToR presented to the members</u>  <u>GBV – working group date to be confirmed and TOR of working group to be shared</u></p>	<p><u>Done. To be shared in the next Protection WG</u>  <u>Pending</u></p>	<p>UNFPA</p>	
<p>Discussion on way forward for 3W-activities tracking</p>	<p>Presentation for next meeting</p>	<p>IM</p>	
<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>Presentation for next meeting</p>	<p>Protection IM support</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSIONS</b></p>			
<p>By Agenda Item</p>	<p>Main Points and Decisions from Discussions</p>	<p>Agreed Follow-Up Actions</p>	<p>Responsible</p>
<p><b>Registration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ IOM will meet with Social Services at 10am Monday 30 September and will hopefully have their registration proposal endorsed.</li> <li>○ Chair reiterated the necessity for baseline data which doesn't exist. This was raised in Shelter/CCM meetings as well, so encouraged all to continue advocating for this. Chair also noted the need to know whereabouts of those who are not in shelters in order to get assistance to them.</li> <li>○ Chair noted that at the moment people can go either directly to social services or to Kendal Isaacs gym, but there is the need to advocate for all shelters to become a distribution points so people can easily access</li> <li>○ Chair informed that with three shelters were closing 1st week Oct. it's not clear where people will go. There is a discussion that Kendal Isaacs will be cleared of all activities until December, and if that is the case form a protection perspective more attention should be placed on protection/wash/GBV/CP</li> <li>○ Team Rubicon UK requested a copy of the DTM from be shared to ascertain what protection questions they can add. The chair noted that that it could be shared unofficially mainly to retain information already compiled but</li> </ul>	<p>Standby waiting for Gvt position</p> <p>Need to convey technical working group on registration</p> <p>IM to share to share once updated</p>	<p>IOM</p> <p>IM Protection WG</p>



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	<p>emphasized the need for a consent form to be included, and for people to sign</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o IOM asked for an update on the school registration process. UNICEF CP focal point was absent, but GBV FP provided a general update on the OSS and registration at the shelter.</li> <li>o The Chair noted that it is important to understand how many kids are going from each shelter for to the OSS for registration. This helps to identify those who might be left out and those around the shelters who have yet to be identified. UNICEF was asked to clarify the process and confirm who is the contact person</li> </ul>		
<b>Survey/Needs assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o NTR</li> </ul>		
<b>3W, Activities Tracking &amp; Referral</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o IM advised it will have a meeting 2:30 with NEMA counterpart</li> <li>o <a href="#">UNFPA in collaboration with Department of Gender and Social Services has presented the GBV referral pathway to members of the GBV SWG. More details to be shared during next Protection Meeting</a></li> <li>o At next meeting IM will make a presentation on the referrals document it is developing but first needs input from GBV/CP. <del>Work already initiated on this and it was shared in this morning's GBV meeting this morning on this.</del> Similar to be developed for CP, with the potential to collated with protection concerned beyond CP.GBV</li> <li>o Next step is to build a harmonized referral form. There is already a template for this which can be discussed bi-laterally with sub working group leads.</li> <li>o Suggested a discussion at the next meeting referral, data protection, consent, confidentiality to ensure everyone is only the same page concerning these issues.</li> </ul>	<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>

Commented [AA1]: Is it possible to share this?



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<b>Documentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ UNHCR updated efforts underway to collate information on the replacement of documents: identifying the various types of statuses, the requirements to apply for each, and then costing out the requisite supporting documents to see whether there is a way to support individuals in this process, for example with taking passport photos, obtaining and certifying birth certificates, etc.</li> </ul>	<p>Protection working group to coordinate details pertaining to confirmation of waivers for what specifically          Questions being asked by communities and individuals to be shared and compiled so that responses can be secured from Gvt when information is available          To clarify if replacement of passports can be done for those who may have obtained them in Haiti</p>	<p>UNHCR/Rights Bahamas</p> <p>All agencies to provide inputs on frequently asked questions</p> <p>IOM</p>
<b>Child Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ UNICEF partnership with Department of Social Services and Min. of Youth and Culture is being finalized</li> <li>○ Planning to do assessments of UAM in all three locations, modalities are still being designed</li> <li>☞ Information especially for hidden population is needed. IM indicated they are open to have a technical discussion on that.</li> <li>☞ UNICEF noted they were in Grand Bahama and met with the orphanage there – there were no questions about the location of the children who were flown to Nassau, therefore there is a question about who/which organization raised the issue.</li> <li>○ IOM will review notes and revert on this.</li> </ul>	<p>Details of locations of child friendly spaces needed</p> <p>Need to coordinate DTM questions</p>	<p>UNICEF to co-ordinate to share information</p>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education FP absent</li> </ul>	<p>to confirm start date of schools and ensure that</p>	<p>UNICEF</p>

Commented [CH2]: This seems closer to case management level of detail. Would be good for everyone to get on the same page re. how we treat such information going forward.



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		<p>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 response needed</p>	
<b>GBV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The chair updated on the GBV meeting held in the morning</li> <li>o Director of Gender Affairs introduced the <del>“humanitarian violence and response</del> <u>Gender-Based Violence Sub-working group</u> which is comprised of partners such as <u>the social and health services, police and security, partners police, civil society, I/NGOS, UN Agencies, human rights organizations and representatives from affected communities and vulnerable populations. response organizations.</u></li> <li>o The working group will meet on a weekly basis.</li> <li>o A referral framework was <u>presented to partners and request for inputs was sent. Final documents to be approved in next GBV SWG meeting. shown.</u> <del>Draft TORs were also shared with recommendations for input before next week.</del></li> </ul>	<p><del>to share TOR once cleared by the Government</del> <u>ToR and Referral Pathways to be shared in next Protection Meeting.</u></p>	UNFPA/ <del>UNHCR</del>
<b>Psychosocial/ Mental health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o PAHO noted people are openly seeking PSS, which is unusual in the context but there was a considering the best way to refer cases.</li> <li>o Chair noted this was raised in meeting with MOH, looking at a centre coordinator on the island understanding to see who is best placed to deal with issues as they arise.</li> </ul>	<p>Visualization of Psychosocial referrals to be compiled</p>	Protection IM



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CEF – shared they tried four of the Nassau hotlines and got through to one. The also got a call back from one hotline that didn't answer and highlighted this as a good practice, as sometimes people may not have money on their phones to call</li> <li>○ CEF noted they need to advocate for the inclusion of specialists who work with children and adolescents when developing strategies for the hotline</li> <li>○ Social services raised the issue of shelter noting one of the shelters had some complaints about people coming in and not being clear who they were. The Chair used the opportunity to advocate for the accreditation system to be strengthened maybe through the introduction of an ID or list of accredited</li> <li>○ UNDP questioned whether there was any organization looking at PSS needs for the indirectly affected population. Noted some of the engineers doing the building assessments, and government officials on the islands – especially Abaco, needed that support</li> <li>○ PAHO noted their mental health expert raised this already in the MOH MOH WG</li> </ul>		
<b>Human Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OHCHR raised the issue of increasing hate speech in Bahamas and pointed to the disturbing trends on social media. Highlighted an invitation circulating on social media for town hall meetings. Noted the responsibility of the UN to monitor and realize hate speech trends and adopt a common understanding to fight root causes before it leads to incitement and violence.</li> <li>○ OHCHR noted the international community needs to increase advocacy with partners/govt/media in Bahama to promote tolerance, freedom of opinion and nondiscrimination. He noted the urgency based on the upcoming town hall being organized.</li> </ul>	<p>OCHCR to draft paper on concerns regarding treatment of those affected of Haitian origin if discriminated</p>	<p>OCHCR</p>



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<p><b>GBV</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ OHCHR informed that in May 2019 the UN introduced a strategy and plan of action on hate speech, which will be forwarded – but this puts responsibility on UN to use preventative approach to avoid deterioration.</li> <li>○ Social services noted this was a timely comment because in a meeting today the question was asked on the number of Bahamians in shelters as opposed to non- Bahamas and the suggestion was made to have a separate shelter for Bahamian because of the discomfort with Haitians</li> <li>○ SS stated it is not at the stage of violence and they group did not agree to separate nationalities, but they feel there is a high level of discomfort</li> <li>○ Chair – would be helpful to have someone present to counter some of the discussion. We don't want tension to increase because then all the shelters will be at risk. Better to tackle the issues early with an official response</li> </ul>		
<p><b>PSEA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">PSEA Network to be activated soon.</a></li> <li>○ <a href="#">PSEA messages already included in Referral Pathways.NTR</a></li> </ul>	<p>Process to be confirmed with respective Ministries</p>	<p>UNFPA/UNHCR</p>
<p><b>Cash Based Interventions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chair raised questions around the need to clarify who is doing what? And what is the CBI and what criteria. Aware of IFRC so far. Raised question with Ms Bowleg at Social Services, would be helpful to see the criteria to adapt from there, and also ability to send info back to SS.</li> <li>○ SS confirmed the policy of the govt, any person in the Bahamas, should not go hungry, regardless of legal status, everyone can qualify for emergency food. There may be requirements for rental assistance, and monthly allowance, like status and residency.</li> </ul>	<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> <p>OAG to share details of Eugene Dupuch Law school</p>	<p>OAG</p>



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<b>Communication with Communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ IM updated that it is consolidating a comprehensive list of FAQs in coordination with NEMA, which can be featured as a part of a website, of which we can provide technical support to develop. Target group will be those in the shelters and outside – trying to offer a practical way for them to get information.</li> <li>○ UNICEF noted it would be important to ensure such a platform is landed in the best place where people usually go for information. IM confirmed the ESF5 would be best placed to decide this and that it will be for the Government to ultimately decide on how/where the tool will be based</li> </ul>	<p>to develop leaflet on services being provided</p> <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>
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### OTHER ISSUES TO NOTE

#### Grand Bahama and Abaco Response

- Grand Bahama

UNICEF updated they were in GB visit implementing partner Israid who were there training teachers on PSS, and supporting children and integrating into activities. There were some discussions on risk mitigation discussions in the context of the response. Noted that in East GB there were some fires, maybe related to the debris, but wanted to give a heads up to agencies travelling there, as there had reportedly been car accidents related.

- Abaco

IOM will be setting up an office in Abaco with at least two people, partnering with Core

- AOB

- ~~IOM promised to check the notes from shelter meeting to see who raised the question about the orphanage in GB~~
- Social Services raised the issue of children being left unattended in the shelter by Haitian parents. Seems isolated for now, however, culturally, they have a practice of doing this and it is not ok. Chair noted that the best would be to include this in key messages for ~~shelter managers~~ shelter managers





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- UNHCR raised a question to SS about the cash transfer program in Bahamas which are based on HH assessment (RISE) – is there a plan to refresh those assessment in light of storm? Social Services explained this program was funded by the IDB and was discontinued. There is currently a program to conduct assessments for assistance, but it's less objective that the RISE program for any assistance. Currently home visits are a part of the assessment process
- UNDP stated they are almost completed with assessments in Grand Bahama and are about to start on Abaco. The question was raised on what the Govt is doing about getting people to rebuild especially on Abaco. There has been no formal decision on the approach whether tent cities, etc There is a question how this will impact livelihood activities - are there enough people to support a work for cash scheme? Will Bahamians be interested in this kind of work? Also there is the point that the debris on the street will be cleared by the Government, but the Government cannot clear private property – must be landowners and NGOs to do that. A plan has been drafted for a landfill, which looks good, has types of segregation.
- UNHCR noted if people have to go back and move debris – the most vulnerable wont people able to go. This is where UNHCR could be of assistance, on documentation, etc. should be taking into account, could be documents that people can claim back. Chair further noted the need for men who also need to get back to work and questioned what support is there.

Next Meeting	<i>National Training Agency, 1 Oct – 13h30</i>
Next Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Endorsement of Above PWG minutes (27/09/2019)</li> <li>8. Agency updates on specific issues             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Registration</li> <li>- 3W, Activities Tracking &amp; Referral</li> <li>- Documentation</li> <li>- Psychosocial/Mental health</li> <li>- Human Rights</li> <li>- Cash based interventions</li> <li>- Communication with Communities</li> <li>- PSEA</li> </ul> </li> <li>9. Child Protection</li> <li>10. GBV</li> </ol>



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11. Other Islands – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc.

12. AOB



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