



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

Date	1/10/2019 – Meeting #6	Location	National Training Agency	
Chair	Maeve Murphy <murphym@unhcr.org>, Senior Protection Coordinator, UNHCR	Minutes prepared by	Deneisha Moss <moss@unhcr.org>	
Participating organizations	UNHCR/UNFPA/ICRC/IOM/Social Services/Americares / Active Citizen Bahamas / OM international /Child Evangelism Fellowship / Team Rubicon USA			
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 <p>Update from Sub-working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection, • GBV/PSEA <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 subworking groups to include psychosocial referrals			Pending	UNHCR 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	Pending	UNICEF
Child Protection -working group date to be confirmed and TOR of working group 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
Details of child friendly spaces to be shared	Pending	UNICEF
Documentation matrix to be presented in next meeting	Presentation for next meeting	UNHCR
Criteria used by Social Services dept for those eligible for support would be beneficial	Pending	Social Services
All agencies to provide inputs into DTM by 1 Oct	Pending	All Agencies
Details of obstacles and gaps for documentation replacement to be shared	Pending	All Agencies
Minimum expenditure basket to be shared	Pending	Social Services/ICRC

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 confirmed that their proposal for a registration system remains under review of National Authorities with no definitive answer, as communicated by the Director of Social Services in a meeting today. 	Pending Govt approval	IOM/Social Services
Survey/Needs assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair reiterated for participants the importance of a single protection oriented needs assessment – i.e. the DTM - which would minimize the need for multiple assessments. Underscored that this was also emphasized to the Director of Social Services this morning 	All Agencies to provide input to DTM	IOM



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<p>3W, Activities Tracking & Referral</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comments on DTM form to be sent by 1 Oct COB – PWG chair already submitted comments. ○ IM support reminded PWG to continue using the 3W links, which has been retained and is now being maintained by NEMA - for the record, please log onto http://bit.ly/BHS-3W Log in: DorianResponse / Password: dorianresponse – IM support from PWG (legoupil@unhcr.org) is on standby to help any partners facing issues. ○ Updated that a data curation process was agreed to ensure data quality control before going into public consumption on the public dashboard. ○ IM updated that a Dorian response link was added to the GPC website: http://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/field-support/field-protection-clusters/bahamas/ , and gave an overview of the website. Previous DTM reports are included here as well as PWG minutes, etc. This will also be a space to share presentations and other useful information ○ On referral, UNFPA reported significant progress regarding referral forms 		
<p>Documentation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNHCR gave an overview of some of the various documentation types, together with the requirements to obtain said documents ○ Presentation – which is a work in progress and needs to be updated – will be added to 3W. ○ Participants were asked to share concrete examples/obstacles of impediments to obtain documentation, if they become known. Given examples included belonging certificate to access school for hurricane affected and concern over school certificate that were taking time to be issued. Situation of cost for Haitian documents release in Bahamas was also mentioned. ○ The risk of statelessness for individuals with nationality but without the officially required proof was also explained. The issue of kids from Bahamian father but outside wedlock and as such not transferring nationality was noted. ○ Questions were asked about the exact process in case of police arrest or the risk for people hosting individuals with potential documentation issues. ○ It was noted that the Bahamas is not signatory to the convention on statelessness 	<p>All Agencies to share concrete examples of where obstacles to accessing documentation lie</p>	<p>All Agencies</p>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The need to ensure advocacy so that people can benefit from sufficient time to process their papers and that due process be applied to those who have the right to apply for legal status was outlined by participants of the WG. The PWG chair has recalled the request sent to the Ministry of Immigration for a technical meeting to identify and devise solutions for specific cases. ○ Questions were raised about the existence of agreements between the Govt of Haiti & Bahamas in relation with deportation noting the declarations in the newspaper and on television. ○ Participants also expressed concern that there was a greater presence on the street of police and Immigration and there was a fear that people who were affected by the hurricane and do not have documents may be subject to being rounded up and deported. Hence the importance of resolving due process in terms of access to documentation to safeguard people. 		
Psychosocial/ Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSTR 		
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Issues raised under documentation 		
Cash Based Interventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bahamas Red Cross distributed cash assistance (prepaid card) in coordination with Social Services last Friday 27th for those mostly in need of assistance to for housing, though may also be used for food. The majority of beneficiaries were Bahamian. ○ Today they will conduct another distribution exercise, and it is anticipated that mot beneficiaries will be Haitian. ○ Social Services are also giving food vouchers and still registering people for same ○ Minimum expenditure basket will be provided at next PWG by Social Services/ICRC 	Minimum expenditure basket to be shared	Social Services/ICRC
Communication with Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FAQ continue to be compiled for sharing with NEMA 	Questions from affected community to be shared	All Agencies



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GBV/PSEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last Friday the first GBV WG was led by Department of Social Services at the Gender Division at the SS. ○ Approximately 41 persons working on GBV attended – persons working on health, AG’s office, Crisis Centre, Bahamas Women Rights Association, Bahamas Department of Corrections, men’s organization, Police, Persons with disabilities and evacuees from Abaco and Prison services ○ The TORs for the working group was introduced and will be discussed, finalized and approved at the next meeting ○ Continuing work on the referral pathways with SS. There are already existing pathways based on needs (trafficking, child abuse, etc) but no common referral mechanism ○ Objective is to combine on one chart, survivor focused, integrating all services ○ UNFPA shared the GBV TORs which will be posted on the 3w site and outlined the contents therein. ○ IFRC sought clarification on what offences require mandatory reporting to police, and UNFPA explained that there are specific procedures depending of type of violence, each being regulated by law. Violence against children and domestic violence require mandatory reporting and social services added there was no statute of limitation for sexual offences. ○ UNFPA and social services emphasized that when one requests health service, there should be no referral to immigration illegal investigation on legal status ○ Will be working on a more structured mechanism for PSEA, especially in light of the current climate where PSEA might become an issue. ○ UNFPA further noted that they have identified two main points that need attention in their assessment (1) transportation is one concern and (2) other is communication. At shelter level – lack of creole translation in health/social services mean relying on people from community, but this is currently being addressed. 	<p>Presentation will be shared after approval on Friday</p> <p>Need to develop some guidelines for protection sensitive information sharing</p>	UNFPA
Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Child protection will present an update at Thursdays meeting 		



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OTHER ISSUES TO NOTE

Next Meeting	<i>National Training Agency, Thursday 13.30 at EOC</i>
Next Agenda	<p>Endorsement of Above 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"> • GBV • Child Protection <p>Field Update – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc.</p> <p>AOB – Any other Business</p> <p>Next meeting Thursday 13:30</p>



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