



Bahamas Dorian – Protection Working Group - Meeting Minutes

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

Date	10/10/2019 – Meeting #9	Location	National Training Agency	
Chair	Maeve Murphy <murphym@unhcr.org>, Senior Protection Coordinator, UNHCR	Minutes prepared by	Deneisha Moss <moss@unhcr.org>	
Participating organizations	IFRC / IOM / Ministry of Health / Social Services / Team Rubicon USA / UNDP / UNFPA / UNHCR			
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.</p> <p>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



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Referral form to be agreed by subworking groups to include psychosocial referrals	Pending	IM to call meeting regarding same	
Child Protection – Confirmation of when school starts with location details and confirmation of locations waiting to be accommodated, also details of child friendly spaces 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	
Criteria used by Social Services dept for those eligible for support would be beneficial and where the documentation centres might be established and where	Pending	Social Services	
Details of obstacles and gaps for documentation replacement to be shared	Pending	All Agencies	
Minimum expenditure basket	Pending	Social Services/ICRC	
Details of names and details of students who may be impacted with moving to the gym to be identified for possible replacement of uniforms	Pending	MoE/SS	
Different communication strategies for different locations could be developed – i.e. where international agencies were providing services – no cost	Pending	MoH/Various agencies	
Mobile teams to be considered while documentation not replaced to ensure access to health clinic	Pending	MoH/various agencies	
Accreditation of NGOs to be shared in advance of PSEA implementation of complaints system	Pending	SS/UNFPA	
AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSIONS			
By Agenda Item	Main Points and Decisions from Discussions		Responsible
		Agreed Follow-Up Actions	Responsible



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Registration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair updated on meeting with Social Services and Department of Transformation and Digitization (DTAD) which took place on 09/10/19. Discussions centered around the need for a consolidated database which could assist with all future assistance including cash and shelter noting that there are more than 9 agencies providing assistance currently, and help coordinate all the agencies wanting to do cash assistance in a fair manner. Efforts underway to organize a meeting in the coming week with other relevant agencies who should be at table for this kind of baselines registration discussion, then IM/tech people to provide insight on what an interoperable system could look like and how information can be shared in an anonymous way catering to prioritizing the most vulnerable and prioritizing them ○ SS questioned whether there was a sample of the model that could be shared. ○ Chair – pointed out that the idea is not to recreate the wheel as SS already has existing registration data but rather to build on what is existing – so once the needs are agreed together, then the idea is to build on that in terms of completing the missing information which would require a verification. 		
3W, Activities Tracking & Referral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Working group will take place tomorrow so update on same will be provided post meeting 		
Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSTR 		
Psychosocial/ Mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair raised the issue of the consolidation of the shelters – and possible implications from a PSS perspective. SS highlighted that the focus in the last few days was on the logistics of moving people, which has been a challenge. Although transportation was pre-arranged, there were last minute changes and people had to be transported separately from their personal belongings. IOM questioned how much notice people were given about the move. Noting uncertainty about the process could have a further impact people’s psychological state, and increase stress. SS confirmed shelter managers were informed of the plan to move and were asked to convey what was happening – so thinks it went well. SS further noted that this is a learning process for them – including what resources are 	CCM/Protection group offered support for communicating with communities regarding potential relocation	SS



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	<p>available to tap, but also noted there could be issues to overcome, such as reluctance, understanding the motives of support being offered and territorialism. Chair – underscored the objective of the GPC was to support the Government where support is needed. For example if there is a need to consider how the team could conduct focused group discussions which would provide necessary information and support in the organization of the convoys with CCCM support– this can be arranged. SS noted that tomorrow 11th October evacuees in Pilgrim Baptist Church will be moved to the gym</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair noted the PWG could help bridge the gap in communication between SS and evacuees – for example there may be questions on what now happens to kids who have already been registered for school, but are now relocation to another shelter. ○ SS noted this was a concern in fact since some had been registered and may not have to move to new school (with a new school uniform). The chair noted numbers of the children affected in this way would be helpful and maybe support could be identified for switching out new school uniforms ○ SS informed that it is anticipated that evacuees in Bahamas Academy will eventually be moved to the Kendal Isaacs gym and questioned whether IOM could be invited to assist ○ IOM noted it would also be good to reflect with shelter management and understand what they think worked well during the response, and what didn't in order to make adjustments for the next time. The Chair echoed this sentiment, noting the importance of lessons learned with shelter manager – where did they need help? ○ Ministry of Health [MOH] updated counselling sessions are now available in the clinics, but the times will need to be confirmed. The hotline exists still, and there are no reports of challenges with this, although there may be the need to raise awareness on this. The question is how to do this? Can it be done through BTC/Aliv? ○ Chair noted, if for example there was a leaflet – we could blast that to everyone through the various whatsapp groups. MOH will share the information for dissemination ○ IM raised the question – in light of meeting with SS on registration – which entity oversees BTC/Aliv as that agency would be key in getting information linked to registration. MOH noted it would be URCA. IM recommended a meeting with BTC and 	<p>Details of names and details of students who may be impacted with moving to the gym to be identified for possible replacement of uniforms</p> <p>Details of contact numbers to be shared</p>	<p>UNICEF/SS/MoE</p> <p>All working groups</p>
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	<p>Aliv – to discuss how they can assist with a verification process to identify affected population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MOH noted two ‘resilient centres’ were being set up on Abaco and Grand Bahama, respectively, which will focus on PSS. 		
<p>Human Rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update of 112 deported, this morning, unknown whether any deportees were affected or what whether they had access to due process. Movement from shelter was linked to immigration announcements, and now people are living in bushes, hiding and unable to access assistance – health, replacement of docs, etc. IOM will check whether they have previous stats on deportations prior to the hurricane. ○ IOM provided an update that their team in Haiti confirmed the deportation to Haiti and flagged a father amongst the group who was separated from his children. Question on where these concerns should be channeled – what systems are in place and how to follow up. ○ MOH noted this was not uncommon – maybe the father didn’t declare the child ○ Chair indicated that such deportations will impact welfare of people as they are already traumatized and now will fear accessing services as a result. ○ UNFPA – noted when they went to GB and Abaco, in speaking to NGOs access to health and fear of deportation was a recurrent topic ○ MOH informed there were discussions on how to address this post-hurricane i.e. 1) guidance to staff not to insist on documents and 2) how to inform the public so they are aware. Once concern was - how do you know who you are treating? But the decision taken was that knowing who was being treated, did not take precedence over what was being treated. UNFPA noted the requirements of ID, followed by price list are prominently placed at the clinics, and they constitute deterrent. MOH agreed these requirements were waived and should therefore be removed. Chair, noted that such deterrent mean people will not coming forward at all, so their condition may worsen and eventually even cost more. MOH confirmed in Abaco – the plan going forward in the next 2-3 weeks is for medical services to be supported by international groups so that might 	<p>Different communication strategies for</p>	<p>MoH/relevant agencies</p>



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	<p>alleviate some challenges, when people see internationals. Chair – noted the deterrent were the same in Nassau, however MOH noted this was more of a policy situation considering Nassau was unaffected thus difference communication strategies could be developed for different locations. The discussion was had nevertheless, but there were questions around how to fund or recuperate funds? Should there be a system where clinics are free but hospital are not? This still needs to be fleshed out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SS – raised the issue of time frame for Americares whose mission is scheduled to end in mid-October, but were willing to extend. MOH confirmed that they are being extended. ○ Team Rubicon stated TR, Heart to Heart and Americares – put forward a proposal to extend and that was being considered. Mission of Hope medical component is also looking to join. TR noted they can technically be mobile which is important, but noted they would need to discuss internally re staffing. ○ MOH noted a roaming team was not a part of the earlier model, but TR clarified they are currently looking and having a team that roves between Moore’s Island and Sandy Point – (1 doctor, 2 nurses and PSS) ○ Chair, noted if MOH is supportive, in the absence of documents, mobile teams can be a stop gap measure. TR confirmed they are able to support regardless of nationality. MOH thanked TR for their support ○ IOM – highlighted the discussion really pointed to the need for a CWC strategy for health, including key messages, to which MOH noted before doing so, we all need to be on the same page. Chair stated there could be different strategies for different locations ○ MOH stated there were questions around the ‘waiver’ on documentation/fees - how long would it be in place, how long would it take to replace documents? What is the reasonable expectation to replace documents for example if you were evacuated, where you access to the Passport Office and/or Haitian Embassy ○ Chair highlight from a humanitarian perspective, no one should be denied access to healthcare – regardless of whether they have documentation, not to mention, there were issues with replacing documents on a while – police record requires legal status. However MOH noted the national security concerns. 	<p>different locations could be developed – i.e. where international agencies were providing services – no cost</p> <p>Mobile teams to be considered while documentation not replaced to ensure access to health clinic</p>	<p>MoH/relevant agencies</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SS added persons with a right to reside should have biometric in the system from tracking. ○ Chair noted the main point was whether there was due process afforded to the deportees and this information points to the need to review the process. 		
<p>Cash Based Interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NEMA is in process of establishing a Cash Working Group. In the meantime, interested actors met for a cash briefing today to discuss existing and upcoming plans on cash. For the time being to be added to the group email list/to receive minutes and information please contact zehra.rizvi@wfp.org 		
<p>Communication with Communities GBV/PSEA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MSTR ○ UNFPA will be visiting GB and Abaco next week and are setting up referral systems there. ○ Will be conducted trainings on ref. pathways for shelter managers/NGOs/etc on GBV guidelines and PSEA in Abaco on Tuesday and Nassau likely on Thursday. Also trying to identify focal points for the services and community. Will be full day training, which will be repeated as needed. UNFPA have already translated referral pathways into Creole, will be disseminating in Nassau and Abaco in poster and notebook format ○ They have included messages that services are not linked to documentation, but needs to be extended to other policies ○ GBV messages, key messages and audios have been translated into Creole together with gender affairs. ○ Raised the issue that while observing a distribution, there were issues with communications and there remains the need for Creole speakers ○ IM support requested messages be shared for consolidated FAQs. FPA will share as soon as they can ○ FPA Personnel: extending mission for one week then 2 new colleagues coming into replace for two months, including PSEA coordinator who will be on the ground for one month ○ 23-26 Oct there will be mission from HQ 		



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair asked for an update on accreditation process – how are NGOs going to be held accountable. SS to come back with an update on this. PSEA colleague will be looking at this mapping who is on the ground – and instituting a complaints mechanism 	Accreditation of NGOs to be shared in advance of PSEA implementation of complaints system	Social Services
Child Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NSTR 		

OTHER ISSUES TO NOTE

Next Meeting	<i>National Training Agency, 15 Oct 2019, 13:30</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 • Communication with Communities <p>Update from Sub-working group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBV/PSEA • Child Protection, <p>Field Update – Abaco, Grand Bahamas etc.</p> <p>AOB – Any other Business</p>



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