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برنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي
United Nations Development Programme Iraq

**Project Board Meeting / Project Steering Committee
“Access to Justice 99756”**

Date: 27th Feb 2017

Location (Or virtual): Jouhayna Hotel

Attendees:

Project Director (National counterpart)

Development Partners:

1- Implementing Partners:

- Sarkwat Omer Ahmed: Director of DCVAW Sulaimania
- Shadman Ahmed :Project Manager IBHR
- Hogr Chato : Director of PAO Organization
- Parez Hamad : Project Manager PAO
- Salah H Yaseen : Director of Harikar Organization Harikar
- Dezheen Mohammed : Project Manager

2- UNDP:

- Chamila Hemmathagama : Program Manager ROL
- Nishtiman Aziz : Program Officer ROL
- Rawaa Rasheed : Project Assistant ROL
- Chanar Kareem : GBV Officer ICRRP

3- Donors:

- Marianne Bauer : Program Officer (UN Action)
- Helen Olafsdottir : Policy Specialist (UNDP HQ- Global Fund)

Project Assurance (UNDP Programme Officer, or M&E Officer):

Project Manager: Chamila Hemmathagama ROL

Project Support:

Meeting Agenda:

Time from 9:00 am

– to 12:00 pm

Course of Meeting

OR

Major Points of Discussion:

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Overview of project activities and progress made there-in (Presentation). Chamila Hemmathagama made a presentation on how the project has been working so far, geographical distribution and target communities.

- 6x Legal Aid Centres are operational in Baghdad, Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniya Governorates for IDPs and Syrian Refugees.

Locations:

Erbil: Baharka (IDP) and Kawrgosk (Refugee)
Dohuk: Shariya (IDP) and Domiz (Refugee)
Sulaymaniya: Ashti (IDP)
Baghdad: Asalaam (IDP)

Implementing Partners:

Government:

DCVAW and IBHR: Erbil, Dohuk and Sulaymaniya

NGOs:

- Harikar Organisation: Dohuk
- Public Aid Organisation (PAO): Erbil
- DHRD: Sulaymaniya
- Dar Al Khibra (DKO): Baghdad

Services provided by the centres on legal assistance and protection:

- Human rights monitoring by the IBHR including case referrals to IBHR where appropriate.
- Case investigations by DCVAW: each centre has an investigation unit.
- DCVAW works in close collaboration with NGO partner and IBHR.

Four trainings were held for IBHR, DCVAW and NGO partners, leading to increased understanding of and on- site skill building on CRSV, SGBV and legal aid, human rights, case tracking, case reporting and documentation case investigations and report writing.

Issues covered include the following: legal aid services and SGBV/ GBV; HR and women rights ; domestic violence- and non-violent approaches to solving domestic conflicts; prevention and protection from early/ forced marriages and the legal age for marriage.

Challenges:

- Identifying specific indicators to measure 'reduction of violence' resulting from legal aid services to SGBV survivors.
- Recognizing the pre-dominantly qualitative nature of our work, this is an on-going challenge to quantify success!!
- 7.5 % of all cases (53 of 705) involve SGBV.
- Types of SGBV include physical violence, dispossession of home and other forms of economic violence, abduction of children, and severe emotional abuse, including leaving wife for new wife, without divorcee.

- Fear: IDPs afraid to leave camp or approach authorities. Fear of arrest for sympathizing with Daesh.
- Stigma: Strong stigma associated with SGBV. Most IDPs do not wish to use outside help to solve domestic violence
- Priority: IDP focus is on jobs and returning.

3. What has worked, challenges and areas for improvement (Plenary).

All the stakeholders agreed that the collaboration between all the stakeholders on the project in general and especially in the centers has been quite fruitful for all the partners and the target beneficiaries. As for challenges the issue of the movement of IDPs and Refugees especially in Erbil and in some places in Duhok was mentioned by UNDP. As some IDPs return to their places of origin and some new IDPs are arriving in new locations, and the necessity of covering these new areas. Partners agreed with that and emphasized on their support and flexibility in case of any change in this regard.

Areas for improvement:

DCVAW mentioned that they need more training on GBV case management, also on the civil laws associated to family and women. Also, they have identified that the Judges are not familiar enough with GBV case handling and they need to be trained on that. Some have pointed out that at the newly liberated areas there were incidents in the court where the judge dismissed a woman who came asking for her rights because the judge doesn't believe in these rights. The Donors suggested more focus on training for the judges and for DCVAW on GBV.

4. Next steps and wrap -up

Target locations for service provision to be revisited with a view to maximize available resources where the need for legal aid services for CRSV/GBV survivors is greatest. The target locations mainly in Erbil with some focus in Duhok to allow services to the large number of displaced people who are fleeing from Mosul amidst military operations to regain ISIL controlled territory. Current agreements finish by the end of April, but the change will be considered in the coming phase and a scoping mission will be conducted by UNDP staff to gather data on the new locations.

A number of trainings to be prepared and conducted by Access to Justice project during 2017 and 2018 focusing on capacity building for implementing partners and DCVAW staff.

5. Bi-lateral meetings with implementing partners and closure.

Minutes By Nishtiman Aziz



1st March 2017

