



SYRIA SITUATION UPDATE – 11/02/2013

1. Protection Co-ordination Response

- Protection co-ordination and response in Syria for IDPs and conflict affected civilians has been established through the UNHCR led Protection/ Community Services Working Group. An Amman based inter-agency protection support group for Syria has been set up. The purpose of this group is to support the management of protection coordination on-going inside Syria.
- On 24.01. 2013, a Senior Protection Cluster Coordinator arrived in Amman and was replaced by a longer term Senior Protection Coordinator on 28.01.2013, who is currently awaiting a visa for Syria. Representation for the Shelter Cluster and the Camp Co-ordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster has also been ensured.
- At the Geneva level, a GPC co-ordination meeting was called on 17.01. 2013, to discuss the initial declaration of L-3 for Syria and map the response plans and capacity of all partners. UNHCR in its capacity as Cluster lead continues to provide Protection inputs to OCHA and other partners, especially in the context of the evolving situation. A coordinated strategy for protection response for Syria is being developed in consultation with AORs.

2. GBV AOR Response

- GBV AoR Rapid Response Team (RRT) Advisor for Middle East and North Africa is in Syria (deployed March 2012). Key elements of her TOR include: (1) Assisting UN agencies to assess their overall capacity and that of partners, to prevent, identify and address GBV-related programming and coordination in Syria and to develop a framework for mainstreaming GBV prevention and response into the overall humanitarian response in the country. (2) To assist in developing targeted response interventions for Syrian survivors of GBV and raising the overall awareness on the importance of prevention of GBV in emergencies.
- GBV AOR is working with partners in existing co-ordination mechanisms in Damascus, including within the Protection/Community Services Working Group.
- Currently, a GBV AOR Syria Crisis Advocacy paper is being finalized for circulation.



- GBV AoR has provided inputs to the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Syria on pre-mission planning work on Rule of Law, Human Rights and Social Services, including advocating for the inclusion of a Women's Protection Advisor in the mission.

3. HLP AOR Response

- HLP is a critical gap in the current protection coordination mechanism and response in Syria. HLP AOR organized an ad hoc meeting on the crisis in Syria on 21.01.2013 focusing on co-ordination and deployments.
- Global HLP AoR coordinator is on stand-by for deployment to support HLP coordination, strategy development and emergency response. Additional HLP surge capacities are being identified. Moreover, a list of national/international experts on HLP and Syria has been created and along with a compilation of key references on HLP in Syria.
- HLP AoR coordination team and UNHABITAT Office in Amman are in regular contact with protection co-ordination structures dealing with the situation in Syria.
- A briefing note on HLP issues in the Syria emergency was released on 30.01.2013. On 20.02.2013, the HLP AoR will present the briefing note and discuss HLP issues with members of the IASC Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas.

4. Child Protection AOR Response

- Advocacy statement on Syria was issued on 16.01.2013, high-lighting key child protection concerns.
- Co-ordination is being undertaken through the Protection/Community Services working group in Damascus where, the child protection AOR is present (UNICEF Syria) and actively participates.
- The Child Protection AoR is supporting an inter-agency rapid assessment on child protection in Syria, including through the secondment of a member of the Rapid Response Team to lead the assessment (which has both remote information collection components and information collection inside Syria).
- Currently, most child protection work is initiated by or undertaken through partnership with local community groups and organizations. UNICEF, as the lead agency for child protection, has both



expatriate and national child protection staff in Syria.

5. Mine Action AOR Response

- The Mine Action AoR agreed in early 2012, for UNMAS to lead mine action coordination efforts in Syria with all relevant actors. UNMAS has already been present in Syria with the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (established by the UN Security Council in April 2012) and with a support team in Amman. Support is also provided through UNMAS HQ (New York) and UNMAS Geneva Office. The work of the UNMAS program for Syria is integrated into the UNCT.
- Two projects by UNMAS were included in the SHARP covering mine action coordination; and mine risk education, survey and marking. Humanitarian mine action in Syria is deeply underfunded and neither projects have received any funding till date. UNMAS also participated in the Kuwait donor conference for Syria.
- The conflict in Syria has involved extensive use of indiscriminate, area-wide explosive weapons, causing both immediate and long-lasting damages because of the high levels of ERW (Explosive Remnants of War) contamination. In early February 2013, UNMAS and UNICEF convened in Amman a successful workshop on mine risk education (MRE). Humanitarian actors in Syria are now also at risk from ERW. UNMAS has provided such training to over 500 humanitarian aid workers in Syria.
- The Mine Action AOR is in the process of developing a leaflet on mine action for Syria.