



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

HARIKAR NGO

Open space event results -
World Refugee Day,
2022 - Duhok.

This event was Initiated by the Harikar CBP
team and organized by Harikar and UNHCR.



INTRODUCTION

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World Refugee Day is celebrated each year on the 20th of June. The theme for the year 2022 was “The right to seek safety” encouraging the fact that every person on this planet has the right to seek safety, whoever they are, wherever they come from, and whenever forced to flee.

Harikar NGO, a non-governmental and non-profit organization, working on the Protection of refugees and other related subjects ,organized an open space event (Discussion panels) in partnership with UNHCR for the World Refugee Day on 20th of June 2022. The activity was part of an event held by UNHCR with activities from different NGOs and humanitarian actors from Duhok/KR-I.

The event gathered people of concern from IDPs, Syrian refugees, and members from the host community to discuss topics related to the POCs living in KR-I. The participants were divided into five groups each discussing one of the following subjects; Education, Integration, Documentation, Jobs and employment and Health.

The idea behind the open space was to give the IDPs and Refugees a platform to share their own opinions on the subjects and challenges they are more familiar with as they live through them daily. The hope is that this event will encourage the IDPs and Refugees to voice their opinions and concerns more freely in the future.

The groups each highlighted some challenges and came up with a few solutions. After the group discussions concluded, each group had one presenter who came on stage to present the groups findings, also mentioned in this booklet.

EDUCATION

Education was chosen as a topic for discussion because it is one of the important pillars to build a well informed society. Education is also a right of each person. The following challenges and solutions were presented by the participants. solutions.

Moderator: Fareed Badrikhan

Participants:

Sarhat Abid Chale, Refugee
Abdullah Issa Maa, Refugee
Shahnas Mohammed, Refugee
Shihab Ahmed, IDP
Ibrahim Khalil, Harikar
Rogash Mahdi, Harikar
Suad Ghazi, UNHCR



Education

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CHALLENGES

- Language challenges: language barrier is one of the fundamental challenges that Syrian asylum seekers face. In their country of origin, they attended schools with Arabic curricula, while the curricula in KR-I are a mix of Badini and Sorani Kurdish. Those who were educated in Syria are unable to teach and follow up with their child's education.
- Online educational system: Some difficulties arose with this shift to online education, during the COVID-19 pandemic, for the inhabitants of the camps such as a limited access to the internet, lack of smart gadgets as well as poor technical skills.
- Syrian students in Universities face economical and documentation difficulties. They also must have their modified degree, therefore legalizing or equalizing their certificates presents another issue.
- There is a lack of incentives, for teachers in camps, from the service provider, and international organization.
- Lack of capacity building training for teachers inside camps.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- Adaptation to the current educational environment by learning the Kurdish language, which doesn't pose any difficulty to the children who started education in KR-I.
- UNHCR and UNICEF are developing an integration policy that will ensure that refugees contribute more to the receiving community.
- UNHCR is organizing workshops on integration policies for all principals of refugee schools.
- Regarding the online educational system, it was recommended that there should be an official platform related to educational materials for all students, such as video lessons and TV programs. The KRG has taken this step, but more efforts are needed to improve it.
- UNHCR and UNICEF are developing an integration policy that will ensure that refugees contribute more to the receiving community.

UNHCR is organizing workshops on integration policies for all principals of refugee schools.

CONCLUSION

In order to exercise their rights in accordance with domestic and international legislation, the participants from the host community and the refugee community expressed their hope at the conclusion of the session that their voices would be heard by all parties. The refugees also used this chance to express their gratitude for the compassion and continued assistance provided to refugees and IDPs by the host community.

Integration is one of UNHCR's Durable Solutions besides Voluntary Repatriation and Resettlement. It's very important to mention that the integration and social cohesion between Refugees, IDPs and the Host community in the society is strong. Yet, more discussion is needed to strengthen it even more. The following challenges and solutions were presented by the participants.

Moderator: Rekar Hishyar

Participants:

Barzan Abdullah Mohammed, Refugee
Ahmed Habib, Refugee
Saad Fahad, Refugee
Mohammed Ali Hassan, IDP
Zhiman Daham, Harikar
Khosh Shakwat, UNHCR

Integration

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CHALLENGES

- One of the several difficulties faced by the refugees in KRI is the language barrier. As language is the main method of communication and interaction.
- Experiencing the negative image that the host community had about the refugees. A relationship based on bad image eventually collapses due to a lack of trust.
- Finding equal job opportunities and support from humanitarian actors, as an IDP participant stated. He claimed that Muslim IDPs from Sinjar were out of the focus of humanitarian actors, who mainly focused on IDPs from different backgrounds.
- All of the participants, refugees, and IDPs, agreed that the biggest challenges they face are economic problems. They ask for an official statute in this country in order to be independent, to reduce depending on NGOs.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- Regarding language barriers, improving communications and trying to learn the language is the best solution to break the obstacles to integration. Furthermore, it is a privilege to be proficient in multiple languages.
- Advanced communication skills will reflect better thoughts and impressions about the person and build trust between the different groups of people.
- Equalizing the interest and focus of all of the government, NGOs, and media on groups of concern in order not to neglect a certain group and highlight another.
- Flexible laws and rules of the government toward the groups of concern improve the process of integration.

CONCLUSION

The importance of integration lies in creating a harmonious atmosphere between the host community, refugees, and IDPs in order to develop and improve the lives of the mentioned groups and establish a cohesive society based on peaceful coexistence.

Documentation is essential to have better access to services. Many refugees suffered from a lack of documents during their refuge in KR-I. The following challenges and solutions were presented by the participants.

Moderator: Asma Taha

Participants:

Dilovan Nori, Refugee
Solin Bahri, Refugee
Falak Yahya, Refugee
Amr Edo Birjes, Refugee
Lana Abdulhamid, Refugee
Dejin Mohammed, UNHCR
Hikmat Shurfani, UNHCR

Documentation

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CHALLENGES

- The expose to fraud and exploitation.
- The short validation period of the UNHCR certificate.
- The difficulty to renew the residency cards between governorates.
- The difficulty to modify and ratification of the academic certificates.
- The difficulty to change bio data.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- To extend the expiry duration of the UNHCR certificate from 1 year to 2 years.
- To provide some offices for the residency department between the governorates such as a residency department office of Duhok in Erbil to smooth the refugees' process for renewing the residency to eliminate the challenge of traveling for renewal.
To coordinate with the Syrian embassy in Baghdad to modify and ratification of the academic certificates.
- To provide awareness in regards to changing of the bio-data by building social media pages and providing general counseling among the camp communities and urban areas throughout the humanitarian agencies and by the refugees and IDPs themselves.
- To provide some offices for the residency department between the governorates such as a residency department office of Duhok in Erbil to smooth the refugees' process for renewing the residency to eliminate the challenge of traveling for renewal.
- To coordinate with the Syrian embassy in Baghdad to modify and ratification of the academic certificates.

CONCLUSION

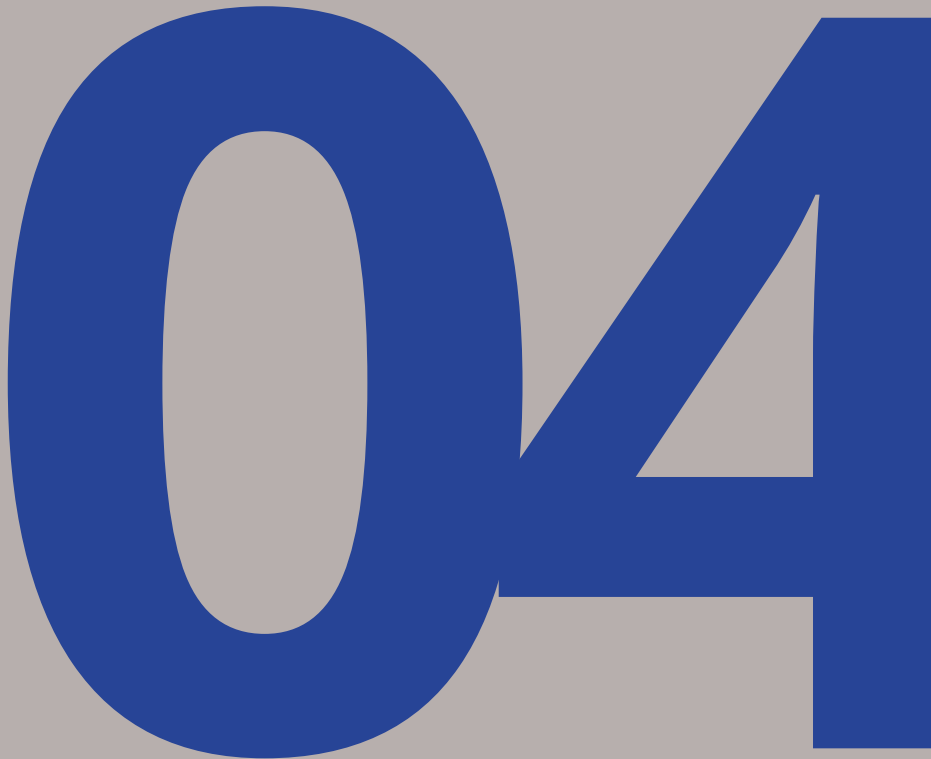
Documents present evidence of human existence and provide protection and freedom of movement with avoiding chaos and disorder. The mentioned challenges and accompanin solutions above are proof that there is room for improvement in this department.

Job security and Employment is a pillar of a healthy and happy family. Some challenges were raised during the session as well as provided interesting solutions in order to increase job opportunity for Refugees, IDPs and members of the Host Community with a focus on safety and security.

Moderator: Badal Anas

Participants:

Ibrahim Shokri Salih, Refugee
Kaleem Darwesh Sawash, Refugee
Shaven Farsat, UNHCR
Nawaf Merza Ilyas, IDP
Mohammed Najib, Harikar
Dilpak M. Yousif, Host Community



Jobs and Employment

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CHALLENGES

- The safety and security of an area reflect in the availability of job opportunities, the less safety and security, the fewer job opportunities.
- Working for long hours and different duties with very low wages. Judgmental society values the person by his/her job.
- The refugees have a lower chance of getting jobs due to lack of documentation. Lack of qualifications to work in different fields.
- Most young people depend on government or special sectors in working, without considering the creation of their own business.
- The refugees have a lower chance of getting jobs due to lack of documentation. Lack of qualifications to work in different fields.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- Being aware about the personal qualifications to apply for the proper job. Develop and improve the personal skills by attending different online courses, training and workshops.
- Taking advantage of any job opportunity found.
- Taking advantage from the development of technology and social media in creating a personal job, thus providing jobs for others as well.
- Voluntarily working is the best way to recognize the personal abilities, build communications, develop skills and finding jobs.
- A labor law should be applied to increase giving the vacancies for the unemployed persons rather than the previously employed ones.

CONCLUSION

In light of the remarkable ongoing development, people must keep pace with development and improve their personal qualifications continuously either to find proper jobs or to create their own business.

Health is a basic right of every person, many people face challenges in the Health sector especially refugees. The need for a better and a more effective health system and easier access to health services for Refugees and IDPs was the main point of this discussion. The following challenges and solutions were presented by the participants.

Moderator: Rahma Issam

Participants:

Nazi Mohammed, Refugee
Shiyar Mohammed, Refugee
Hussain Ali Hassan, IDP
Malva, Refugee
karzan Anwar, Harikar
Lawik Hadi, Host Community
Sarwar Issa, UNHCR



Health

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CHALLENGES

- Lack of a service map confuses people about where to go to get a certain medical service.
- Lack of many medications and examinations in governmental hospitals directs people to private hospitals where the medical services are too costly and lack of health insurance.
- Lack in hygiene due to shortage of water, and importing food items from unknown sources.
- Management issues in health-care facilities reflects negatively on providing the needed medical care in crisis conditions and shortage of staff in emergency hospitals.

SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS

- Creating a website or an application of medical service map. A helpline number can also be provided.
- Advocacy to the governmental sectors for providing more medications and important examination.
- To propose to the NGOs to hire more staff in hospitals to reduce the pressure on the existing staff.
- Improvements to the local food industry, water supply, and sanitation coupled with continuous and regular awareness campaigns.
- Encouraging investors in health-care market to build businesses providing services that are affordable for the community.
- Advocating to governmental agencies to increase the supervision with strict laws to control the prices in the health-care marketplace.

CONCLUSION

The improvement of health services reflects positively on several aspects of the life of the community, including the improvements of the health of individuals, the health awareness of the society and access to the necessary health service at the lowest prices and thus the development of the economic situation of the community.



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