

# ISWG Meeting Note

## February 2024



Inter-Sector  
Working Group  
Jordan

### ISWG Meeting Note and Action Points

**Date / Time / Venue**

**Wednesday, 07 February 2024, 10:00 - 11:30, UNICEF office**

**Attendees**

Inter-Sector Coordinator, Sector Coordinators, Leads/Co-Leads of the Economic Empowerment, Education, FSBN, Health, MHPSS, Protection, Shelter, WASH, UN Women focal point for localization and Gender, and Irbid Field office.

### **CASH COORDINATION:**

- The Jordan cash coordination presentation updated the ISWG on global cash coordination efforts, strategies for local integration, outcomes from the previous year, and recent changes made in February 2022, with reporting to the ISWG scheduled for April 2022.
- Emphasizing localization, the initiative will have joint leadership by OCHA and UNHCR, with plans for a co-chair. Practical approaches have been agreed upon, with a deadline set for establishing the cash coordination working group by April 2022 and communication of efforts in Jordan by March 2024. Cash Working Groups prioritize local leadership, with UNHCR leading in refugee settings and governments invited to co-chair within the humanitarian system. The Common Cash Facility (CCF), led by UNHCR and UNICEF, includes a broad spectrum of local, national, and international participants. CCF membership provides negotiated framework agreements aimed at minimizing transaction costs, with Cairo Bank and Umniah Wallet serving as the two financial services providers involved, resulting in substantial savings. The CCF operates as a delivery-focused entity, addressing practical challenges, and operates independently of the traditional humanitarian structure.
- The Food Security Basic Needs Working Group (FSBN WG) is co-chaired by UNHCR, WFP, TUA, and IOM, with a primary focus on sectoral operational coordination and discussions concerning cash-related matters. UNHCR and WFP serve as the primary actors in cash-related activities within the group. No cash WG on national or sub national level. Camp Level coordination at sectoral level.
- Plan: cash coordination stakeholder consultations which will include mapping, needs analysis, and the development of an action plan with a defined purpose.
- A survey was circulated to gather information for cash coordination mapping. Its aim is to discern ongoing coordination efforts and gain deeper insight into the requirements of cash coordination. The intention is to subsequently devise a plan to address these needs. Members were reminded to complete the survey during the meeting.
- Next steps involve sharing the survey results with members and ISWG by February, with a suggestion to distribute it to relevant sectors. Key informant interviews will gather more data on cash coordination needs. A workshop in March will address coordination gaps and propose solutions.

### Comments and questions:

- JIF: The Cash Learning Partnership could provide valuable insights by offering broader data collection capabilities, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of cash dynamics in Jordan through diverse data sources.
- The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) has requested a survey for data collection purposes. MoPIC seeks to gain a clearer understanding of organizations involved in cash initiatives. This information could be escalated to JoSH for advocacy purposes, highlighting the importance of acquiring background knowledge on the matter.
- Incorporating cash coordination into working groups to enhance information sharing.

### **OPERATIONAL UPDATE:**

- **Special JoSH:** the Special JoSH Committee met on January 29<sup>th</sup>, discussing Social Security and Work Permits' impact on refugees' protection and livelihood opportunities. Participants stressed the importance of understanding refugee challenges in accessing these benefits and permits. The meeting facilitated constructive dialogue among stakeholders, resulting in key recommendations and outcomes:
  - ✓ Shared messaging: The JoSH stressed the need for aligned messaging with government priorities, emphasizing refugees' positive contributions. Coordinated advocacy efforts are crucial for amplifying this message across platforms.
  - ✓ Technical discussion: The JoSH secretariat and the World Bank plan to engage in technical discussions. A task force will formulate recommendations for presentation to the plenary, fostering in-depth deliberations on critical issues.

The next JoSH meeting is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>, and sectors leads are encouraged to share operational updates and challenges to be elevated to JoSH. To facilitate this, a guidance note will be distributed to all leads. This note will outline the specific areas where inputs to meet JoSH's needs (**Field Visits:** There will be an increase in field visits, with the first one scheduled for Irbid; further details will follow. Ehab from IACU will contact to confirm attendance, and additional field visits will be arranged. The purpose of these visits is to gain insights directly from the field, observe activities and projects, and cater to any specific interests indicated by the chairs (potential date first week of March to be confirmed).

- **JRP:** The transition of the JRP 2024 into the 3RP 2024 is underway with assistance from the IM team at IACU. Once completed, sector leads will be notified to review the draft by the end of February.
- **Co-chairing ISWG:** A call for interest survey will be sent to NGOs interested in co-chairing the ISWG. This role indicates a substantive work and commitment. For more details, please reach out to Virginia @ [santoro@unhcr.org](mailto:santoro@unhcr.org) and Layal @ [abudarwi@unhcr.org](mailto:abudarwi@unhcr.org)

### Questions and comments:

- Q: What is the current status of the logframe review by the ministry?
- A: MoPIC continues to raise questions, but this should stop as all materials have been forwarded to the editor for consultation with the World Bank. We anticipate the draft to be submitted to the cabinet soon (end of February). Sectors will be informed when the final version of the JRP is available.
- Meanwhile, all logframes should be in the current JORIS system by the second week of February.
- If a project does not appear in the dropdown list, Sector leads should verify this and address any discrepancies to ISWG for follow-up with MOPIC. The new JORIS will include M&E components and is not anticipated to be launched until the end of the year.

## IRBID UPDATE:

- Irbid Head of Office provided a brief update on the coordination workshop outcomes, and which included restructuring to align with the ISWG model, with attendance from chair and co-chair organizations, who reviewed the coordination structure, retaining focus on protection, education, and health. The coordination group's name will change to North Coordination to encompass cities in the region, distinct from Mafraq's structure. Occasional merging of discussions with Mafraq may occur due to shared initiatives. Coordination with the Irbid governor was emphasized, reflected in the name change to North.
- Organizations will be invited based on agenda relevance, facilitating discussions between humanitarian and development sectors. Clarity on projects in Irbid is crucial, alongside awareness of major development initiatives. The group outlined four priorities: local engagement, evidence-based programming to avoid duplication, integration with national systems, and monitoring and review of sector reports to identify needs and gaps. Members identified for ISWG training include those in coordination and leadership roles, as well as IM training.
- A field visit is tentatively planned for March 5th to observe partner projects in Irbid.

## SECTORS UPDATE:

- **Health sector:** The multi-donor trust fund, providing refugees access to health facilities, is set to expire in September 2024, potentially resulting in adverse consequences. A meeting with USAID discussed the extension of the trust fund, although the duration remains uncertain. Nonetheless, this extension could positively impact refugees' access to essential services.
- **Gender:** Exploring protection and gender priorities with three workshops tentatively scheduled for the first week of March, focusing on modality, mainstreaming principles, and practical aspects. Updates will follow. Gender analysis is currently ongoing in collaboration with UNHCR for primary data collection, which includes the development of a survey framework. The final report is expected to be available in April or May.
- **Localization:** The Localisation Task Team (LTT) convened last month to draft new ToR and initiate work on the work plan, considering the involvement of the ISWG.
- **Shelter sector:** Initiating a mapping exercise to strengthen linkages with WASH and health sectors and planning to engage with the WASH sector to discuss organizing a workshop. Cash for Shelter Guidance: Partners have submitted requests regarding this matter. The sector will develop minimal standards for rehabilitation.
- **Economic Empowerment sector:** The Minutes of Meeting (MoM) from the last Working Group (WG) will be circulated, and a new local NGO, ARDD, has been appointed as co-chair.
- **Food Security & Basic Needs sector:** UNHCR has transitioned to a quarterly cycle for eligibility and inclusion, collaborating with partners to update information on RAIS and related systems. The annual assessment of Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) has been completed, and the results will be disseminated. Additionally, guidelines on integrating protection into cash programs are being developed.
- **Protection sector:** Revising the Work Plan and activities, as well as referral guidelines, in response to reduced funding. The decrease in services may adversely impact communities, leading to concerns such as child labor, child marriage, and negative coping mechanisms. Collaborating with the Ministry of Labor (MoL), Ministry of Youth, and Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) in partnerships.
- **Education sector:** Engaging in discussions with the Ministry of Education (MoE) to offer assistance in global policy dialogue and alignment with the relevant SDGs. The MoE is leading this effort, with co-chairing support from the GBP.

- **WASH sector:** Exploring localization and the ways in which WASH can bolster support for local NGOs. Welcoming a new co-chair from World Vision International (WVI) to assist in developing the Work Plan. Identifying the need for capacity building and seeking support from the ISWG.

#### **AOB:**

- The Jordan Refugee Hub Portal will be introduced at the upcoming ISWG meeting. Members can access it through the following [link](#).
- JIF: Members are requested to document the reduction in funding and its impact, specifically noting any closures of services. Providing evidence is essential for JoSH operational updates.