

# ISWG Meeting Note

July 2024



Inter-Sector  
Working Group  
Jordan

## ISWG Meeting Note and Action Points

<b>Date / Time / Venue</b>	<b>Wednesday, 03 July 2024, 10:00 - 11:30, UNHCR office</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	Inter-Sector Coordinator, Sector Coordinators, Leads/Co-Leads of the Shelter, WASH, Food Security Basic Needs, Education Sectors, Health, Protection, Sexual Reproductive Health sub-sectors, Senior Protection and Senior Gender Advisor, UN Women Gender expert and Irbid Field Coordinator.

### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES

- **Activities suspension:** Partners intending to cease activities are urged to notify the relevant coordination forum at least six months in advance of the planned suspension. This will make possible to plan and identify potential solutions to close the anticipated gap.
- **Reporting in the interagency coordination platforms:** All partners are encouraged to upload their data in the interagency reporting platforms ActivityInfo and JFT. IACU shared a message that outlines activity info deadlines, July 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to report on the monitor database for the past six months and for reporting on funding information for Q2.
- **ISWG coordination framework:** the document is available in English and Arabic and any input to the document would be welcomed.

The Senior Inter Agency Coordination Officer | UNHCR Representation Ms. Virginia in Jordan opened the meeting by welcoming the audience and to introduce the meeting agenda as follows:

- Operational Updates
- VAF presentation
- ISGAT and Protection-Gender Trainings Update
- Sectors' Updates
- AOB

### GENERAL UPDATES

Ms. Virginia provided a general update on the following:

1. **New representative for UNHCR:** Mr. Dominik Bartsch has left Jordan's operation and a new representative is expected to take the office in mid of July 2024.
2. **JoSH Meeting Highlights:**  
During the last JoSH meeting which took place on June 2024, the following points were discussed:
  - **Brussels conference:** feedback from the conference has been shared. Around 800 participants from CBOs, INGOs, civil society organizations, UN agency, and government discussed the Syrian situation in the region.

The lack of fund was among the discussion topics. The participants agreed on the importance of collective work to find solutions for refugees. Jordan Strategic Humanitarian (JoSH) Committee agreed to bring back the discussion around the climate refugee nexus, tapping on development projects that could integrate refugee needs with broader development and climate goals. This project touches on climate, water, global financing, and both humanitarian and development efforts, offering potential opportunities for refugee inclusion.

- **World Food Programme (WFP) cuts:** also announced plans to remove another 100,000 individuals from its distribution list due to resource constraints, significantly impacting those in urban areas. This decision highlights the severe economic hardships faced by refugees, with the most vulnerable falling below the abject poverty line. Starting July, WFP will support 310,000 people, including camp refugees and those in communities, with a reduced transfer value of JOD 15 (USD 21) per person per month.
- **ISWG Visioning exercise:** In May 2024, a full-day visioning exercise workshop for ISWG members was organized to enhance development partnerships in Jordan. The workshop addressed critical challenges such as the protracted refugee situation, decreasing humanitarian funding, and shifting donor priorities due to new regional emergencies. Key discussions emphasized transitioning from immediate humanitarian responses to sustainable, long-term development strategies and lasting solutions for refugees.

### ISWG Visioning exercise: Recommendations to the JoSH

#### Summary of recommendations:

- **Coherence between humanitarian and development actors:** JoSH to enhance greater coherence between humanitarian and development actors fostering a more integrated and holistic approach for long-term solutions.
- **Future planning, contingency:** JoSH to advance high-level dialogues with relevant actors to create greater transparency around the impacts of current and potential funding cuts. Promote future planning and contingency measures to mitigate these impacts.
- **Strategic resource mobilization:** JoSH further advocates for targeted humanitarian funding as a precondition to enable vulnerable refugees to access essential supports and services. Advance an honest discussion on transition.
- **Environmental sustainability:** JoSH promotes the integration of environmental sustainability initiatives within refugee camps and host communities. Collaborate with the GoJ and international partners to incorporate renewable energy sources, such as solar power, to reduce dependency on non-renewable resources and minimize environmental impact.

### ISWG Prioritization exercise – Maximizing effectiveness in times of limited resources.

#### Summary of recommendations:

- **Capacity Building and Localization:** Promote the transfer of knowledge and responsibilities to local actors for more effective, locally driven refugee solutions.
- **Streamline Service Provision:** Reduce duplication and promote efficient, sustainable support for the most vulnerable refugees

- **Prioritize Vulnerable Refugees:** Focus on supporting refugees in camps and prioritize the most vulnerable individuals outside camps, including women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.
- **Maintain Basic Services:** Ensure access to primary healthcare, quality education, and vocational training. Encourage private sector involvement in livelihood programs.
- **Economic Contributions:** Highlight refugees' economic contributions, support vocational training and employment initiatives, and stimulate local economic growth.
- **Government Engagement:** Emphasize that refugees are valuable human capital contributing to Jordan's development and should be integrated into society.
- **Enhance Refugee Mobility:** Advocate for increased freedom of movement for goods, services, and people to promote inclusion, integration, and self-reliance among refugees.

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- The presentation material for the ISWG visioning exercise containing the recommendations can be found through the following link:

[Document - ISWG prioritization and visioning exercise \[JoSH\] \(unhcr.org\)](#)

- **ISWG visit to Zaatari camp:** brief on the ISWG visit to Zaatari camp in June 2024. During the visit the ISWG members discussed with the camps colleagues the possibility of harmonizing the coordination structure in the camp and they brainstormed on the options and mechanisms that could be efficient in terms of strengthening the coordination between the main coordination's forums and the field. Sectors chairs visited activities implemented by sectors partners.

A comprehensive report in the ISWG visit to Zaatari is accessible through the following link:

[Document - ISWG field visit Zaatari 11/06/2024 \(unhcr.org\)](#)

- The UNHCR interagency coordination officer Ms. Loyal Abu Darwich has reminded on the reporting on ActivityInfo and JFT mentioning the deadline for that.
- Ms. Abu Darwich has clarified on the new structure of IACU focal points which will be as follows:
  - Ehab Haddad will be the focal point for: Education, WASH and AAL hub.
  - Samira Smairat will be the focal point for: Protection (Including CP, GBV and Disability SWGs) in addition to Economic Empowerment.
  - Saud Al-Sakr will be the focal point for: Shelter, Health, FSN in addition to field.

## VAF PRESENTATION

- UNHCR program Assessment and Analysis Officer Ms. Aimee Foong presented the key findings of VAF Socio-Economic survey.
- The VAF Socio-Economic Survey is a 6<sup>th</sup> biennial survey relying on representative sample. It covers many sectors and is conducted in collaboration with the World Bank and WFP.
- The key results of 2024 VAF highlighted an overall worsening in the refugee situation in terms of food security, shelter, and income. Also, the survey showed an increase in the poverty rate that with poverty being worse in camps.

- Detailed information on the VAF presentation can be found in the 2024 VAF socio-economic survey on refugee in host communities and in camp both documents are accessible through the following link:

<https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/54?sv=4&geo=36>

- An interactive online dashboard will be developed soon where all the VAF major findings will be included.

## ISGAT AND PROTECTION-GENDER TRAININGS UPDATE

- UNHCR Senior Protection Officer jointly with UNWOMEN Gender Advisor briefed on the protection and gender mainstreaming workshops that were conducted in the last few months and covered all the sectors in addition to field. The training sessions have been launched based on the results of capacity building survey circulated before.
- 132 participants from the seven sectors and field have participated in five full day workshops. The first half of each one was focused on discussions, revision, and reflections where the second half focused on practical exercises.
- A comprehensive report on the workshops is under preparation and will be shared shortly.

## SECTORS' OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

1. **Coordination with field:** During the last North Coordination Working Group, the ISWG strategy along with the ISWG coordination framework have been reviewed. The participant in the NCWG has discussed further and brainstormed on the mechanisms and means that could enhance the coordination between the field and the main coordination structure at the national level.  
The ISWG chair elaborated on the important of having ongoing discussion around the topic and mentioned that the input to the coordination framework is always welcomed.
2. **WASH:** provision of service in the camps is ongoing as usual. Although an increase in water consumption has been observed in the camps, the WASH sector partners are trying to best utilize the available option to meet this increase.  
Also, WASH sector partners in Mafraq had a meeting with the governor where all discussed the water supply challenges and the feasible ways to deal with that. WASH sector co-chairs will follow up further on that meeting and will keep the ISWG posted on the updates.
3. **Education:** the cochairs of the education working group are following up with ministry of education on finalizing the PPCC (Policy Planning Coordination Committee) and on developing the four agreed upon thematic groups.
4. **FSBN:** Due to funding challenges, WFP has cut 100k cases based on prioritization exercise and the potential ability to work within the targeted groups.  
Also, UNHCR and WFP are planning to launch a joint targeting exercise and will take into consideration the aspects related to disability, medical issues, and other.  
Additionally, FSBN sector is planning to undertake a review for the MEB and will use the VAF data in this regard and may reach out to the other sectors to update on the cost of specific respective aspects.

Finally, some FSN sector partners are preparing for carrying out winterization related activities. UNHCR will not provide any related assistance.

5. **Protection:** recently, an intensive discussion took place among the sector partners on how to engage with the development partners. The agreed upon ideas and suggestions will be shared once the compilation being finalized. Also, protection sector partners worked on the figuring out the mechanisms of sharing their resources and enhancing the referral among them to mitigate the protection impact of WFP reduction.
6. **Shelter:** shelter sector partners have discussed the importance of the topics that have been highlighted during the protection and gender mainstreaming workshop. the sectors partners agreed to discuss the topic further at the shelter SAG so they can identify how the sector may integrate operationalize what has been acquired from the workshop. Also, the global shelter week has took pace recently in Geneva. A new global strategy has been developed covering 2024-2028. The shelter partners may review the sector strategy to ensure its alignment with the new global one.
7. **Health:** A likelihood for funding opportunity for the secondary health care in camps and they may resume the cash for health services accordingly. Health working group will start soon looking for and additional co-cochairs. The engagement with the development actors is still under focus. Recently, two meetings USAID has held to one of them was to discuss the data corruption and supporting the decision making. Soon, another meeting will be held with JICA.

### **AOB:**

The next ISWG monthly meeting is on Wednesday August 7<sup>th</sup> 2024 and will take place in Word Vision International office.