WASH Sector Meeting Minutes of Meeting			
Meeting Location	Hybrid (Online and in person) - UNICEF	**Meeting Date**	Oct 30th, 2025
Chair and Co-chair	Jesus Trelles (UNICEF JCO) / Mohammad Al Tawiel (World Vision)	**Meeting Time**	10:00 am - 11:30 am
Interagency Coordination Unit	**Samira Smairat** (UNHCR)		
Attendance	**UNHCR** (**In Person:** Lina Tu`aimeh , Daniela Floridia) **UNICEF** (**In Person:** Jesus Trelles,Tamara Rabadi, Tamam Adi, Ali Naser, Maysoun Alhaj Omar) **UN Women** (**Online :**Mays Al Nawaiseh) **WV** (**In Person:** Hamada Alkhawaldeh) **MoWI** (**In Person:** Dr. Eng. Basem Hassan) **AICS** (**In Person:** Raed Hussein, Claudio Deola) **PRM-US Embassy** (**Online**: KIhloud Al Adwan) **GIZ (Online:** Mohammad AbuQtay) **RHAS** (**Online:** Reem Jarrar) **Habitat For Humanity Jordan** (Online**:** Mohammad Al Salem) **MATEEN** (Online: Mohammad Al Zou'bi) **Islamic Relief** (**Online:** Tareq Ali Al Taweel) **UNOPS** (**Online:** Tsuneko Ito)		
Purpose of Meeting	WASH Sector Monthly Meeting		
Next Meeting	**Nov 27th, 2025**		

Agenda Items		
Item	**Action Point**	**Focal Point/Organization**
1	Agenda: • Welcome and introductions • Updates from ISWG, refugee returns, and JoSH meeting (UNHCR)	**Jesus Trelles** (Sector Chief/UNICEF) **Lina Tu`aimeh** (Interagency Coordination Unit/UNHCR) **Tamara Rabadi** (WASH Officer/UNICEF) **Tamam Adi** (WASH Officer/UNICEF)
2	• Gender and Protection review, including available tools (UNHCR-UN Women) • Syria Response Experience on Dams projects in Jordan (World Vision)	**Daniela Floridia** (Senior Protection Officer, Head of Legal Unit Jordan Country Office/UNHCR)**, Mays Al Nawaiseh** (UN Women) **Hamada Alkhawaldeh** (Dam Projects Manager, World Vision Syria Response (WVSR)/ WV)
3	• Updates from partners	**MWI, Habitat For Humanity Jordan**
4	• AOB	

Meeting Minutes	
1. Introductions (Welcoming of Partners), Updates from ISWG & Inter-agency Coordination Unit	
Inter-agency Coordination Unit (Lina Tu`aimeh)	**Updates on Syria Response and Coordination** **Syrian refugee returns** ○ **Overall Returns: 66,104 UNHCR-registered refugees** have returned to Syria between **December 8th, 2024, and October 25th,2025**. **Nearly 11,500 returns** were **recorded in October**, with over **161,900** since the **start of 2025**. ○ In total, **over 856,000 Syrians have crossed the border since December 2024**, with **registered refugees accounting for 20% of movements** (informal figures from authorities). ○ **Weekly Reporting Trend:** During **19-25 October 2025, 2,590 returns were recorded.** This reflects a **21% decrease** from **3,274 returns** during **12–18 October 2025.** ○ **Age and Gender Disaggregation: The demographic breakdown of refugee returns remains consistent with previous reporting periods.** In terms of gender, women and girls represent 49% of overall returnees, while men and boys account for 51%. From an age perspective, children (under 18) constitute approximately 43% of total returnees, with 71,708 recorded since 8 December 2024. In addition, 31,019 men of military age (18–40 years old) have returned during the same period, representing 18.7% of overall returns. ○ **Family Return Patterns**: A total of **57% of households** have had all family members return to Syria. In contrast, **43% of households** experienced partial returns, where one or more family members remain in Jordan. These patterns remain consistent with previous reporting periods. Live updates on the number of refugee returns are available at the **UNHCR voluntary return dashboard.**
UNICEF (Jesus Trelles, Tamara Rabadi)	**Footprint reduction & Planning Implications:** The ISWG meeting of September 3rd, 2025, focused on aligning sector strategy with evolving refugee return trends and regional developments. It was agreed that **the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit (IACU)** will hold **bilateral discussions with sector chairs** to assess the need **to revise the 2026 sector strategy** in light of the changing operational context. Sector leads will begin 2026 planning following the JoSH meeting, allowing adequate time for consultation, alignment, and evidence-based decision-making. **WASH–Shelter Working Group:** To support forward planning, **IACU decided to organize a joint WASH-Shelter meeting** to **review the camp footprint reduction plan**, followed by a discussion with Camp Coordination. Given the increasing refugee returns and current departure rate of 25% (close to the 30% threshold previously agreed for triggering such discussions), partners recommended **initiating the process earlier** to allow **proactive planning, including potential service consolidation and restructuring** at agency and sector levels. **UNHCR cash assistance pilot for voluntary return:** officially launched on **September 7th, 2025**. The project provides **70 JOD per family member** and targets **10,000 refugees in Zaatari and Azraq camps**. Eligibility priorities families with persons with disabilities, chronic illness, critical health conditions, female-headed households, elderly dependents, large families (seven members or more), or cases seeking family reunification with a member who has already returned to Syria. As of **October 23rd, 2025**, around **1,643 individuals** have benefited from the programme. **Gender and Protection Mainstreaming:** The ISWG meeting reaffirmed the need to mainstream gender and protection across all programming phases. Workshops were conducted, and updated tools and sector-specific tip sheets will be reshared with partners. Field-level trainings are scheduled in Irbid (September 24th), Azraq (October 16th), and Zaatari (November 4th), with additional sessions planned for MoPIC and line ministry officials. These tools will be integrated into sector planning to strengthen gender-responsive and protection-sensitive programming.

The Jordan Strategic Humanitarian Committee (JoSH) - below from UNHCR summary notes

October 21st, 2025, Meeting Overview: The JoSH meeting on 21 October confirmed the intention to maintain light and periodic updates to adapt to evolving dynamics. The Chair (UNHCR Representative) briefed members on regional developments, noting cautious optimism regarding the Gaza ceasefire and trends in refugee returns from Jordan to Syria, now exceeding **162,000 since December 2024**. Discussions centred on efforts to streamline coordination structures and ensure stronger alignment with national frameworks. Substantive updates were provided on:

- **3RP Regional Workshop:** Presented recommendations to shift from a broad regional coordination model to a leaner, country-specific approach for the 2026 cycle, prompted by declining humanitarian funding and increasing refugee returns. The revised model will focus on **two pillars: voluntary return and inclusion in host countries**, supported through harmonized coordination, preservation of Jordan's refugee response framework, and avoiding duplication. Members further highlighted the need for tailored counselling and limited facilitated returns, economic revitalization (e.g. reopening cross-border markets) to support reintegration, strengthened collaboration between Durable Solutions and Economic Empowerment groups, an update of the 2023 skills mapping, and continued service quality in camps.
- **UN Women - Gender Analysis in the Refugee Response:** UN Women, through the **Inter-Sector Gender Advisory Team (ISGAT)**, presented a gender analysis highlighting **very low economic participation among refugee women (4.4% in paid work)**, coupled with high unpaid domestic workload (over four times that of men). In camps, women dedicate around six hours per day to household tasks and often face movement or employment restrictions imposed by male relatives. **GBV remains prevalent**, with 25% of married women in camps reporting violence*;* access to support services is hindered *by* stigma and fear. Urban refugee women face even greater barriers due to limited outreach and funding. The presentation called for **integrated gender mainstreaming, targeted programming, and stronger support to women-led organizations**, stressing that low female economic participation poses long-term risks for both Jordan and Syria.
- **ILO - Tripartite Workshops:** The ILO briefed members on outcomes of recent **tripartite labor dialogues** held in Jordan (September) and Damascus (October), which involved Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, employer associations and workers' federations. The meetings resulted in a **joint declaration establishing a permanent regional platform for labor cooperation**, focusing on job matching*,* formalization of employment, labor law reform, and alignment with international standards. Priority sectors identified included construction and services, with discussions on linking Syria's reconstruction efforts to engagement from Jordan's private sector. The ILO will act as **secretariat for the new platform**, leading follow-up and implementation of agreed recommendations.

2. Reporting

Inter-agency Coordination Unit (**Lina Tu`aimeh**)

Reporting, Jordan Financial Tracking (JFT), and Activity Info:

- UNHCR provided an update on reporting under the **Jordan Financial Tracking (JFT)** and **ActivityInfo** systems, highlighting that continued underreporting across the WASH sector remains a significant challenge. As of the latest WASH Sector meeting (October 30, 2025), the sector has received **USD 8.76 million of the USD 67 million required**, covering **only 13.05% of total funding needs** and leaving a **gap of USD 58.37 million (86.95%)**. Although **10 partners have submitted their financial appeals**, **only two partners have reported the funds actually received**, limiting sector visibility and coordination.

UNICEF (Jesus Trelles, Tamara Rabadi)

- Partners were reminded that updating both **JFT** and **ActivityInfo** is **essential for donor engagement, advocacy, and evidence-based sector monitoring.** They were urged to report monthly on **JFT** and quarterly on **ActivityInfo,** including zero achievements where relevant, to clearly distinguish non-implementation from non-reporting. **The WASH sector teams (UNHCR and UNICEF)** will continue bilateral follow-up and provide technical support to partners facing reporting challenges.
- Funding reported so far is primarily from UN agencies, with limited financial reporting from INGOs. **The Q3 reporting window opened** in early October 2025, **allowing retroactive submission for previous quarters**; however, most partners have not yet updated their data. The WASH sector team (UNHCR and UNICEF) **will provide clarification to partners on how to distinguish between organizations that reported a zero value, which indicates that no funding was received during that period, and those with no submitted records, which reflects non-reporting.** Partners will be requested to verify their entries accordingly to ensure accurate funding representation.

3. Presentations	
NHCR & UN Women (Daniela Floridia, Mays Al Nawaiseh)	**Gender and Protection review, including available tools** ○ **UNHCR and UN Women**, in their capacity as Inter-Sector Gender Advisory Team (ISGAT) advisors, delivered a focused presentation beginning with the **"Gender and Protection Mainstreaming: Technical Support to Sectors Review."** They reaffirmed their advisory role in supporting sectors to integrate gender and protection considerations across all phases of programming. This included highlighting ongoing capacity development efforts (sector training already completed; recent field workshops in Azraq and Irbid; upcoming in Za'atari; and planned engagement with government officials) and stressing the need to move beyond training toward hands-on technical support to ensure operational application of the four core principles: safety and no harm, meaningful access, accountability, and participation. ○ **Global protection mainstreaming tool** was introduced**,** including the Protection Mainstreaming Checklist, resource allocation scorecards, and project cycle planning instruments, to support structured integration of gender and protection measures across design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages. ○ This was followed by the presentation of the **Jordan WASH Gender & Protection Tip-Sheet**, developed with contextualization to Jordan. **The tool offers practical guidance** throughout the project cycle, **supporting actors to apply protection and gender considerations, utilize disaggregated data, consult diverse population groups, design gender-sensitive WASH services, and incorporate relevant markers within programming**. Partners were encouraged to review, pilot and provide feedback on the tool and to request tailored technical assistance from ISGAT to support its application.
World Vision (Hamada Alkhawaldeh)	**Syria Response Experience on Dams projects in Jordan** ○ World Vision presented an overview of dam protection interventions implemented since 2018 in collaboration with the Jordan Valley Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture, funded by BMZ through GIZ. The programme spans nine sites across seven governorates, targeting flood mitigation, sediment control, watershed restoration and ecosystem recovery. ○ Interventions apply a dual approach: • **Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)**: afforestation and soil stabilization. • **Engineering measures**: gabion walls, retaining walls, check dams and stilling basins. ○ All activities are delivered under **rigorous design supervision, quality control and HSE compliance**, supplemented by **GIS monitoring and institutional capacity support**. ○ The project is **strategically aligned with Jordan's National Water Strategy 2023-2040**, advancing water scarcity resilience, climate adaptation and flood risk management. It also **strengthens the institutional capacity of JVA, MoA and MoL**, promotes **gender inclusion**, enhances **community-driven resilience**, and uses **Cash-for-Work to support local livelihoods**. ○ **Key results and impacts to date include:** Over 200 flood and sediment mitigation structures constructed, more than 300,000 trees planted to stabilize catchment areas, major dams rehabilitated (Wadi Arab, Kufranja, Al Wahedi, Al-Wala, Al-Tanur, Al-Mujib), and 2,500 people engaged via Cash-for-Work (50% Jordanians, 50% Syrian refugees, 25% women), with select sites demonstrating increased dam storage through reduced sedimentation.

4. Updates from partners	
MWI (Dr. Eng. Basem Hassan)	**Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) Update** ○ **SDG 6 Progress and Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) :** MWI updated the sector on **national efforts toward SDG 6 implementation**, noting that Jordan is serving as a pilot country under the UN-Water SDG 6 Capacity Development Initiative. **A high-level integrated workshop** is scheduled for **17–19 November 2025**, bringing together **key ministries, UN agencies and stakeholders to inform the development of a National SDG 6 Capacity Development Plan**. **The initiative aims** to **align support across the UN system and its partners** to **strengthen national capacities to accelerate achievement** of **SDG 6** under the 2030 Agenda. ○ **Voluntary National Review (VNR):** The 2026 VNR process, led by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) , will report on all SDGs, including SDG 6. Water sector contributions to the VNR will incorporate outcomes from CDI, IWRM planning, and sector-level reporting. ○ **Jordan Response Plan (JRP)**The JRP is currently operational, with no additional feedback from MOPIC at this stage. Further coordination and triangulation with the Inter Sectoral Working Group is expected to ensure alignment with sector inputs. **MWI** reiterated its openness **to collaborate with partners to accelerate progress on SDG 6 indicators** and their interlinkages with other goals, in line with national priorities and upcoming global reporting commitments.
Habitat For Humanity Jordan (Mohammad Al Salem)	**Habitat for Humanity Jordan** Habitat for Humanity Jordan provided an update on the **"Orphan and Vulnerable Groups (OVG) Project"** implemented in **Hettin Palestinian Camp in East Amman**. The intervention comprises two components: • **Community-level works:** Installation and rehabilitation of **rainwater drainage systems across 13 locations** in the camp, designed according to population density and to mitigate flood risks during heavy rainfall. • **Household-level improvements: Rehabilitation of 16 homes**, focusing specifically on the **WASH components**, from a wider target group of **150 vulnerable households**. The project aims to benefit **over 60,000 individuals**, addressing both immediate infrastructure gaps and household-level WASH needs.
UNICEF (Jesus Trelles)	**WASH Sector Working Group – Co-Chairing Update** The WASH Working Group operates under a **two-year rotational co-chairing system**. The most recent selection took place at the **end of 2023**, when **World Vision was elected as co-chair**, serving for **2024-2025**. With the current term approaching its end, the sector will soon **open nominations through an Expression of Interest (EOI)** process for organizations-national or international-interested in joining the coordination role. Members are encouraged to review the upcoming call and consider submitting their candidacy.

Next Meeting action points:

- **UN-Women / UNHCR / World Vision (WV):** share their respective presentations with the WASH Sector Secretariat for circulation alongside the meeting minutes.
- **UNICEF** (Sector Lead): Expression of Interest (EOI) for next WASH WG co-chairing term to be launched in coming months.