Shelter Working Group

Working Group Meeting, January 2026

Date: January 28, 2026
Place: Online.
Chaired by: Lina Younis -UNHCR
Attendees: NRC, IOCC, IRJ, Caritas.

Agenda:

- **Welcome and introduction to members**
- **Kick-Off to 2026**
- **Update from partners**
- **AOB**

Action point:

- Partners are reminded to promptly report their 2025 achievements and financial status in ActivityInfo.
- Partners are encouraged to begin preparing their 2026 planning figures, as the plan and monitoring databases in ActivityInfo will soon be developed.

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all participants.

Kick-Off to 2026

- The working group meeting scheduled for March 2026 will most likely take place at the Ministry of Interior premises. This aligns with the preferences of working group members and the Ministry focal point, who aim to hold bi-monthly sessions to address shared issues and sustain effective coordination with government counterparts.

Next Josh and ISWG meeting:

- Last Josh meeting took place in the second week of December. The participant agreed on conducting Aa light review of its TOR, focusing on its name, strategic direction, and donor composition. JIF reported on recent dialogue events with refugees and host communities at the municipality level. WFP presented on food security outcome Q3 2025 results.
- The next JoSH meeting is scheduled for February 10th. In addition to operational

updates and a review of action points from the previous meeting, the agenda will feature a UNHCR presentation on the HUAS white card follow-up survey, as well as a World Bank presentation on the ARDI program, which aims to strengthen climate resilience in Jordan and enhance agricultural competitiveness and exports.

- Last ISWG meeting took place on December 17th where WFP conducted a presentation on Food Security Outcome Monitoring – Q3 2025 Results. And UNHCR health unit presented on Health Access and Utilization Survey (HAUS) for Urban.
- Also, the meeting discussed the 2026 JRP launch as well as the 2026 3RP.
- The next ISWG meeting is scheduled on February 18th and will discuss the operational updates per sector as well as the planning for 2026

Return updates:

- The total number of UNHCR registered refugees returning to Syria since the fall of the Assad Government (8 December 2024 - 31 January 2026) is **181,823 refugees.** Just over 4,500 refugees returned in January 2026, representing the second lowest month for returns since March 2025.
- Since 8 December 2024, a UNHCR is aware of approximately 18,000 refugees who have re-entered Jordan following their return to Syria, accounting for around 10% of the overall returnees. During the same period, 2,000 refugees have re-activated their files with UNHCR. Refugees who re-activate their files with UNHCR are no longer counted within the returns tally.
- 2,020 refugees crossed the border during the current two-week period (18-31 January 2026) a 7% decrease when compared to the previous two-week period (4-17 January) when 2,168 refugees returned.
- Nearly 1,088,000 Syrians have crossed the border into Syria since 8 December, with UNHCR registered refugees accounting for 17% of the border traffic. [Total number of Syrians is shared informally by authorities to the border team and is not for public reporting]
- 87% of refugee returnees since 8 December returned to Syria for the first time, compared to 13% who have previously visited Syria, similar to the last report.
- Since 8 December, more than 44,000 refugees residing in camps have returned to Syria, representing 24% of overall returnees. 76% of returnees originate in urban areas. This matches the breakdown from the previous week.
- 23% of returnees were residing in Amman, and 22% were living in Irbid – with smaller numbers from Zaatari Camp (15%), Mafraq (14%), Zarqa (7%), and Azraq Camp (6%).
- As most returns are spontaneous, UNHCR does not have data on the intended destination of return. However, based on intention surveys, most refugees intend to return to their governorate of origin. The governorate of origin of returnees from Jordan has remained stable since the last report. Since 8 December -- 40% of returnees originate from Dar'a, 20% from Homs, and 11% from Rural Damascus.

Partners updates:

Caritas

- Preparing to apply for a two years project to provide cash for return assistance. The project may entail a need assessment part. Soon will be a meeting and discussion with the concerning donor.

Islamic Relief

- Shelter rehabilitation activities will focus mainly on Irbid, Ajloun, Jerash, and Al-aghwar Alshamalia , targeting house rehabilitations with budgets ranging from 3,000 to 5,000 JD. These works will include installation of solar systems and solar heating systems. Implementation is planned to commence in March.
- The team is finalizing verification and selection for 210 cases eligible for shelter rehabilitation activities.

NRC

- No funding continuity from PRM . Host community programming will rely solely on NRC strategic funding and private sources, resulting in minimal implementation compared to previous years.
- As per the NRC rapid needs assessment, the current activities will be limited to:
- Primary needs: Debt settlement (cash for rent) for 110 families facing eviction threats due to accumulated rent arrears; support for families unable to leave the country; resolution of ongoing court cases.
- Beneficiary breakdown: 50% Syrian refugees, 30% Jordanians, 20% non-Syrian refugees. The project covers the governorates of: Amman, Irbid, Jerash, and Ajloun.
- Shelter rehabilitation: still on going for just 10 cases.

IOCC

- Cash for rent and cash for utilities programs will continue in 2026, focusing on urban areas in Amman, Irbid, and Karak. The rehabilitation project will proceed in these same governorates.
- Cash for shelter and the self-repair project remain ongoing in the camps.
- The Azraq camp market assessment report will be finalized shortly, after which the self-repair project will launch, targeting 55 families (JOD 100 each).
- Cash for rent in urban areas is projected to continue until June 2027, targeting 330 cases; rehabilitation targets 151 cases.

UNHCR

- The Vulnerability Assessment Framework Report VAF report which highlights the current needs, gaps, and challenges of refugees across all Jordanian governorates. As well as serving as a key reference for prioritizing vulnerable families and is expected to be shared by the end of March.
- Starting the beginning at the end of January 2026, a new pilot program will be introduced in Zaatari refugee camp to address the growing challenge of families dismantling and informally selling their caravans upon voluntary return to Syria. Refugees preparing to leave will now have the option to sell their registered caravans legally to approved private companies operating inside the camp, ensuring that transactions are documented, lawful, and secure. This initiative, jointly developed by the Government of Jordan and UNHCR, is designed to protect refugees from

exploitation, prevent black-market resale, and provide families with cash support to aid their reintegration in Syria. Participation is entirely voluntary, and refugees may choose either to sell their caravan or return it to UNHCR. The pilot will run for three months initially, offering a dignified and pragmatic solution that balances refugee needs with market stability.

- UNHCR has developed an online leaflet detailing the sales process, including objectives, eligibility conditions for refugees, and steps involved.
- UNHCR is currently conducting multiple community sessions and FGDs with the refugee community at Zaatari camp to discuss and answer all potential questions of the overall process.
- Leaflet link: https://help.unhcr.org/jordan/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/2026/01/Selling-Caravans-leaflet-Arabic-Final-1.pdf

Next meeting will be on February 25th, and it might be hybrid. The related information will be shared ahead of the meeting.

End