

JORDAN INTER-SECTOR WORKING GROUP UPDATE

February 2014



This update is a coordination tool to improve communication between sectors and up to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF). It focuses on processes, rather than achievements. The latter are covered through separate monthly sector dashboards, available on the portal <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107>

Issues referred for consideration by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF):

1. *Pending review by ISWG at 13th March meeting*

I. General / Inter-Sector Update



Informal Tented Settlements (ITS): RRP partners are continuing support to ITS with the distribution of NFIs in coordination with the inter-agency ITS taskforce. The ITS taskforce has recently refined the definition of ITS as “a collection of 5 tents with the condition of sharing services within a small confined area”. The ITS taskforce will be disbanded at the end of March with responsibility delegated to various sector working groups. To maintain updates on ITS dynamics, a data base will be set up to allow partners to monitor and report on their findings and assistance programmes, and avoid duplication of efforts, in favour of ITS.

Urban/Rural Coordination model: The urban and rural (governorate level) coordination model has been reviewed by the INGO forum and IATF. The model sets up coordination structures in Mafraq and Irbid initially, focused on local referrals, challenges and 3/4Ws. The fora will be chaired by UNHCR and an INGO. Discussions have been held with the RC's office noting the possibility of expanding such groups to include Host Community Support Platform issues in the future, should this be the preferred option of the Government.

Vulnerability Targeting: An inter-sector workshop took place on 5th February, resulting in a draft list of common indicators for application across the sectors in defining vulnerability of Syrian refugees. The indicators were reviewed again by sector working groups, and final list is being submitted to the Steering Committee in early March.

Azraq Policy: During a special IATF meeting on Azraq in early February, a recommendation to open Azraq camp was agreed. Partners are readying the site to receive refugees. *Update from March:* The Minister of Interior announced a launch date for the opening of Azraq as 30th April 2014.

RRP6 Reporting: Training of partners on uploading achievements onto activityinfo was completed. Subsequently over 1,900 indicators were completed (disaggregated by age, gender and location) by partners. These have fed into the eight sector dashboards for January, these are now available on the portal at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107>

RRP6 Partner Factsheets: The first batch of RRP6 Partner fact sheets have been uploaded onto to the portal. Extracted from ActivityInfo, these two page documents attempt to provide more information to donors on the appeals and activities of individual RRP6 partners. Further uploads will continue each week.

II. Sector information



CASH

Development of guidelines for cash assistance covering health related issues: a meeting among cash partners and the health sector took place. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the main challenges and concerns when cash partners provide cash assistance for reasons related to health problems. Main outcomes: health criteria can be used to define the vulnerability of a household. However, to avoid duplications partners are encouraged to coordinate with UNHCR before providing cash to cover medical expenses that might be covered by the public hospitals of the health sector. Guidelines will be further discussed and developed.

The internal cash strategy has been finalized: the Cash strategy for 2014 is focusing on the development of common monitoring and evaluating tools, coordination of needs assessments, common vulnerability criteria, joint advocacy messages, and good practices in targeting Jordanians. The strategic plan has been revised and amended ad hoc groups have been developed to focus on specific priorities and relevant tools.



EDUCATION

Joint Education Needs Assessment review: The Education Working Group members actively participated to define the ToRs of the upcoming Joint Education Needs Assessments (JENA) that will be conducted both in Za'atari and host community. During the planning exercise, ESWG partners used the INEE Minimum Standards framework to identify gaps and suggest indicators. A Needs Assessment Task Force has been temporarily formed to support and speed up the process.

Gender Equality in and through Education: The Presentation on "Gender Equality in and through Education" by the Inter-Agency GenCap Advisor, Merrin Waterhouse, focussed on how to assess different needs of women, girls, boys and men and address these specific needs and the basics of gender-equality measures. Group exercise gave ESWG members to chance to familiarise with the INEE handbook on 'Gender Equality in and through Education', which was distributed.

Strategic Advisory Group: The ESWG SAG has been created and had its first meeting and is now prioritizing issues that requires strategic direction and support, such as the joint needs assessments.

IM: Information Manager provided IM capacity building to ESWG partners including practical use of all relevant tools used by the sector.



FOOD SECURITY

E-vouchers: WFP concluded the first e-voucher distributions of the rollout for Syrians living in Jordanian communities on 4 February in Byader Wadi Al-Syer in Amman Governorate, Ajloun and Jerash. In total, 9,072 e-cards were distributed to families of the planned 10,987. WFP and UNHCR agreed to start the second tranche of the e-voucher rollout on 23 February in three governorates of Jordan; Ramtha district in Irbid governorate, Karak and Tafilah.

Za'atari supermarkets: The opening ceremony was held for Safeway and Tazweed supermarkets on 6 February inside the camp. Beneficiaries reported satisfaction with the two new supermarkets, particularly with the variety of selection, and have noted that prices are often lower than other shops.

Food Assistance: In February, WFP reached 444,636 beneficiaries or 98% of the UNHCR manifest with voucher assistance in communities. In Za'atari camp, 99,850 Syrian refugees received vouchers valued at 8JD

per cycle along with a partial in-kind food basket. Through the school feeding programme, 12,853 Syrian children received WFP date bars during the normal school day.

Coordination: The monthly Food Security meeting was held on 26 February at WFP. Items on the agenda included a presentation by WFP and ACTED on preliminary results from the Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise, as well as a discussion on the RRP6 monthly dashboards, during which it was agreed that indicators will change intermittently in order to provide a broader picture of activities being carried out in the sector. The sector's workplan was also shared for members' feedback and input.



HEALTH

Surveillance sites in Zaatari: UNHCR, in collaboration with MoH and CDC Atlanta, has established sentinel sites for laboratory-based diarrhoea surveillance in Zaatari camp. Sample collection will be done at MDM clinic 2 and MFH. Initial processing and culture will be done in Mafraq Public Health laboratory. Central Public Health Laboratory will provide higher level analysis, training, follow-up and support to the laboratory and will help generate written reports of results. The purpose of this project is to monitor the pathogens associated with diarrhoea among children and adults.

Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Task Force: The first NCD Task Force meeting was held on 3 February and attended by a total of nine organisations. The task force consequently met another two times, and the meetings were co-chaired by MoH and WHO. The task force has so far drafted ToRs, agreed to review secondary data on NCDs in Syrian and Jordan and is working on minimal diagnostic standards and provision of services for NCDs, reviewing the available national guidelines, and defining priority NCDs.

Coordination: A meeting was held on 13 February at UNHCR between the Health and Cash sectors to discuss cash assistance being distributed for medical purposes. Main outcomes: 1. Health conditions and disability can be used as vulnerability criteria when determining the need for cash assistance. 2. Cash should ideally only be used to provide access to health care in conjunction with UNHCR health unit to avoid duplication and disbursement of cash for treatment that would otherwise be covered by the national health system or NGOs.

Nutrition Sub-Working Group

Treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) WFP launched the Nutrition/Targeted Feeding Programme for the treatment of MAM in Zaatari through cooperating partner Save the Children Jordan. Screening for children under five and pregnant and lactating women was conducted from 3–19 February, followed by an enrolment period of three days. The first distribution of SuperCereal Plus took place on 26 February through the NRC distribution site. Medair continues to distribute SuperCereal Plus through the six JHAS clinics located in Amman, Zarqa, Mafraq and Irbid including Ramtha.

Training: A three-day training workshop on IYCF for 12 midwives working at the MoH clinics in Amman was conducted from 2–5 February by Save the Children Jordan, under direct supervision of MoH/UNICEF.

Reproductive Health Sub-Working Group

Coordination: The monthly Reproductive Health (RH) meeting was held at the UNFPA office in Amman on 26 February, and included a presentation on different types of RH kits available for distribution in Jordan. A major outcome of the meeting was a discussion regarding IUD insertion, during which it was highlighted that midwives not currently working with MoH are not allowed to insert IUDs. Outside of MoH facilities, only physicians are allowed to do so.

Capacity building: In Zaatari, a new gynecologist has joined the Saudi Clinic and is available three days a week (Sunday, Monday and Thursday). A new midwife has also joined the staff at the MdM clinic.

Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support (MHPSS) Sub-Working Group

RRP6 monitoring and reporting: WHO and IMC developed an informal guide for MHPSS agencies reporting on RRP6 activities in the ActivityInfo database. The guide outlines which indicators agencies should be reporting MHPSS activities under, and also provides guidance on disaggregation of data as well as other pointers for accurate reporting. Sector chairs are ready to provide further feedback and guidance to agencies encountering more specific challenges.

Briefing on Mental Health Assessment (WHO/ IMC/ MOH/ EMPHNET): At the monthly MHPSS meeting on 19 February, IMC and WHO delivered a brief presentation outlining the main findings and recommendations of a Mental Health Assessment conducted in Amman, Ramtha, Irbid, Mafraq and Zaatari camp. Among the main findings were reported mental health problems (distress, fear, anger, disinterest, hopelessness, sadness, excessive nervousness and social isolation), and 18.8 percent of respondents felt a difficulty or inability to carry out essential activities for daily living because of feelings of fear, anger, fatigue, disinterest, hopelessness or distress; a need for counseling or psychological support services was also reported by 13 percent of respondents. Main recommendations included advocacy for MHPSS programming and early detection and screening of MHPSS conditions, as well as incorporating MHPSS considerations in multi-sectoral planning and programming, by mainstreaming these considerations in the health, protection, education and other sectors.



NON- FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

Development of Task Forces: (a) Task Force 1 to examine the possibility of developing a voucher system to partially replace NFIs taking into account the following the different context/needs and challenges in Zaatari and urban/rural areas. (b) Task Force 2 develop common PDM standards that will be used by the NFI WG members. Individual practices are in place but there is no efficient monitoring mechanism adopted by the members. There is a need for minimum standards that should apply countrywide by agencies.

Common message for donors: The NFI partners are strongly encouraged to communicate to their donors:

- a) That assistance should be addressed to the Syrian refugees country wide and not specifically to Zaatari camp.
- b) Quality control should be in place. Security/safety issues should be taken into account.
- c) Assistance that is not needed in Zaatari or cannot cover the needs of the camp will be channeled in urban areas.
- d) Cash is always preferred over in kind and should be encouraged. However in case of in kind assistance, it should be coordinated with the camp management (for Zaatari) and the NFI WG (for Zaatari and urban/rural areas).



PROTECTION

The Protection Working Group is currently finalizing its revised terms of reference. It has incorporated a mechanism for the coordination and peer review of planned and completed needs assessments, pursuant to the ISWG's guidance

Representatives of the SGBV, Child Protection and Protection working groups attended the inter-sectoral workshop on vulnerability indicators. The draft list was reviewed by the working groups and protection-sensitive recommendations made as to the amendment of the proposed indicators.

Child Protection Sub-Working Group

The Inter Agency CP/GBV Project has developed a logo which represents the Protection Sector and its three sub-sectors, MHPSS, CP and SGBV. A final review meeting will take place on 4 March 2014 to agree upon the key messages on child protection and SGBV. Roll out of these messages will follow in March.

Both the CPSWG and SGBVSWG are undertaking a review of planned and existing needs assessments relevant to child protection with a view to formulating collaborative, sub-sector wide, assessment strategies.

[SGBV Sub-Working Group](#)

The Early and Force Marriage Task Force is currently finalizing its workplan, which includes review and analysis of the current situation for those experiencing forced and early marriage as well as the Jordan and Syrian context



[SHELTER](#)

New sector co-chair: Annika Hampson from NRC has replaced Martin Suvatne as the new Shelter sector co-chair. UNHCR and NRC will soon review and update responsibilities of chair, co-chair and UNV support

Development of guidelines for shelter interventions: The Shelter WG is in the process of finalising guidelines and minimum standards for shelter interventions. The guidelines set a series of mechanical, civil and electrical standards for the upgrading of substandard housing units and interventions that increase the availability of housing units in unfinished buildings. These guidelines will be observed by all partners and are necessary to avoid duplication and ensure activities meet minimum standards. The Shelter and WASH sectors are working in coordination to avoid duplication as many shelter interventions have WASH components such as the installation of water tanks and plumbing.

Reviewing and updating the Shelter strategy: The Shelter WG will soon form a taskforce to review and update the objectives and principles of Jordan's Shelter Sector Strategy with consideration of activities under RRP6. The aim of this taskforce is to harmonise the guidelines with those reflected in UNHCR's draft version for a global shelter strategy. This process will contribute to the specifics of short-term emergency response interventions and development focused response interventions, e.g. interventions in camp settings and providing affordable housing units to the market.

Shelter sector representation at the Host Community Support Platform (HCSP): The Shelter WG expressed the need for future coordination and cooperation between the RRP6 and HCSP/NRP initiative. The SWG suggested that a representative from the HCP be present at future SWG meetings and in strategic discussions on shelter and housing issues. The SWG also agreed to nominate two SWG members as focal points to enhance communication between the SWG and the HCSP.



[WASH](#)

WASH minimum standards in host communities: The WASH WG is in the process of developing minimum standards for interventions in host communities to be used as a guidance document for partners. This document will work in parallel to the minimum standards developed last month for camps.

WASH project identification for the National Resilience Plan (NRP): The UNICEF WASH team organised a meeting with WASH partners to identify potential projects under NRP and offer clarification on the distinctions between NRP and RRP6. Potential project scenarios for water supply and wastewater in host communities were identified and allocated into the RRP6 and/or NRP.



[ZAATARI](#)

NFI-related: SOPs for private donations have been reviewed and they will be circulated soon.

NRC has developed SOPs for children in distribution points. A lot of children between the ages of 12-17 are collecting the NFI on behalf of their families. In order to minimize protection concerns NRC has developed SOPs that regulates the presence of minors in the distribution points in Zaatari.

Coordination: 6 months planning of distribution has been developed. Coordination among actors in Zaatari should be further encouraged. Distribution of private donation that do not respect specific standards should not be accepted. Prior approval from camp management is required.

Priorities: Coordination and harmonization of the hygiene kits and contingency planning.

Distribution of NFIs in Raba Sarhan: NFIs in Raba Sarhan are being distributed without any coordination with UNHCR or NRC in Zaatari. There is a danger of double distribution. Agencies involved in NFIs in Raba are being contacted, including to receive a list of distributed NFIs and their selection criteria.

WASH-related: Planned water supply network: A water supply network will replace water trucking by the end of 2014 in Zaatari camp. The new water supply network has been designed through a strategic sub-working group led by Oxfam which includes a completed BOQ. The design includes communal water points with potential to link at the household level.

Planned wastewater collection network: Last month consultants visited Zaatari and tenders for the design were received last week (23 Feb). The design phase will last until May/June with work on the ground starting in Sept/ Oct taking 9-12 months to complete.

Planned wastewater treatment plant: two onsite 'container-ized' wastewater treatment plants will be constructed in the camp led by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MoWI). The contract between the MoWI and the supplier has been signed which includes 1 year of operation and maintenance from September 2014 onwards.

IV. Contact

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Jordan refugee response portal page at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107>;

ISWG page http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=60