

# Jordan: Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) Meeting

## Minutes: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014

### AGENDA

- A). Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) Update
- B). Winterization
- C). WFP Update
- D). Gender Update
- E). Discussion regarding the GoJ's response to 3RP
- F). ERF

### REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS FROM 2nd NOVEMBER ISWG MEETING

Action	Responsible	Status
Review of Activity info data by sector chairs.	Sector Chairs	Complete
ITS guidance submitted to Sectors for review and comments.	Sectors Chairs	Complete
Sectors to hold ITS discussion in sector meetings on minimum standards / appropriate activities	Sectors Chairs	Done by some; not all
UNHCR to circulate and Sector chairs to review the RRP6 support to Jordanians document.	Inter-Sector Coordination	Complete
Sector chairs should attend or send representatives to the Winterization Meeting	Sectors Chairs	Complete

### SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

#### INFORMAL TENTED SETTLEMENTS (ITS) UPDATE

The ITS Task Force chair provided an update on recent ITS evictions. Al hwaijah, Jaber Al Sarhan, and Zumlat al amer ghazi, three ITS sites near Mafraq were evicted on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>, respectively.

#### Details regarding each eviction

*Al hwaijah- December 2, 2014*

- 4 families/15 refugees. They were all blood relatives.

- 3 of the 4 families were separated during the eviction. Two families separated from children.
- 3 families registered as FHH in Raba Al Sarhan
- Population of the site is thought to be much more. A REACH census conducted in June recorded the population to be 100.

*Jaber Al Sarhan- December 7, 2014*

- 24 families / 112 individuals
- Profiles of families: complete families, FHH and single females.
- 3 families separated
- 2 serious medical cases: one women with high blood pressure needed attention and one child who had not had insulin shots for a week also needed attention.
- Population of site is thought to be much more. REACH informants reported that site had roughly 76 tents with roughly 380 residents.

*Zumlat al amer ghazi- December 7, 2014*

- 13 families / 78 individuals
- Profiles of families: complete families, FHH and single females.
- 2 families separated
- no medical cases
- Population of site thought to be much more; REACH census in June recorded the population to be 494

Observations made during the evictions:

- A combination of North Badia authorities, PSD, Badia Royal Forces and Gendarmerie were involved in each of the evictions.
- In the first eviction, reports suggest that refugees were not given adequate time to organize belongings. In the second and third cases, more time was allowed.
- In the first eviction, packing was made by the police, and was described by refugees as 'violent' with items of furniture being destroyed as well as the tents/shelters themselves. In the second, some belongs were left behind.
- In the first eviction, refugees reported threats of being deported. This was not the case in other evictions.
- In general, refugees were not instructed to take their documents. Some were left behind, lost, or packed onto the trucks with their belongings.
- In the second eviction, of the families which were evicted 4 families entered through legal borders and 3 families had official bailouts.
- With some exceptions going to Zaatari, in general refugees were transported through Raba Sarhan to Azraq.

**Sweep of ITS sites – 9<sup>th</sup> December**

Refugees reported that police visited ITS sites and told refugees they had 1-2 days to leave the sites. However, no refugees were evicted. Authorities said they would return to check the sites. There was an official letter from Badain police to Mafraq governor to halt evictions during the weekend.

On December 15, 2014 in north Badia in Mafraq. Authorities stopped at one site with Bedouins and Syrians. They asked Syrians to move, but they were not evicted.

**Agency Responses**

UNHCR representatives met with the governor on 03/12/2015 to address humanitarian concerns regarding evictions. Recommended guidelines for evictions were shared during the meeting. Points discussed were that GoJ would inform UNHCR of evictions and provide a medic for every eviction, guarantee UNHCR presence on the site of eviction.

In addition, all agencies engaged in reception at Raba Sarhan have effectively processed the eviction cases, providing important humanitarian assistance. More information is available from the ITS Task Force.

One member asked about whether or not the information about evictions is public? The ITS Task Force chair responded that information regarding evictions can be 'public within the humanitarian community' but we should have disclaimer, asking partners not to disseminate the information widely. The concern is that sharing information about evictions before they happen, which could create problems with local authorities.

### **WINTERIZATION**

The chair of the Winterization Task Force (Volker Schimmel) presented. For the particular facts and figure please refer to the attached "Winterization Dashboard" at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=7613>

Of the organizations providing winterization support for refugees in urban areas, the three which were affected by pending MOPIC approval have all now received approval.

Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has an emergency winterization cash assistance fund. This information can be shared with case workers.

An important part of the winterization campaign is to avoid duplication as much as possible, meaning serving one family more than once. Towards that goal, the Winterization team works with other partners through a system in which partners upload the list of families they have identified. Once a family has been served it is recorded as "booked" or assisted. The expectation is that partners should not assist those that have already been served.

Out of 103,916 cases there were 1,606 duplications. Over half of the duplications were families which received winterization package well below the standard. It is reported that some of those refugees received 240 JD to support multiple families, but the standard is over 300 JD for each family. Meaning half of "duplications" were actually still eligible for support. 133 families that were identified in urban areas that then moved to camps were able to access assistance.

According to current data, no governorate stands out as underserved, unlike last year, when disparities were a challenge.

Some members at the meeting asked if there were any sectors which could be more active.

The presenter answered that the big take away is even though there has been a winterization standard in place for months, this is not always followed. He mentioned strengthening donor requirements as a response and that ERF was more serious about following the prescribed standards. The NFI Chair noted that Q3 is too late for proposal writing cycles, and that standards should be published earlier. Now we have guiding principles for next winter.

### **FOOD UPDATE FROM WFP**

After a massive donor push, WFP was able to fully fund camps and urban communities for December. For January the assistance levels are still being confirmed.

Of the individuals that contributed to the private individual donations, the largest group were Americans, followed by Canadians, and Syrians.

For 2015 WFP has re-evaluated voucher values and the food basket based on refugee purchasing trends. The new regular voucher value will be 20 JD, both in camps and communities.

In camp the bread assistance will transition to be a part of the voucher readjustment over the first quarter of 2015.

WFP plans to communicate with local authorities and partners explaining the reanalysis and the shift in support in 2015.

The ISWG chair noted how important food support was, and the impact it has on all sectors should there be a cut. While noting the challenges, inter-sector planning to fill gaps could be helped if there was more predictability. The Food Sector chair acknowledged that predictability is a challenge. She said that refugees echoed that same sentiment stating in surveys that they would prefer half a voucher one month and the other half another month. Rather than one full voucher, then no support the next month.

WFP conducted 1,000 telephone surveys. The result revealed that without the assistance 40% of the interviewed refugees would go back to Syria and 16% would go back to camps.

## **GENDER UPDATE**

The IASC Gender Marker was successfully applied to the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) through reviewing each of the Sector Response Plans (SRPs) for each of the 5 countries participating in the 3RP. The SRPs drafted for the Jordan justified the code of 2A for each of the SRPs by incorporating gender equality measures in the Needs Section, Response Strategy and disaggregating the Indicators by sex and age.

As a result of coding 2A in each of Jordan's SRPs in 2013 as well, reports of access to RRP6 resources have been disaggregated by sex and age. The 2014 Gender Dashboards and Traffic Lights were created from this. The Gender Dashboards for the delivery of services to Syrians in camps, not in camps, and Jordanians in host communities is currently being updated by the Information Management team within UNHCR's Coordination Unit. Once these are finalized, the Senior Gender Capacity Advisor to the IATF and HCT (GenCap Advisor) will meet with the sector chairs and their sector gender focal points to analyse the respective rates for women, girls, boys and men, determine remedial actions if necessary and highlight equitable access where appropriate through the Gender Equality Traffic Lights. Once this is completed, it will be shared with the IATF (this is likely to be in January 2015). The process not only highlights where there is equitable access by women, girls, boys and men but also generates action to inequitable action. The Dashboards and Traffic Lights can improve the quality of programming and engagement of beneficiaries in the design and review of projects.

On 22 November, the GenCap Project convened a meeting in Geneva with a few interested donors, INGOs and selected GenCap Advisors to develop a pilot to monitor the incorporation of gender equality measures in the implementation of humanitarian programming. There was wide support for Jordan to continue its pilot processes for monitoring gender equality measures at the sectoral and whole of operations levels. To this end, the group will use ECHO's Gender & Age Marker (implementation phase) as the framework for the pilot. The lessons learned and tools developed will be referred to the IASC Gender Reference Group for consideration for use in humanitarian action.

The GenCap Advisor asked if there was interest by ISWG members in participating in piloting a marker for the implementation phase. Some interest was expressed by IATF members. Merrin proposed to call a meeting in January of interested parties to determine the Terms of Reference, membership and action plan. It is likely that the monitoring will include the review of access data, surveys of beneficiaries and service visits. Once the pilot system is agreed upon, training will be offered to relevant staff. The pilot will generate lessons learned and monitoring tools for general use.

Mohamed Abdel-AI (Sector Chair, Shelter) mentioned that there is a Shelter Taskforce currently looking at existing tools and processes for monitoring the delivery of shelter products (the Shelter Sector Gender Focal Point is active in this process). He asked how the group could avoid duplicating monitoring efforts, conflicts, and having different monitoring tools.

Merrin responded that the pilot is a means to develop collective understanding and tools that will complement the IASC Gender Marker which is used to assess whether humanitarian planning incorporate gender equality measures in the Needs, Responses and Indicators. Participation in the pilot is voluntary and will encourage sharing about how to effectively monitor gender equality in humanitarian action. It would be useful for the piloting group in Jordan to (among other things) look at the tools and processes currently used to find where there is consistency and lessons about good monitoring of gender equality practice to inform the pilot. Merrin is interested in hearing about the measures that sectors take to understand and monitor gender equality.

Merrin asked that anyone interested in being involved in the pilot should contact her directly (waterhou@unhcr.org). The call for expressions of interest in participating the pilot will be distributed among IATF members and the ISWG.

### **3RP**

As a result of GoJ/MOPIC intervention, the 3RP document will no longer contain NGO appeals. The government insisted that the 3RP should not be different from the JRP and that agency budgets should not appear.

A number of high level discussions have been held with the GoJ on this issue. Although the Minister of Planning eventually allowed UN agencies to post budget and appeals, they have not change their stance on not allowing NGOs to publish their appeals. At this time UN budgets will appear in the JRP. NGO budgets will be combined under one line for 'other partners'.

A discussion ensued on how to maintain transparency of appeals and activities under such conditions. A series of steps were proposed, noting that some information and structures would exist, but remain 'informal'. A follow up meeting of the ISWG will be held in mid-January to discuss the way forward for both the sectors and information sharing.

### **ERF**

Call for proposals for winterization were launched and around 13 proposals were received. They were revised by the technical committee which was the winterization task force and the recommendations were passed to reviewing board. The board revised them again and gave the final recommendation for the agencies that should be funded. The Reviewing Board recommendations will be passed on to the humanitarian coordinator and if the HC agrees and there are no objections from the Advisory Board they will be approved.

OCHA administers ERF funds expects to sign contracts with NGO beginning of January 2015. The implementation should start as soon as possible after that.

## **ACTION POINTS**

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	BY WHEN?
Education Sector shares do's and don'ts with the working group on ITS	Education Sector Chair	ASAP
Basic Needs Sector shares their two-pager on ITS standards	Basic Needs Sector Chair	ASAP
Sectors to hold ITS discussion in sector meetings on minimum standards / appropriate activities	Where not already done	By Second half of January
Establish/share key guiding principles for the next winter's programs by Q2.	Winterization Task Force	Ongoing
WFP will share a one-pager information to partners to explain the shift in support for 2015	WFP	End December
Sector chairs to review the protection strategy document and see if this format is appropriate for sector specific plans	Sector Chairs	Mid-January 2015
Sectors interested in being involved in the Gender pilot should contact Merrin Waterhouse	Sectors Chairs	By next ISWG
ISWG mini-retreat (half day) by mid-January to review sector systems and supporting activities	ISWG Chair	By early January

## **List of Attendees**

NAME	SECTOR	AGENCY	EMAIL
Shane O'Brien	PRT	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:obriens@unhcr.org">obriens@unhcr.org</a>
Volker Schimmel	Basic Needs	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:schimmel@unhcr.org">schimmel@unhcr.org</a>
Roger Dean	Basic Needs	NRC	<a href="mailto:Roger.dean@nrc.no">Roger.dean@nrc.no</a>
Yara Maasri	Health	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:maasri@unhcr.org">maasri@unhcr.org</a>
Merrin Waterhouse	SGFPN	IATF/HCT	<a href="mailto:waterhou@unhcr.org">waterhou@unhcr.org</a>
Mohammed Abdel-Al	Shelter	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:abdelal@unhcr.org">abdelal@unhcr.org</a>
Kaleem-ur-Rehman	Inter-sector	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:rehmank@unhcr.org">rehmank@unhcr.org</a>

Belen Anguita	Protection	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:anguita@unhcr.org">anguita@unhcr.org</a>
Fabrizio Falcione	UNFPA/SGBV SWG	UNFPA	<a href="mailto:falcione@unfpa.org">falcione@unfpa.org</a>
Karen Whiting	Protection	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:whiting@unhcr.org">whiting@unhcr.org</a>
Ahmad Bawah	MHPSS	IMC	<a href="mailto:abawaneh@internationalmedicalcorps.org">abawaneh@internationalmedicalcorps.org</a>
Habib-ur-Rehman	WASH	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:hrehman@unicef.org">hrehman@unicef.org</a>
Farrukh Mirza	Education	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:fmirza@unicef.org">fmirza@unicef.org</a>
Farah El-Zubi	Food Security	WFP	<a href="mailto:Farah.elzubi@wfp.org">Farah.elzubi@wfp.org</a>
Nicole Carn	Food Security	WFP	<a href="mailto:Nicole.carn@wfp.org">Nicole.carn@wfp.org</a>
Alex Tyler	ISWG	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:tyler@unhcr.org">tyler@unhcr.org</a>
Muhammad Rafiq Khan	CPSWG	UNICEF	<a href="mailto:mrkhan@unicef.org">mrkhan@unicef.org</a>
Viola Caracciolo	BNWG	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:caracci@unhcr.org">caracci@unhcr.org</a>
Philmon Haile	Coordination	UNHCR	<a href="mailto:hailep@unhcr.org">hailep@unhcr.org</a>