

JORDAN REFUGEE RESPONSE

INTER-SECTOR WORKING GROUP MEETING

Minutes: 8th March 2015



AGENDA

- A) Inter-sector Linkages: Food Security
- B) Minimum Expenditure Basket
- C) Infant and Young Child Feeding mission
- D) Winterization Wrap Up
- E) Contingency Planning update
- F) ISWG February Update

Action Point from previous meeting	Responsible	Status
Send out inter-sector achievements document draft to ISWG members for comments.	Inter-sector Coordinator	Complete
Comments on inter-sector achievements document.	ISWG Members	Complete
Remaining sectors to identify and invite govt counterparts.	Food Security, Protection	Done by some. Will be completed before next ISWG
For those who have completed sector work plans should send their plans to the Inter-Sector Coordinator and then the coordination sector will circulate the documents so that others can get an idea of a format.	ISWG Member	Complete
Sector work plans to be completed.	ISWG members	Done by some, not all.
Compiling those work plans into the macro-level document.	Inter-Sector Coordinator/s	Not Complete
Share link to online reporting visualization	UNHCR IM	Complete

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Inter-sector Linkages: Food Security Sector

The Food Security Sector presented to the group an overview on the sector's objectives and priorities for 2015. The presentation included a financial update; sector objectives, and background on the Livelihoods and Food Security component of the Jordan Response Plan. Full details are available in the attached power-point presentation.

The ISWG then split into three groups to discuss inter-sector linkages with the Food Security sector. The groups were asked to consider two primary questions as a guidance to their discussions:

1. How can Food Security Sector support other sectors? (Assessment, technical support, coverage)?
2. How can other sectors support or link with the Food Security Sector?

Group Discussions

Basic Needs and Protection (SGBV – CP – MHPSS.)

- Targeting: more information needed on WFP's targeting and linkages with the VAF
 - This will enable other sectors to better support dissemination of messages to beneficiaries.
 - Importance of exceptional referrals such as SGBV
- Sharing information on gender dynamics of how food assistance is used
- At the camp level, need more information from the Food Security Sector about trainings.
- Distribution process in general
- Collaboration with other sectors on creative advocacy with the government for encouraging durable solutions for refugees.

Education and Wash

- School feeding: focus on retention as well as attendance; potential for incentives
- Further exploration on camp activities with a CFW component relating to WASH or agriculture (eg. Kitchen gardens).
- Potential for support from FS for agriculture training in the camps; skills training for youth on agriculture even on a technical level;
- Availability of agricultural expertise for the refugee community in the camps and outside.
- Recycled water usage with related employment (animal feed only, not vegetable).

Health (Nutrition – RH – MHPSS) and Shelter

- The importance of continuing implementation of school feeding;
- Supporting Syrian Refugees and Jordanian vulnerable groups with programmes that can improve the nutrition behaviour and nutritional practices. Therefore relevant WGs should support formulation of interventions that can i) Enhance knowledge on food and nutrition through awareness raising sessions; ii) Improve nutrition practices for dietary diversity and micronutrient consumption (through training and demonstration); iii) enhance knowledge about the use of "age appropriate food" iv) improve nutritional knowledge of special groups (pregnant and lactating women).
- Accounting for safe food preparation in shelters:

- ensuring the kitchens have mosquito nests on the windows to avoid food contamination from rodents or insects;
- care of proper food storage (dry places to avoid formation of molds – i.e. risks related to aflatoxine for maize, sorghum and groundnuts);
- ensure appropriate positioning of the cooking place in the shelter (far from the main shelter's entrance) .

Minimum Expenditure Basket

Presentation facilitated by Volker Schimmel of the Basic Needs sector. Please refer to the attached power-point on "Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) – Jordan, 2015".

The main purpose of the MEB is establishing a refugee-specific poverty line. This is achieved through creating a consumption bundle and costing it. The idea is to arrive at a way of matching the minimum expenditure basket with assistance levels / packages, which in turn could lead to a more efficient and cost-effectively use of finite resources. A natural focus will be on material assistance sectors, notably Basic Needs, Food Security, Shelter, WASH, but the MEB should take into account expenses from all sectors, and build in Protection and gender considerations. In 2014, the Cash working group developed an MEB. An option is to build on this for 2015, including the other sectors. This is all the more important given changes in policy regarding food vouchers, and other changes in refugee access to services.

In discussion, questions were raised on the link to the VAF – on whether the current thresholds (linked to the Jordanian poverty line) could change. The difficulties of monetizing some sectors was noted, while costs associated with some mandatory processes (including the urban verification) would need to be considered. FAO noted that the proposed time frame (6 weeks) was ambitious, and that further time needed to be allocated. The need for consultation with refugees was highlighted.

It was agreed that an MEB task force would be formed for an initial maximum of two months. Two members would be invited from each sector (3 for Protection and Health, reflecting the number of sub-working groups). The primary aim of the task force would be to create and validate an updated MEB for Syrian refugees living in urban areas in Jordan. Camp related MEBs could be considered as a later step. The task forces would consider available secondary data, and move only to primary data collection if necessary. A validation/consultation process with participation of refugees to be considered. A separate email will follow with details.

Infant and Young Child Feeding mission

A presentation was made by UNHCR and Save the Children on the IYCF-Friendly Framework, supported by a mission from HQ. The emphasis is on linking with all sectors and seeing how IYCF-friendly approaches can be integrated into programming in general – taking advantage of all points of contact with infants. The presentation is available in attachment. UNICEF and the Nutrition sub working group noted that significant progress had already been made in applying IYCF approaches. The mission will contact sector-chairs individually.

Winterization Wrap Up

The Winterization period (November to March) is coming to a close. There will be a final meeting of the winterization task force on 26th March and a workshop on the 6th April. A consolidated report will be generated. The workshop will also aim to agree on standards for the 2015/2016 winter period, well in advance, to allow partners to include such standards in project submissions to donors and to MOPIC.

Contingency Planning update

A snr management (IATF) meeting will follow next week to agree the parameters for the 2015 Contingency Planning exercise. Currently thinking is to expand the 'borders-Raba-Azraq' focus to include ITS evictions. **ISWG February Update**

Several sectors noted on-going concerns in relation to project approvals, and requested feedback. The development of the MoPIC online registry was noted as a positive step in improving transparency. An update will be provided at the next ISWG.

Action points:

Action	Responsible	By When?
Sector work plans to be completed.	ISWG members	18/03/2015
Compiling those work plans into the macro-level document:	Inter-Sector Coordinator/s	Next meeting
Remaining sectors to identify and invite govt counterparts.	Food Security, Protection	Next meeting
MEB Task Force : Feedback to and from sector members and nomination of members	ISWG members	17/03/2015
IYCF: meeting with each sector	ISWG members	12/03/2015
Contingency Planning update: send an email with bullet point and follow up	Inter-sector Coordinator	Following IATF meeting on Cont. Planning

List of Attendees:

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