

**ISWG Meeting Note**  
**February 2023**



Inter-Sector  
Working Group  
Jordan

**ISWG Meeting Note and Action Points**

<b>Date / Time / Venue</b>	<b>Wednesday, 05 February 2023, 14:30-16:00, UNHCR office</b>
<b>Attendees</b>	UNHCR Deputy Representatives, Inter-Sector Coordinators, and Sector Coordinators Leads/co-leads of the Economic Empowerment, Shelter, WASH, Protection, Food Security Basic Needs, Education, Health, Disability, and Age, SRH and SGFPN, JIF Coordinator and VAF Coordinator, UNHCR Transition Officer and ODM Officer

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES**

- UNHCR provided an update on the status of preparations for the GRF, underlining the opportunities presented by Jordan’s role as co-convenor of the forum. At the next meeting, ISWG will look at aligning its objectives and indicators framework with GCR, including arrangements to support burden- and responsibility-sharing.
- UNHCR will follow up with the MoPIC to ensure ISWG engagement in the update of the 2023 JRP and alignment of its objectives with the government priorities.
- The ISWG took note of the key topics discussed at the Jordan Strategic Humanitarian (JoSH) centering on the ISWG reform progress, WASH services challenges and opportunities; the role the ISWG and Sectors in acting as mechanisms for coordination and identification of potential problems; and UNHCR to follow up with MoPIC to ensure constructive engagement in the updating of the JRP, and continued alignment of the JRP with interagency refugee response mechanisms.
- An ‘Assessment, Analysis, Learning Hub (AALH)’ – to be led by UNHCR VAF-will be established to strengthen evidence-based, analysis to better feed programming and advocacy. An application form will be shared with partners to express interest in co-leading the hub co and/or joining as members.
- UNCHR reiterates its commitment to a more inclusive coordination mechanism and leadership, proposing a co-leading arrangement to the ISWG in which a rotating co-lead could share leadership of the ISWG with UNHCR, noting the commitment of work and time this would entail. ISWG members to share their views in that regard and agencies interested in taking on the co-lead role to reach out to ISWG Chair and/or the Inter-Agency Coordination Office to advance the discussion.
- Action point on reporting/funding corrections (by 20 Feb)

**GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM**

UNHCR provided an update on the status of preparations for the GRF at the next JoSH meeting, underlining the opportunities presented by Jordan’s role as co-convenor of the forum. The Global Refugee Forum (GRF) 2023 will provide an opportunity to build on the significant progress made by governments and other stakeholders toward

the implementation of pledges and initiatives announced since 2019. It will also provide space for participants to announce new pledges, share good practices to inform and inspire further burden- and responsibility-sharing, and take stock of the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The GRF puts in place a new comprehensive refugee response model to support the Global Compact on Refugees. Together with Colombia, France, Japan, Niger, and Uganda, Jordan is one of the co-conveners of the GRF, which is taking place on 13 – 15 December 2023. The GRF can serve as an entry point to lay markers for the ISWG strategies and map sectors' activities. While driving joint humanitarian and development responses to long-term displacement, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) offers an opportunity for more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing supporting host countries and communities to receive the support they need. ISWG at the next meeting will look at aligning its objectives and indicators framework including arrangements to support burden- and responsibility-sharing.

## 2023 PLANNING

The Government of Jordan has extended the validity of the current Jordan Response Plan through 2023. UNHCR will follow up with the MoPIC to ensure ISWG engagement in the update of the JRP and alignment with the government priorities.

Supporting the efforts of the sectors to formulate their strategies, the ISWG secretariat shared a number of strategic and cross-cutting considerations endorsed by JoSH. These include **protecting people, ii) identifying local opportunities, and enhancing self-reliance, iii) fostering social cohesion, iv) enhancing local and national capacities, and v) mainstreaming protection, gender, and resilience across all sectors**. The next steps foreseen include sharing a Draft template of the **'Refugee Response Plan-RRP'** with **guiding questions and 'Needs Overview'** to support the sectors in developing their sectoral needs overview and strategies. The **RRP will serve as the 2023 ISWG Jordan response plan**. ISWG and sectors are committed to developing a strategic plan to respond to the needs with a SMART indicators framework (**Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound**).

## THE ISWG REFORMS

The ISWG reforms launched in November 2022 are progressing with key elements including the development of a blueprint, strategic considerations, ongoing bilateral consultations with key stakeholders, and the development of vision and strategy by each sector. This includes the merging of the two sectors 'Food Security and Basic Needs' into one entity and rebranding the livelihoods sector into 'Economic Empowerment'. Regarding the sectoral architecture, the ISWG will be implemented through seven sectors (Education, Shelter, WASH, Health, Protection, 'Food security, and the Basic Needs' merged into a single entity, and 'Livelihoods sector will rebrand itself into 'Economic Empowerment). The reform will continue to be a collective and inclusive effort by the various actors to ensure an effective coordination mechanism is in place.

The ISWG also identified three themes of inter-sectoral importance: protection, gender and resilience; and envisages having advisors that will support integrating thematic areas into the sectors' plans and performance. UNHCR will provide a protection adviser and UNWOMEN has agreed to provide an adviser on gender. Discussion on resilience are ongoing. The reform also will ensure tight linkages with the JoSH, as well as other coordination forums.

A new platform – the "Assessment, Analysis, Learning Hub (AALH)" – will be established to strengthen evidence-based, analysis to better feed programming and advocacy. The Hub will be led by UNHCR VAF Coordinator and

supported by the technical expertise of a UNHCR Operational Data Management Officer. An application form will be shared with partners interested to express interest in co-leading the hub co and/or joining as members.

The sector architecture- under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) -that has been in place for a number of years and led by UNHCR, chairing the inter-sector coordination mechanism and ensuring actors are responding to the emergency and protection needs. In the framework of the reform, **UNCHR reiterates its commitment to a more inclusive coordination mechanism and leadership**, proposing a co-leading arrangement to the ISWG, including a potential rotating co-leading role for interested ISWG member agencies, with the period of rotation to be determined. The co-leadership role would entail a commitment of work and time, and interested agencies were encouraged to reach out to the ISWG secretariat to understand better what the commitment would entail. ISWG members are encouraged to share their views in that regard and the interested agencies to co-lead to reach out to ISWG Chair and/or the Inter-Agency Coordination Office to advance the discussion.

Further to the active discussion of the above, overall, **the meeting participants concluded** the followings:

- Sectors to complete the **development of the strategic documents** by 28 February (in accordance with the below road map)
- ISWG to undertake **regular monitoring** of the implementation of the reform process and **review as and when needed** (in case of context change, emerging needs, etc...)
- ISWG secretariat to share the 'Refugee Response Plan' Draft template with guiding questions and a **'Needs Overview'** section to support the sectors in developing their sectoral 'Needs Overview' and strategies
- ISWG to engage in discussions with key stakeholders on how the **cross-cutting thematic areas** shall be mainstreamed (Protection, Gender, Resilience)
- "Assessment, Analysis, Learning Hub (AALH)" Application will be shared with partners to express interest in joining the Hub.
- Agencies interested in **co-leading the ISWG** to reach out to the Inter-Sector Coordination Secretariat
- Inter-Agency Coordination Unit Sector Coordinators will **be providing strategic support** to sectors and will **refrain from providing clerical support** (including taking minutes of the meetings /events).

## JORDAN STRATEGIC HUMANITARIAN (JOSH) UPDATE

The ISWG presented the key topics discussed at the Jordan Strategic Humanitarian (JoSH) centering on the **ISWG reform progress, WASH services challenges and opportunities; the role the ISWG and Sectors should play as mechanisms for coordination and identification of potential problems; and UNHCR to follow up with MoPIC to ensure constructive engagement in the updating of the JRP, and continued alignment of the JRP with interagency refugee response mechanisms.**

In specific, the Water and Sanitation Sector of the Inter-Sectoral Working Group provided an update to the JoSH highlighting the **problems of declining resources in the WASH sector**. There was agreement that further discussion among humanitarian and development actors, along with sustained engagement with government partners, to develop long-term and integrated solutions; and that efforts must above all be founded on solid evidence and data. The Humanitarian Donors Group will facilitate a conversation with relevant development actors to support in this. It was also suggested that the Sectors of the ISWG will be the mechanism for identifying potential problems, and (if unable to resolve them), act as an early warning signal by elevating them to the JoSH for further discussion, action, or collective advocacy.

## ISWG REVISION OF 2022 REPORTING–APPEAL AND FUNDING RECEIVED

ISWG Information Management presented **an overview of the partners’ reporting status regarding the funds received in 2022**. The status shows **a high level of discrepancies between the planned budgets vis-à-vis the funding received in 2022**. As JRP has been extended over the past years, there was no actual update of the budget received per year by some agencies, hence the discrepancies. ISWG agreed to revise the figures for our collective credibility and transparency vis-vis our donors and the people we serve. The ISWG and the sector lead and co-leads are accountable for ensuring proper and quality reporting from the partners. The **revision exercise is expected to be completed by Monday, February 20** and will feed into developing the final dashboard for 2022 planning and 3RP reporting.

## ROAD MAP OF ISWG DEADLINES

Based on the above, the road map of the key actions and the respective deadlines were updated:

Action Point(s)	Timeframe	Focal Point(s)	Status	Note(s)
Share ‘Needs Overview’ guiding template with the sectors	ASAP	ISWG	In progress	
Revise sector TORs	15-Feb-23	Sector Leads, Sector Coordinators	In progress	
Submit the analysis of the best way to mainstream gender (One pager)	15-Feb-23	Sector Leads	In progress	
Submit a draft one-pager on the way forward for the sector’s coordination vision, objectives, and structure	15-Feb-23	Sector Leads	In progress	
Initiate discussions with sector constituencies to formulate the sector response strategy	1-Jan - 15-Feb-23	Sector Leads	In progress	
Initiate consultations on establishing cross sectoral linkages while discussing the response strategy	1-Jan - 15-Feb-23	Sector Leads	In progress	
Sectoral strategy to be submitted to ISWG	15-28-Feb-23	Sector Leads		
Needs Overview by Sector	28-Feb-23	Sector Leads		ISWG will consolidate sectors’ inputs
Share with ISWG names of colleagues with relevant profile to participate in the new AAL Hub	ASAP	Agencies, Sectors		AAL Hub to be created in February

Develop the sector plan Matrix to include in addition to the agreed objectives, the planned activities and proposed indicators	TBC	ISWG and Sector Leads and Coordinator		To be discussed in the upcoming ISWG
Develop the sectors narratives and Jordan chapter	TBC	ISWG and Sector Leads and Coordinator		
<b>Revision of 2022 Reporting-Appeal and Funding Received</b>	13-Feb-23	3RP partners, Sector Leads/Co-leads		
Share draft 'Refugee Response Plan' guidance with sector Leads	ASAP	ISWG		