Shelter Working Group  
July 5, 2023  
Attendees: UNHCR, International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Islamic Relief (IR), Habitat for Humanity (HfH), Caritas

**Introductions & Partner Updates**

- **UNHCR and Qatar Jordan Charity** apologized and could not attend.
- **Caritas** reported that activities are ongoing and providing cash assistance for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians. As recommended to all partners, Caritas noted that they are utilizing RAIS for cross-referencing potential beneficiaries and avoid duplication of assistance.
- **HfH** reported that rehabilitation is completed for 100 households. For HfH’s community project, they are in the closing phase. For World Refugee Day, HfH held an event with a partner in Amman with children, including those with disabilities, totaling 50 people in attendance. HfH has two new funds to serve 30 households between now and September (based on work plan but budget is available until next year), focused on rehabilitation. HfH’s green initiative for 12 houses is ongoing. HfH started the fourth green home in Irbid.
- **IR** reported installation of 300 solar heating systems in Gaza and Irbid camps. IR conducted a WRD event in Mafraq for women and children. For shelter rehabilitation, activities are ongoing in Irbid and Gaza Camp. IR has a new project for 20 households in Al Huson camp. For IR’s school project, tendering is ongoing for seven schools. For Eid, distributed 8,000 packages of meat to households in need.
- **NRC (host)** work is ongoing in shelter, rehabilitation, and school rehab projects. NRC had paused registration in northern Jordan while conducting an internal review of tools to identify shelter beneficiaries in host community. NRC will be re-starting registration for a trial period as of mid-July. Due to its large waiting list, NRC is looking at a new method that will assess more people and reduce the number of people on the waiting list.
- **NRC (camp)** reported activities are ongoing for shelter repair and infrastructure rehabilitation in camps. Recently, NRC completed and handed over the health clinic compound in Azraq Camp. NRC has one activity on pause in Zaatari Camp – caravan repair – and aims to receive materials to resume work in mid-July. Some materials were sent from Azraq to Zaatari to cover the gap. For the self-repair project, 250 are targeted in Azraq and 50 in Zaatari. The equitable use of electricity project is now in the closing phase with plans to dismantle smart controllers by the end of July. There are plans by UNHCR on installation of electricity meters in the camp shelters. NRC did a meat distribution in Village 5 of Azraq Camp, reaching 9,000 people. **Action Item:** UNHCR noted that it will follow up with NRC regarding a potential debriefing on the electricity project with NRC and its local project partner. This will be discussed bilaterally between UNHCR and NRC.
- **IOCC** reported that its current cash-for-rent project is ongoing with selection of refugees households currently in process. IOCC is working with refugees of all nationalities, regardless of registration status, with a focus on the most vulnerable (such as those under threat of immediate eviction). As Caritas, IOCC checks and books cases in RAIS to avoid duplication of assistance. IOCC highlighted the ongoing need for services of all types for refugees of another nationalities, alongside Syrian refugees.
- **Presentation on the Jordan Financial Tracking**

  o Samira, representative from the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit (IACU), gave a presentation (see attached) as of Quarter 1 on the Jordan Financial Tracking (JFT).

  o Shelter is the second lowest funded sector. However, this is only reflective of the funding reported as received during Quarter 1, noting that some partners receive more during Quarter 1 to start the year while others may receive none, depending on cash flow and agreements with their donors. It will be clearer to understand the level of funding for the sector later in the year.

  o Only four organizations have reported out of the 37 organizations listed in the sector contact list. As of Quarter 1, these organizations reported funds in 2023, totaling $2.77 M USD out of requested $43 M USD.

  o WG members then discussed the presentation “Brainstorming Questions”.
    ▪ Regarding lack of reporting, HfH noted that reporting depends on their internal, organizational financial year and when the data is available for reporting. IR raised questions on when data was requested and how reminders were shared on reporting. Samira mentioned that the IACU leads the process of requesting this information on a quarterly basis with follow up with organizations who do not respond to get as much data as possible. The Working Group will ensure that the contact list is up to date so that all partners receive relevant requests and reminders.
    ▪ Samira noted that the JFT will be incorporated into the ActivityInfo reporting system.
    ▪ **Action item for Samira to follow up with HfH and IR to ensure that their data is included in JFT. She will follow up bilaterally.** Additionally, Samira noted that training will be provided to partners, as needed. Those trained to report will receive credentials/passwords to access the system.
    ▪ Regarding under-funding, some challenges are related to donor interest and prioritization. Individually and as a group, advocacy has been ongoing on the shelter situation in Jordan. Housing is also an issue among Jordanians and similarly not the top prioritized sector. Shelter typically is seen as requiring
large amounts of investment from donors, and projects are implemented over time. Additionally, with competing crises (such as the earthquake in Turkey and Syria that needs shelter support), donor funds shift to respond. Some donors have also raised concerns regarding the expense per beneficiary, particularly compared with other services. Caritas noted that health and education have been prioritized over shelter. Additionally, it is difficult to know of funding levels in Quarter 1 as it depends on cash flow. For example, IOCC did not have funds come in to report in Quarter 1; however, shelter activities are ongoing based on cash that came in in Quarter 4 of 2022 and Quarter 2 of 2023.

- Regarding under-funding and under-reported, Samira noted that some “shelter” interventions may also be reported under other sectors – for example, cash assistance for shelter could be reported under protection as “cash for protection”.
- Looking at the other sectors, more consideration can be made regarding consortium and multi-sector interventions.
- Regarding cash flow, NRC reported no impact on work plan and timeframe, similar to what IOCC stated. Partners work closely with their donors on any issues with cash flow.
- Samira mentioned the importance of monitoring and evaluation of partners’ work.
- Samira flagged that this data is reported to donors, which further emphasized the importance of data to be included and then it can be used for advocacy.

**Discussion on Brussels Conference**

- The conference was structured from three perspectives – donors, civil society (including NGOs), and government.
- Looking at the Government of Jordan (GoJ) perspective, it is key that partners ensure that their plans are in alignment with the government plans and perspectives. For example, partners should ensure that coming plans and proposed activities are in line with government plans and priorities. Additionally, the government is looking to have stronger participation in sectors with consideration for restructuring of sectors.
- Partners discussed the change in diplomatic relations with Syria, including its re-entry into the Arab League, and how this impacts regional dynamics.
- It is not clear how partners can ensure that their input is included in the new JRP process. Previously, the ISWG was leading this through sector development of the indicators. However, this point will be discussed with the ISWG.
- Based on new guidance from the ISWG and post-Brussels discussion, the Shelter WG strategy will be revised accordingly through the Strategic Committee. Information from the recent JoSH reprioritization discussion will inform this process. The Chair and Co-Chair should have more information after the upcoming ISWG meeting.
- The topic of drug trafficking and challenges with movement of these from Syria was also mentioned by the GoJ at Brussels. Partners noted that this topic does not currently have a large impact on their work.
- Members discussed linkages between ISWG, UNHCT, JIF, etc. and their role in next steps, post-Brussels.
- Regarding pledges, there was also a discussion on the shift toward more on concessional loans (versus grants) and how this demonstrates and increased focus on development versus humanitarian funding. This will be monitored by partners as more information
on pledges is released.

- **Updating of Sector Contact List**
  - IOCC and UNHCR discussed the need to clean out and update the Working Group contact list. This will help to ensure that communications reaches the correct organizations and focal points and clarify who is working in the sector.
  - A link will be sent out with the minutes of meeting through which partners should provide the name of the primary and alternate focal points, as well as their contact information.
  - Action item: Along with this exercise, IOCC will reach out bilaterally to those who have not recently been attending meetings (i.e., the past three meetings).
  - Overall, the Working Group aims to expand the footprint of the sector through participation and enhance stronger collaboration with partners.
  - Approval of group to convene strategic committee to support

- **AOB**
  - **Government Outreach**
    - Following the conversation about updating sector contact list, the conversation shifted to inclusion of relevant government focal points in the work of the sector Working Group. Options were discussed, such as convening the Strategic Committee to lead this process or having all members participate. It was decided that at the next Shelter Working Group meeting that all members will participate in the development of an action plan for government outreach.
    - Action item: Working Group members were requested to come prepared to the next meeting for this conversation on government engagement in the Working Group.
  - **Updating the VAF Questionnaire**
    - UNHCR is in the process of reviewing an updating the VAF questionnaire. For the shelter section in the camp, UNHCR focal point for the Working Group is coordinating with the UNHCR VAF focal point. For the host community/urban, there was a call for volunteers to support the process of reviewing and updating the VAF questionnaire with UNHCR. HfH, Caritas, and IR expressed interested.
    - Action item: Shelter Working Group Chair will follow up with UNHCR VAF focal point to see if the Working Group can nominate three focal points or just one. If just one organization is nominated, it can coordinate with the other two to also provide their input and feedback.
  - **Updates on Returns**
    - There are no additional updates beyond what was discussed at the previous meeting on returns of refugees to Syria. By the end of August or September, it will be cleared if there will be any impact on 2024 plans (funding and activities) in relation to potential returns. Jordan is promoting a “global fund for returns”. However, the Government also acknowledges that returns must be voluntary and conditions ensuring safety must be in place.
  - **Next Meeting**
    - An email will be circulated with the date of the next meeting. HfH offered to host.
      - Action item: An email will be circulated with details for the next meeting.