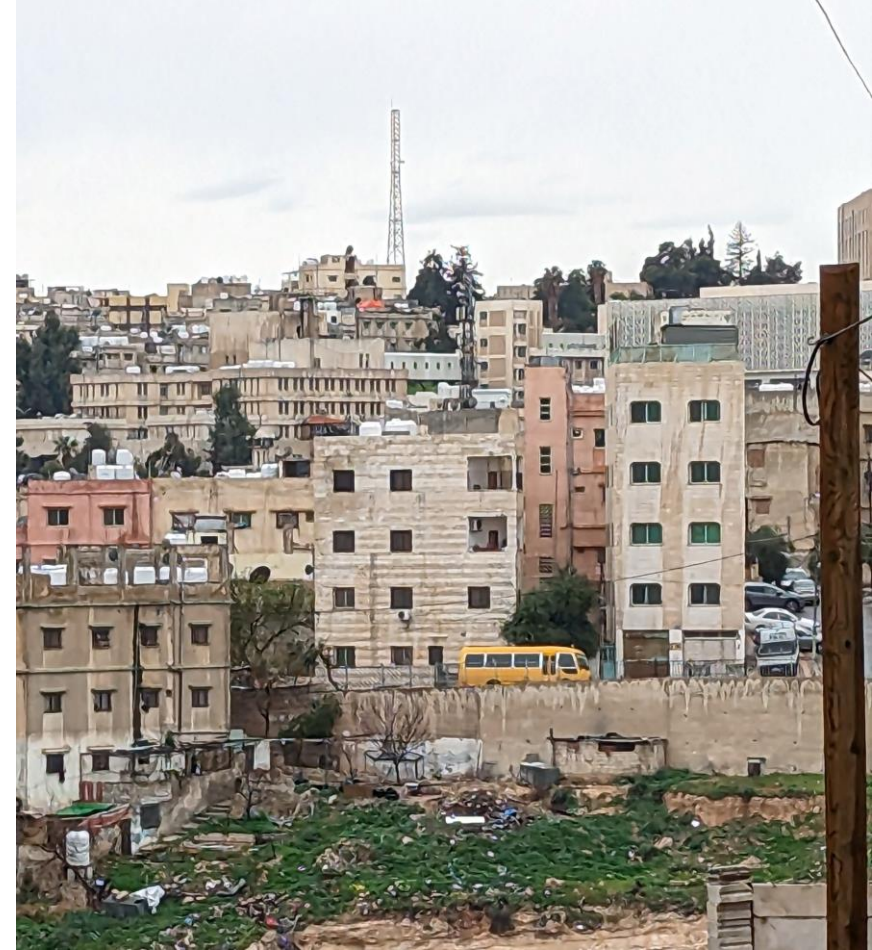


# Shelter Priorities & Challenges in Jordan



**Bernard Nwankwo**  
*Shelter WG Chair, UNHCR*

**Loren Hyatt**  
*Shelter WG Co-Chair, IOCC*

# Context - Host Community

- 95% of refugees living in formal accommodations are renting
- Of refugees with debt, 32% hold debt to pay rent
- Sources income for paying rent include savings, remittances, humanitarian assistance, and borrowing
- 41% of refugees reported not being able to pay rent for the previous 3 months
- 23% of Syrian refugees and 27% of non-Syrian refugees reported receiving a threat of eviction
- Of HHs “phased out” from UNHCR basic needs cash assistance, 48% were not able to pay rent and 53% of these HHs received an eviction threat
- Refugee HHs that paid utility bills had an average monthly expenditure of JOD 28 for electricity and JOD 9 for water



# Context - Camps

- More than 1,600 refugees families are on the waiting list for a new shelters in Azraq and Zaatari camps
- More than 13,000 refugees families are on the waiting list of shelter maintenance in the camps
- 45% of HHs in Azraq and 61% in Zaatari reported adding a makeshift extension to their T-shelters or caravans to create covered courtyards and shaded spaces
- Approximately 4,000 Syrian refugees relocated from outside of camps to camps between 2019 and 2023



# Sector Priorities - Host Community

**Support for refugees and vulnerable host community members in covering the cost of rent, utilities, and shelter maintenance**

## **Consequences of Not Addressing Need**

- Increased debt
- Increased tensions
- Increased dependence on negative coping mechanisms
- Relocation  
(often to cheaper and less safe housing)
- Eviction
- Homelessness
- Health issues
- Increased psychological issues within household
- Worsening dietary status
- Decreased school attendance
- Overcrowding and increased potential for GBV
- Relocation to camps

# Sector Priorities - Camp

## New, improved, sustainable shelter stock to accommodate camp population

### Consequences of Not Addressing Need

- Overcrowding
  - Dignity and privacy compromised
  - Increased potential for GBV
- Increased pressure on camp infrastructure
- Irregular expansions of living areas, including increased vulnerability to natural hazards
- Increased tensions
- Continue deterioration of camp shelters without sufficient ability to keep up with needed maintenance, leading to health, safety, and environmental issues for camp inhabitants

# Sector Priorities - Camp (cont.)

Address the “encampment” nature of the camps through less restrictive movement of people, goods, and services

## Consequences of Not Addressing Need

- Camp residents continue to have **limited access to resources and materials needed to become self-reliant** and empower themselves (such as rehabilitating shelters on their own) and must rely on humanitarian actors to address these issues
- Without opening of camps’ markets to allow for **more movement of goods and services**, refugees will continue to be dependent on humanitarian aid and UN agencies, ranging from shelter support to income-generation opportunities

# Support from the JoSH

## Host Community

- Continue support for cash assistance for all refugees
- Encourage increased livelihood opportunities for all refugees, leading to increased self-sufficiency among refugees (i.e., ability to cover rent or conduct rehabilitation work on their own shelters)



# Support from the JoSH (cont.)



## Camp

- Coordinate with GoJ on increased freedom of movement of goods, services, and people between the camps and host community
- Advocate for lessening restrictions and granting permission for the use of semi-durable shelter materials and structures in Azraq and Zaatari refugee camps





**Bernard  
Nwankwo**  
[nwankwo@unh  
cr.org](mailto:nwankwo@unhcr.org)

**Loren Hyatt**  
[lhyatt@ioccc.org](mailto:lhyatt@ioccc.org)

**Thank you**