

ISWG Meeting Note

January 2023



Inter-Sector
Working Group
Jordan

ISWG Meeting Note and Action Points

Date / Time / Venue	Wednesday, 17 January 2024, 10:00 - 11:30, UNHCR office
Attendees	Inter-Sector Coordinator, Sector Coordinators, Leads/Co-Leads of the Shelter, Food Security Basic Needs, Education, Economic Empowerment, Protection, and Health sectors, UN Women focal point for localization, Protection Advisor, Gender Advisor, JIF focal point, AAL Hub co-lead, GRF focal point, Deputy Representative of UNHCR

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES

- **Social security update from JoSh:** A special JoSh session will be convened by the end of the month to address social security and work permits for Syrian refugees in Jordan. The government has issued an update extending the decision on work permits for Syrians based on the following: For a period of one year for Syrians working in factories benefiting from the Rule of Origin (RoO) with the European Union.
- For a period of six months for Syrians working in open occupations outside factories benefiting from the RoO, including cash for work, flexible work permits, and work permits issued via employers- (Fixed Employment). Those can apply to work permits valid for one year (or less in case of cash for work) until the end of June. This will be evaluated after the expiry of the six months period.
- **GRF update:** The Global Refugee Forum in 2023 united 4,200 participants from 168 countries, including over 300 refugees, and garnered 1,600 pledges, resulting in a total of 43 multistakeholder commitments, including \$2.2 billion in new financial support, showcasing a 'modern multilateralism' and a comprehensive, whole-of-society response.
- **Protection and Development Workshop:** The workshop will likely take place on the 28th of February, and sector leads from all sectors are invited. More details to follow once everything is confirmed.
- **Rotation of inter-sector focal points:** Starting February, new focal points from IACU will be assigned for the sectors as follows: **Ehab** for Economic Empowerment and Food Security Basic Needs sectors, **Samira** for the Protection sector, **Saud** for the Health and Shelter sectors, and **Ramayana** for the Education and WASH sectors.
- Sectors provided lessons learnt from 2023 and things to work towards in 2024.

- **ActivityInfo reporting:** 2023 Dashboard is available now and presented during the meeting. For 2024, reporting should be happening starting from February if the logframes are ready, to maximize monitoring during the year.

The Senior Inter Agency Coordination Officer | UNHCR Representation Ms. Virginia opened the meeting by welcoming the audience and introduced the meeting agenda as follows:

- Operational updates (JoSH, GRF).
- 2023 reflections and future directions by sectors.
- 2023 ActivityInfo reporting status.
- Presentation – Jordan Refugees Hub portal update.
- AOB

OPERATIONAL UPDATES (JoSH, GRF)

Ms. Virginia provided a general overview on the events that happened since the last ISWG meeting in December, most notably the Global Refugee Forum, and the last JoSH meeting.

- **JoSH**

The last JoSH meeting highlighted 2 main topics; The Global Refugee Forum which took place in December 2023, and the changes in regulations regarding the social security and the work permits for refugees.

Regarding the changes in social security and work permits for refugees:

- **Social Security Changes Impacting Refugees:** Some significant changes in Social Security regulations were highlighted, expressing concern about their substantial impact on refugees' ability to access the formal job market. The discussion also mentioned the conclusion of a five-year Economic Empowerment program by the World Bank, which provided free work permits to refugees.
- **Advocacy Plans by Josh:** The Josh plans to address these concerns by organizing a meeting by the end of January. During this meeting, they aim to consolidate information on the situation and strategize on advocating with the government to ensure compliance with their commitment to the global compact, emphasizing the importance of addressing issues related to Social Security and work permits for refugees.

The update regarding these changes came from the government that included an extension of the decision based on the following:

- For a period of one year for Syrians working in factories benefiting from the Rule of Origin (RoO) with the European Union.
- For a period of six months for Syrians working in open occupations outside factories benefiting from the RoO, including cash for work, flexible work permits, and work permits issued via

employers- (Fixed Employment). Those can apply to work permits valid for one year (or less in case of cash for work) until the end of June. This will be evaluated after the expiry of the six months period.

- **GRF 2023**

A presentation was made by GRF focal point Ms. Zeina Jadaan. The main points that were presented were as follows:

- **Global Overview:** A global event brought together 4,200 participants from 168 countries and 425 organizations, with 300 refugees and 10,000 online viewers. It generated 1,600 pledges, including 43 multistakeholder pledges, and announced \$2.2 billion in new financial commitments, with \$250 million from the private sector. The event exemplified a comprehensive response and highlighted 'modern multilateralism.'
- **Senior Level Attendance:** Senior level attendees from the Jordanian government joined the Global Refugees Forum 2024, including officials from MoFA, Mol, and MoPIC.
- **Refugee Participation:** Five refugees, including three Syrians and two Iraqis, participated, with one delivering a statement on behalf of all youth co-leadership, featuring keynote speakers in the Youth session and a speaker in the Mobility session on expanding third country pathways through tertiary education.
- **Learning Opportunities for Children and Youth:** Improve access and quality of education at pre-primary, primary, and secondary/vocational levels for all refugees, while also expanding TVET and tertiary education opportunities through scholarships, grants, affordable tuition, and the establishment of a Multi-Donor Account, and enhancing the overall capacity and infrastructure of TVET and higher education systems.
- **Call to Action: Gender Equality and Protection against Gender-Based Violence:** Enhance the implementation of quality control standards for family violence services, improve the availability and accessibility of Gender-Based Violence/Child Protection services, and promote gender equality, particularly for women and girls, including refugees, across all locations in Jordan through collaborative efforts with relevant stakeholders.

SECTORS' REFLECTIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Sector leads were asked to share and celebrate what was done well in 2023, and things to keep on our radar for 2024. In addition, sectors were asked to mention any special achievements or things that stood out and could be adopted by other sectors in 2024.

Protection sector:

- Engagement with the government was a main achievement for the protection sector. This includes subsectors such as the collaboration with the family protection department in the government with the GBV subsector, and the juvenile department in the child protection.
- This helped and allowed the inclusion of refugees in the national system, which is the goal the sector wants to reach.

Education Sector:

- Active participation of all members in the Jordan Response Plan (JRP), and partners were active and aware of the upcoming plans for the sector and the priorities of the ministry.
- Inclusion and partnerships which allowed the inclusion of refugees in the vocational education system in schools.
- Localization is now coming more to the surface, and local partners are engaged and active in the sector, and an upcoming election for a new co-chair for the sector will be dedicated to local partners.

FSBN sector:

- A new and more aligned targeting model across the sector in general.
- The sector members are more involved and aware of sector activities and plans.
- Aligning with the government priorities as well with their targeting approach with the NAF, which will lead to a better reach for Jordanians and Refugees.

Health sector:

- A consultation on refugees and migrants in Morocco. The Assistant High Commissioner participated, and a senior official from Jordan's Ministry of Health presented their inclusive model for refugees in public health facilities, supported by a multi-donor fund.
- The Ministry of Health, with support from the health sector, and Health Development Partner Forum, has developed a service guide over several years to mobilize refugees, facilitating their access to public health facilities, as communicated to frontline staff.
- The nationalization of the response, emphasizing the handover to national partners like Save the Children and AMR in camps, such as Zaatari, where three clinics are now supported by QFFD.
- The Health Access Utilization Survey, which, in conjunction with the recent Demographic Health Service by the USAID Department of Statistics, and the Ministry of Health, will lead to a workshop involving key stakeholders to address challenges related to health expenditure accessibility and demographics.

Shelter sector:

- Successful reworking of internal working processes, emphasizing that it ensures all partners have access to information for decision-making within the sector, promoting transparency and awareness across the entire sector.
- Ongoing expansion of the sector's footprint, with the hope that by 2024, the sector can transfer the leadership to the relevant government ministry.
- The successful addition of new partners in the sector, particularly emphasizing the valuable contribution of UNRWA's extensive experience, which was impactful on the sector's operations and aims to further expand partnerships, with the goal of eventually handing over leadership to the Ministry of Interior by the end of 2024.

Economic Empowerment sector:

- In 2023, the economic empowerment sector focused on improving service quality and self-reliance. They considered accreditation, fostering closer partnerships, and adopting new approaches. The group actively addressed challenges, promoted shared experiences, and engaged with government agencies. The year ended with a leadership transition to UNDP and a local NGO, setting the stage for future endeavors.

2023 ACTIVITYINFO REPORTING STATUS

- Naseem, The Information Management focal point from IACU presented the dashboard of 2023 reporting for 3RP.
- The dashboard showed the status of reporting for all agencies that reported on the ActivityInfo platform.

JORDAN REFUGEES HUB PORTAL

- Due to time limitations, the presentation for the Jordan Refugees Hub Portal is postponed till next ISWG meeting.

AOB

- None.