

Economic Empowerment Working Group

Jordan

Terms of Reference

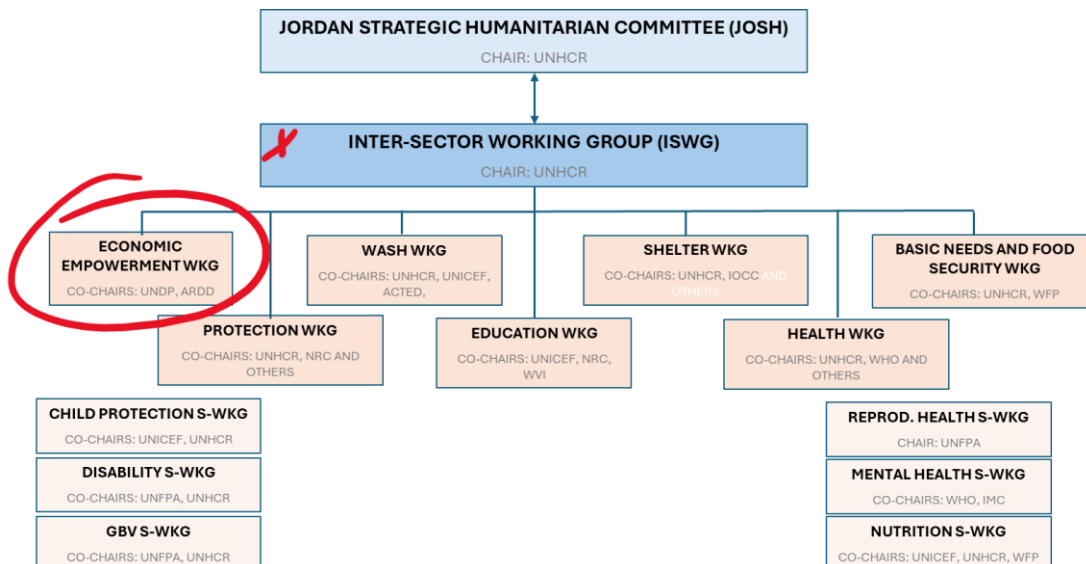
Background and context

UNHCR's Inter-Agency Task Force established the Livelihoods Working Group (LWG) in February 2016 as part of the coordinated operation to support Syrian refugees and host communities. The livelihoods group's focus was on livelihoods interventions.

The group change its name to the Economic Empowerment Working Group (EEWG) at the end of 2022 to broaden its scope towards growth and economic transformation.

The EEWG in the coordination architecture

The EEWG is one of seven working groups (and three sub-working groups) that form the backbone of the refugee operation's coordination architecture. The EEWG is represented by the co-chairs of the EEWG at the inter-sectors working group. The inter-sector working group has a two-way relationship with the Jordan Strategic Humanitarian Committee (the JoSH) that represents the senior leadership of the operation. The ISWG is supposed to inform the JOSH of priorities, issues, challenges and opportunities in the response and in return, the JOSH confirms and develops strategies for the response that are operationalized by the ISWG.



Objectives

The Economic Empowerment Working Group aims to:

- Bring together humanitarian and development partners involved in economic development and empowerment in Jordan to share knowledge and experiences; learn from each other; build partnerships; share data and information on the needs and challenges of refugee communities and resident communities, particularly related to economic development and empowerment opportunities, in high density refugee areas.
- Provide a space for discussion and learning between humanitarian and development partners, as well as academic research institutions, private sector companies, donors, and any other relevant actors.
- Bring closer collaboration and cooperation between international actors and national and local actors (national and local authorities; civil society, national NGOs).
- Bring closer collaboration and cooperation between the traditional humanitarian (refugee) organisations and development actors (development organisations as well as development donors); and harmonise coordination between the humanitarian architecture and development architecture (UNSDCF).
- Strengthen the role of national and local actors in coordination fora and leadership.¹
- Keep humanitarian and development partners (members of the group) abreast of strategic developments in the operation i.e. provide regular updates from JOSH meetings and the inter-sector group.
- Provide a platform for unimpeded and free-flow of information between partners: the sector has established a WhatsApp group where partners can send messages directly to the group and each other².
- Establish and practice a convivial, respectful, and professional working practice where everyone working in the refugee and resilience operation engages in their work and partnerships with good will, honesty, trust and a spirit of cooperation and coordination.
- Work collectively with members to utilise advocacy approaches to influence relevant actors to adapt and change policy and practice where necessary to support economic development, livelihoods and other related issues facing Jordan and the refugee and vulnerable population.
 - ~ Capitalize and utilise existing advocacy, research and analysis groups that are operational in Jordan; capitalize and utilise research findings and develop a solid evidence base to inform advocacy work; develop advocacy approaches collectively and collaboratively with other UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and other relevant actors (the academic community, for example).

¹ The sector has a national NGO established as a co-chair. The sector will commit to a transition where more and more meetings are carried out in Arabic more than English.

² Further discussion is needed with UNHCR to permit more unrestricted access and free-flowing information between EEWG members, rather than relying on UNHCR IM staff to control the flow of information and ideas.

Membership

- Membership of the Economic Empowerment Working Group is open to actors involved in humanitarian, refugee and the development environment in Jordan. This includes UN agencies, international and national NGOs, members of civil society, representatives of national and/or local authorities, humanitarian and development donors, research entities, private sector actors.

Responsibilities of members (non-enforceable)

- Participate regularly at working group meetings, to the degree possible by the same individual(s) and contribute to discussions and conversations.
- Share minutes of meetings, media articles, best practices, findings from assessments, monitoring and evaluations research reports, policy guidance, strategic decisions and other relevant information which might be useful and helpful to partners.
- Support the co-chairs in their duties to the degree possible, including on occasion helping out by hosting meetings (if the space exists), leading discussions and conversations, contributing to agenda items, and helping to create an amiable, warm and welcoming environment.
- Bring a critical voice to meetings. Don't be afraid to be provocative, inciteful and raise questions (and don't be offended if you and your ideas are questioned, as questions stimulate thoughts, innovation and creativity).
- Provide a handover to new colleagues in the event that an existing member (individual) is replaced by a new or alternate colleague.
- All members agree to apply the 2007 Principles of Partnership (Equality, Transparency, Results Oriented, Responsibility and Complementarity) and work together to promote and integrate the "do no harm" principle in their humanitarian response.

Co-chairing (and co-chair responsibilities)

- The Economic Empowerment Working Group is co-chaired by UNDP and national NGO, Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD). The co-chair arrangement is for twelve months and is renewed annually through a simple majority election (with all members of the group having one vote³)
- The co-chairs are responsible for the smooth and effective functioning of the sector working group). This includes hosting monthly meetings, disseminate minutes of meetings in a timely manner (within 72 hours of each meeting), sharing information and keeping members up to speed on issues related to the operation (from the JOSH or the inter-sector group, for example) as needed such, sharing research reports, policy guidance, strategic decisions and other relevant information as it is available; providing opportunities for members to build their networks and partnerships.

³ This means one vote per organization (not one vote per person, in the case where more than one person from the same organization participates in the group).

- The co-chairs are responsible for hosting meetings as needed, but are also encouraged to rotate meetings and share the workload with members (without exploiting members by asking too much!).
- Stimulate vibrant discussions. Encourage critical thinking and creativity. Encourage questions. Generate a dynamic learning and creative atmosphere; but manage a respectful and collaborative environment.
- Ensure that a comprehensive protection and solutions strategy remains at the core of the overall strategic directions.
- Use the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) as the core framework and guiding light that informs the priorities of the sector
- Strengthen the engagement with national actors, particularly government institutions and nexus-oriented coordination with line ministries and, when relevant, the UNSDCF and national development plans.
- Act as focal point for inquiries related to economic empowerment and development, keeping abreast of information on policy shifts, provide technical support to economic empowerment planning and support members in accessing funding opportunities.
- Strengthen gender mainstreaming and other key mainstreaming priorities.
- Promote synergies with other actors active in complementary sectors (regarding Basic Needs, Education, Protection, and others).
- Represent the EE WG in various fora especially in the JRP and represent the sector within the Inter-Sector Working Group meetings as well as in other humanitarian fora/platforms

Special note:

Chatham House and non-attribution.

The EE sector working group is a forum for open and vibrant discussion. All meetings are held under Chatham House rules, meaning the content of conversations can be referenced, but it is not permissible to attribute any of the conversations held in the room to any individual or organization. This will allow open discussion. You, as an individual or your organization, will not be quoted in the meeting minutes or any written summary or meeting note.

Members of the group are not permitted to reference the identity of the individual or their organization without their prior permission when discussing or talking about specific issues that have been discussed at the Economic Empowerment Working Group meetings.