Shelter Working Group Meeting, October 2025

Date: October 29, 2025
Place: Khalda-Terrace Meeting Room, UNHCR in Jordan.
Chaired by: Lina Younis -UNHCR. Mohammed Alsalem – Habitat for Humanity
Attendees: NRC, Habitat for Humanity, IOCC, , Medair, IRJ, Syria Operation, Lebanon Operation, and UNHCR.

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Agenda:

- Shelter in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan.
- Partners Updates.
- JoSH Updates.
- AoB

Syria Operations

Key insights

- Contents: The shelter situation is evolving with increasing returnees and IDPs. The focus remains on providing safe and dignified shelter for the most vulnerable.
- Challenges: Housing, land, and property (HLP)constraints, Lack of reliable data on returnee populations, and economic deterioration affecting materials and labor.

Shelter strategy and ongoing response

- A considerable number of IDPs and refugee returnees continue to live in last-resort camps and collective shelters, particularly in southern NES and other high-risk areas.
- 1 million houses partially destroyed; 5 million families homeless.
- Many families are now hosted in a community in a collective shelter. Some people erected the tent, which is not up to standard.
- Main intervention Types: Camp maintenance and expansion (direct implementation). Rehabilitation of collective shelters and common areas. Repair of damaged housing units. Partner, DI, and cash. Retrofitting of structurally damaged buildings to enhance safety. Provision of material packages for minor repairs. Installation of solar streetlights for community safety.
- To enhance assessment capacity in Syria, a consultancy has been hired to form multidisciplinary teams. This improves partner capabilities and ensures readiness for scaling up with future funding.
- The target for the Syria operation is to achieve 6000 houses.

Government engagement and coordination

- Coordination: Joint planning with line ministries (MoLAE, Ministry of Public Works and Housing) through field-level MFTs and the national Shelter Sector. Close coordination with Early Recovery and Livelihood units helps link housing repair and infrastructure projects to broader recovery goals.
- Policies and Challenges: Government engagement enables project approvals, technical supervision, and quality assurance, yet some bottlenecks remain in

obtaining permits, harmonizing standards, and ensuring data sharing. Continued dialogue is needed to streamline procedures and enhance.

Q&A

- Key Partners: UNHCR leads, coordinating with nearly the entire shelter sector in Syria with the support of different organizations and local partners.
- Targeting Approach: Primarily area-based, with flexibility for individual cases outside target zones.

Lebanon Operations

Key insights

- Total displaced Syrians: ~1.12 million (a decrease from 1.5 million, including 120,000 new arrivals). And the figure is expected to decrease further in 2026.
- All interventions target the total caseload; a separate annex addresses cash restrictions for new arrivals living in substandard collective shelters in North Lebanon and North Bekaa.
- The 2025 budget totals $33 million, serving all population groups with a significant allocation to the Lebanese host community. The increase from $24 million is driven by the heightened needs of IDPs and returnees affected by recent hostilities.
- prioritizing weatherproofing, shelter kits, and collective shelter repairs—continuing into 2026.
- Site Clearance: 70,000 individuals have left informal settlements, leaving hazardous sites. A guidance note for safe dismantling is being finalized with WASH and Social Stability sectors, pending government approval and site prioritization.

Q&A

- Challenges: Severe funding gap ($33M/$106M), inadequate shelters for Syrian refugees/PRL, costly repairs in collective settlements, and external pressure on site clearance.
- Partners (will be provided): 35 implementing partners, including ACF, Caritas, IOM, NRC, and local organizations. ACF, Caritas, Intersos, IOM, Local organizations, NRC, ECPM, PUME, SCI, RMS……

Jordan Operations

Profile of refugees in Jordan

- An initial 600,000 refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan before December 2024. Consisting of 90% are Syrian, 10% are non-Syrian, 81% in communities (especially in Amman, Mafraq, and Irbid governorates), 19% in camps. 47% are children. 5% are elderly persons 60+. 23%+ have specific needs, including serious medical conditions, being single parents, etc.
- Zaatari Camp: Established in July 2012 as an emergency response, hosting ~60,000 refugees in a 5.4 km² area divided into 12 districts. Azraq Camp: Opened in April 2014 as a planned camp, hosting ~40,000 refugees in a 14.7 km² area organized into 4 operational villages.
- Return numbers fluctuate but have been declining in the recent 6 months. Currently, 2590 refugees have returned to Syria from 19th to 25th of October.

- Cash for voluntary return. 70 JOD per family member who decides to return to Syria. The project targets 10,000 refugees living in the Zaatari and Azraq camps. Around 1643 individuals have benefited from the cash for returns (until 23 October 2025).
- 40% of refugees show significant climate vulnerability. Refugees in camps show higher exposure to climate hazards than refugees in the host communities (Zaatari is higher than Azraq). Refugees in the host communities face risks stemming from water stagnation, waste management, flood-prone premises, and heatwaves.

Shelter operation in Jordan

- The shelter strategy: in urban setting: upgrading sub-standard housing. Increasing affordable rental housing. Providing conditional cash assistance. Weather-proofing shelters. Raising awareness. And in camps: upgrading sub-standard shelters and provision of new shelters and shelter support in Zaatari and Azraq Syrian Refugee camps.
- Funding (3RP-2025): $14.77m received, leaving a $24.8m gap.
- Shelter partners: Habitat for Humanity, Islamic Relief, Caritas, IOCC, NRC, Medair, UN-Habitat, Green Building Council, JHCO: Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization, Helping Hands for Relief and Development, Qatar Charity, and UNHCR.

Partners updates

UNHCR

- UNHCR, following Ministry of Interior approval, will pilot a program allowing refugees in Zaatari and Azraq camps to sell their caravans to approved private companies. This aims to establish a regulated, price-categorized market, eliminating black markets and monopolies.

Habit for Humanity

- Two main projects. One is near completion with under 50% targets pending next-quarter implementation. The other is in East Amman which addresses chronic flooding via a new drainage system, now installed across 13 locations, this helps in mitigating shelter risks and benefiting over 50,000 vulnerable residents, including Syrian refugees.

NRC

- Shifting focus to flexible rental support in different governorates across the kingdom over housing rehabilitation, prioritizing protection cases. Direct cash assistance will often go to tenants, not landlords. Market analysis is ongoing—rents values are decreasing in the northern governorates but remaining stable in Amman. Rehabilitation will be limited to critical needs, allowing potential expansion beyond the initial 100-household target.

IOCC

- IOCC shifts some of the focus from Azraq camp particularly in new shelter construction to host communities (Amman, Ribet, Karak). Activities include: Flood rehabilitation & accessibility upgrades. Vocational training and ~$2,800 grants for 40 women to start businesses. Increased cash assistance with open referrals.
- Azraq Camp self- Repair Program: IOCC is now conducting a market assessment to better understand the market gaps and needs. IOCC plans to provide cash up to 50

JDS/shelter (85% initial, 15% post-repair) for vulnerable families to conduct their own minor shelter repairs.

- Vocational Program: IOCC will provide shelter-related training to vulnerable women in electrical, plumbing, and welding skills with toolkits, addressing the skilled labor shortage.

JoSH updates

- Presentations Shared: UN Women presented a gender analysis jointly by the Intersector Gender Advisory Team (ISCAT). ILO provided an update on a tripartite meeting held in Syria with strong Jordanian representation.
- 3RP process: A planning workshop for the 2026 3RP was held in September, co-led by UNDP and UNHCR. A reminder was given about country input expectations for the global humanitarian overview.
- Jordan-Specific Funding & Prioritization: Jordan submitted a prioritized humanitarian input using a "lighter process," aligned with a recent 30% and 50% funding reduction scenario. This preliminary 30% prioritization will be discussed at the upcoming ISWG meeting for further refinement by sectors.
- Clarification was requested on whether the JRP will be updated this year or remain static, but no definitive answer was provided. The issue will be revisited later.

Next meeting November 26th at 1030 AM, at an outdoor venue which will be agreed upon and communicated closer to the date.

End