



## Shelter Working Group Meeting Syrian Refugee Response in Jordan

Meeting Location	UNHCR Small Conference Room	Meeting Date	29 May 2014
Chair Person	Werner Schellenberg	Meeting Time	14:00-15:30
Minutes Prepared by	Matthew Richard		
Purpose of Meeting	Shelter WG meeting		
Next Meeting	Thursday 19 June 2014, UNHCR Khaldi office (every 3 weeks)		

### 1.) Summary of action points

Item	Action point	Focal Point / Organization
1.)	UNHCR to follow-up and report back to the Shelter WG after the next Cash WG meeting and the Cash-for-rent taskforce meeting.	Ru'a Al-Abweh (UNHCR)
2.)	A taskforce to develop guidance on ITS will be established with UNHCR, ACTED, Medair, and PU-AMI. ACTED to follow-up with REACH regarding presentation of ITS assessment findings.	Ru'a Al-Abweh (UNHCR), William Mc Cready (ACTED), Zaid Awamrh (PU-AMI), Naomi Downs (Medair)
3.)	The Shelter strategy review taskforce will seek advice from agencies involved in Zaatari and Azraq camps to finalise sections of the Shelter strategy.	Ru'a Al-Abweh and Werner Schellenberg (UNHCR)
4.)	Shelter cross-sector priorities' for the second half of the year to be sent to Alex Tyler (Inter-agency coordinator, UNHCR).	Ru'a Al-Abweh (UNHCR)
5.)	The Shelter sector survey will be re-opened and agencies encouraged to fill in the questionnaire.	Matthew Richard (UNHCR)
6.)	Matthew (UNHCR) to contact agencies to clarify reporting on Activity Info.	Matthew Richard (UNHCR)

### 2.) Attendees of the meeting

Name	Organisation	Contact details
Adrian Schofield	UNOPS	<a href="mailto:adrians@unops.org">adrians@unops.org</a>
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## 3.) Minutes

Item	Discussion
<b>JHAS presentation, Basic Shelter Upgrades and WASH Assistance (Nawar Hariri)</b>	<p>JHAS presented their interventions in the host communities focusing on the upgrading of housing units and distribution of hygiene kits, mainly in the North of Jordan. Presentation available on the Shelter WG dropbox:  <a href="https://www.dropbox.com/s/0r3lphcmegdq190/JHAS%20ShelterWG%20presentation.pdf">https://www.dropbox.com/s/0r3lphcmegdq190/JHAS%20ShelterWG%20presentation.pdf</a></p> <p>JHAS has a hotline number for refugees to call to give feedback which is very popular. JHAS has a budget of 400 JD per housing unit which is low in comparison to other agencies who are spending much more per housing unit. This budget limits the type of work that can be achieved especially regarding costly mechanical works. JHAS has a series of referrals in place to deal with housing units that require a higher investment. JHAS signs a written agreement with the landlord to guarantee a certain rental period following upgrade of the housing unit which typically lasts between 3-6 months based on the level of investment. This agreement has been developed in consultation with a lawyer and is legally binding although this is difficult to enforce. There are currently no legal services or advice provided by JHAS but they hope to include it after July when the project ends.</p>
<b>Cash-for-rent taskforce update</b>	<p><b>Update from last meeting on Monday 26:</b> The meeting allowed agencies involved in this intervention to present their work. Taskforce members recommended keeping the intervention under the Shelter sector.</p> <p>There is a debate on if this intervention should fall under Cash sector or Shelter sector, and if cash assistance should be conditional or unconditional. Current thinking within UNHCR promotes the provision of more unconditional cash support rather than conditional support. There is clear evidence on the highest HH expenditure for refugees: 1) food, 2) rent, and 3) utility costs. UNHCR is the largest provider of unconditional cash support but this only covers 1/5 of the need.</p> <p>What strategy should we follow in the context of the Shelter strategy?</p> <p><b>JHAS:</b> experience shows refugees can often prefer conditional cash support, particularly women, as was the case in Lebanon.</p> <p><b>PU-AMI:</b> concerns that conditional cash assistance inflates the rental market and discussed in depth at the cash-for-rent taskforce meeting.</p> <p><b>Medair:</b> interventions should be linked to rent negotiations and agreements and agencies should carefully assess the housing market, especially where prices are inflated e.g. in Mafraq. Agencies should tie-in these elements instead of feeding into the larger housing crisis.</p> <p>UNHCR to follow-up and report back to the Shelter WG after the next Cash WG meeting which will focus on this intervention.</p>
<b>Report on ERF review</b>	<p>The Shelter WG ERF committee has met to review applications for the OCHA EFR fund. OCHA has asked sectors to vet applications before submission. The Shelter WG ERF committee received 4-5 applications and submitted comments on the proposals to OCHA today. Agencies who submitted ERF proposals should expect to hear back from OCHA within 1-2 weeks. There are 3 main issues that require follow-up:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Gender:</b> There is a gender scoring marker (0, 1, 2a, &amp; 2b) to assess the gender considerations of proposals. If proposals do not get a '2', they will not be considered by OCHA. Well-written submissions were not taken into consideration due to this issue. Agencies advised to reflect on needs assessments and highlight gender where possible. Also consult the IASC gender marker tip sheet for Shelter, available <a href="#">here</a>. The Shelter WG needs a second gender focal point. William Mc Cready (ACTED) volunteered and this was endorsed by the Shelter WG.</li> <li><b>2. MOPIC guidelines:</b> guidelines by MoPIC state that a certain percentage of vulnerable Jordanians should receive assistance. It is unclear if there is consensus in the Shelter WG if this applies to ERF proposals. We need clear guidance on this.</li> <li><b>3. Informal Tented Settlements (ITS):</b> Need to consider activities focusing on ITS. This is a</li> </ol>



	<p>sensitive issue with Government of Jordan who do not want ITS. Shelter WG needs guidance on this. Do we intervene in areas against Government policy? Discussion on if the Shelter WG should raise this issue again with UNHCR and with support from Shelter WG actors. REACH have on-going assessments of ITS in Jordan, with findings to be published soon. It might be possible for REACH to present findings at the Shelter WG meeting. William (ACTED) to follow-up.</p>
<b>Shelter strategy review</b>	<p>The Shelter strategy for Jordan is currently under review by a designated taskforce. There are two pending issues before the review can be endorsed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1) ITS:</b> As discussed earlier the issues with ITS need to be clarified. Suggested to establish a taskforce to develop guidance on this issue. Agencies volunteered to be part of this taskforce (ACTED, Medair, and PU-AMI), and will meet soon. PU-AMI has an ITS assessment from Balqa and Amman and will share soon.</li> <li><b>2) Camps:</b> The Shelter strategy review taskforce will seek advice from agencies involved in camps to finalise these sections. This will be supported by the Zaatari and Azraq camps coordination mechanisms. There is now a consensus that Zaatari is no longer an emergency/ transit area but a population center that requires a long-term planning strategy. Required to increase space and shelter and upgrade shelter facilities. We can no longer limit to SPHERE standards as these guidelines are no longer appropriate in Mafrq.</li> </ol>
<b>RRP6 review priorities</b>	<p>Sectors have been asked to identify some 'Cross-Sector Priorities' for the second half of the year. This is a chance to highlight an area/ output that is particularly important, and, for instance is under-funded. These will be reviewed by the ISWG. The main priorities discussed are as followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Shelter-Protection</b> Informing refugees and landlords of their legal rights through pamphlets, workshops, and other means. Physical protection (which includes child protection and preventing SGBV) through secure, adequate shelter with locks, ventilation, windows, lighting, sealed rooms, and so on.</li> <li><b>2. Shelter-Cash</b> Coordinate with Cash sector better distinguish between unconditional and conditional cash, develop guidelines, and allocate agency proposals and interventions under the appropriate sector.</li> <li><b>3. Shelter-WASH</b> Strengthen the referral system for housing upgrading and coordinate assessments and/or exchange assessment results. Shelter sector to cover minor WASH related issues on a household level.</li> </ol> <p>There are issues surrounding Shelter and livelihoods such as income support for refugees through upgrading works, housekeeping, distribution and installation of home adaption kits. Issues of Syrians working in the public workforce were discussed along with work contracts under Jordanian law. However it was decided that this issue was sensitive and not a priority for the Shelter WG to address within the next 6 months.</p> <p>Shelter and education issues were also discussed for agencies working in schools highlighting that the WASH WG have developed a joint sub-working group for WASH and Education.</p>
<b>Shelter survey</b>	<p>Results from the sector survey for Shelter have been published. Only 5 respondents to the survey which is too low to make an accurate review of WG performance. We have requested to open the survey again (within the next few weeks) and all agencies are strongly encouraged to complete the questionnaire. Matthew to follow-up.</p>



<b>RRP6 April Dashboard</b>	Matthew (UNHCR) presented the RRP6 April dashboard. Discussed the process of developing the dashboard and informed WG that agencies will be approached within the next few weeks to clarify reporting entries into Activity Info. There is evidence of duplication and anomalies on the database.
<b>WASH-shelter update (Matthew Richard)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May the Zaatari water network designs were presented to the WASH sector. During the 4 hour meeting, 3 design options were discussed. 1) Communal service, 2) communal extension service, and 3) household connections. Based on lessons learnt it was agreed that household connections would be the most suitable approach based on the condition that the amount of water supplied to the camp remains the same (35 liters/person/day). However the household option requires large amount of funding. Regarding the wastewater network, a consultant has been selected by UNHCR. The design is expected to be finalised by July/August.</li> <li>A contingency planning sub-working group has been established to best plan for projected scenarios of a large refugee influx into Azraq camp.</li> <li>The WASH and Education sectors will establish a joint sub-working group in order to identify areas of mutual collaboration, notably activities involving WASH in schools.</li> </ul>
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IOCC update: In Zaatari camp the IOCC have started a project with JHAS to dispense anti-headlice kits to Syrian school children. Project targets 10,000 school children.</li> <li>A reminder that the Activity Info reporting deadline for May is the 9<sup>th</sup> of June</li> <li>The next Shelter WG meeting will be on 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2014.</li> </ul>