



Shelter Working Group Meeting Syrian Refugee Response in Jordan

Meeting Location	UNHCR Small Conference Room	Meeting Date	18 September 2014
Chair Person	Mohamed Abdel-Al	Meeting Time	14:00-15:30
Minutes Prepared by	Matthew Richard		
Purpose of Meeting	Shelter WG meeting		
Next Meeting	Scheduled every 3 weeks at UNHCR Khalda office		

For Shelter related documents and information please visit the Shelter WG page at UNHCR data portal:
http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=10

1.) Summary of action points

Item	Action point	Focal Point / Organization
1.)	UNHCR to circulate a matrix for the Shelter WG work plan for all agencies to complete and send back to Ru'a. Agencies planning to provide winterisation assistance should ensure this information is included.	Ru'a Al-Abweh and Matthew Richard (UNHCR)
2.)	REACH to share assessment thematic report and community profiles for circulation to the Shelter WG.	Erin Bishop (REACH)
3.)	Presentation of the gender marker for the next Shelter WG meeting.	Saname Oftadeh (LWF) and Matthew Richard (UNHCR)

2.) Attendees of the meeting

Name	Organisation	Contact details
Beliza Espinoza	CARITAS	beliza.espinoza@caritas.de
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3.) Minutes

Item	Discussion
New Head of Technical Unit and Shelter WG Chair	Mohamed Abdel-Al is welcomed to the Shelter WG as the new Sector Chair and Senior Settlement and Shelter Officer. He has replaced Werner Schellenberg who ended his mission in Jordan in June 2014.
Endorsement of Jordan Shelter Strategy	The revised Shelter Strategy for Jordan has been endorsed by the Shelter Working Group. This revision was conducted by a taskforce composed of Shelter partners of the Shelter WG. There was a brief discussion on the terms household and housing unit which previously caused confusion among WG members. The strategy is available on the Shelter WG page of the UNHCR data portal.
Endorsement of Cash-for-rent guidelines	The Cash-for-rent guidelines have been endorsed by the Shelter Working Group. The guidelines were developed by a taskforce of Shelter partners of the Shelter WG. They are available on the Shelter WG page of the UNHCR data portal.
3RP plans	<p>The 3RP is envisioned as a broad regional partnership strategy, a planning process and a platform for policy, advocacy and strategy formulation as well as a fundraising and monitoring tool. The 3RP will address refugee protection and humanitarian needs and strengthen the resilience of communities and governments to mitigate the impact of the Syrian crisis in the region. The 3RP aims at supporting the preparation of national plans as well as addressing the needs of their implementation.</p> <p>The plan will have two inter-connected components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refugee protection and humanitarian assistance: This will address protection and assistance needs of refugees living in camps, settlements and local communities across all sectors; and strengthen community-based protection through identifying and responding to immediate support of communal services in impacted communities. 2. Resilience-based development component: This will address the resilience needs of impacted and vulnerable communities in all sectors; build the capacities of national and sub-national service delivery systems; strengthen the ability of governments to respond to the crisis; and provide the strategic, technical, and policy support to advance national responses. <p>For Settlement and Shelter, UNHABITAT will lead the resilience component, and UNHCR will lead the refugee and humanitarian component.</p> <p>The 3RP will cover 2015 and 2016. Both refugee and resilience components will contain detailed planning at the objective/output level with indicators. The 3RP will cover 2 years and the JRP 1 year.</p> <p>Deadlines: the 3RP Needs Assessment deadline for all sectors is 22 September and the 3RP validation workshop will be held on 28 September. The final chapters will be published in mid-December. The 3RP includes leading roles for Government line ministries which may present challenges and opportunities. This is being developed alongside the Jordan Response Plan (JRP). Both processes are still under development and more clarity will emerge in the coming weeks.</p> <p>A request for updated population figures at the governorate/ municipality level in Jordan. Advised to refer to the Jordan situation map developed by UNHCR IM: http://data.unhcr.org/jordan/situation-map/</p>



<p>Winterisation plans</p>	<p>There are concerns that Shelter is not adequately considered in the 2014/15 winterisation plan developed by the Cash and NFI working groups. There is no specific shelter or sealing-off package mentioned in the plan, only the distribution of heaters, blankets and mattresses. It is however noted that agencies are welcome to distribute SoK as part of winterisation assistance.</p> <p>Who is planning winterisation assistance for 2014/15?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LWF are planning to distribute NFI, Cash, and shelter winterisation assistance for 300 housing units. • Medair are planning to distribute 500 SoK. • PU-AMI are planning to distribute 970 SoK in Amman, Jerash, Zarqa and Balqa, however funding has not been secured. <p>The winterisation outline is available on the NFI WG portal page for your reference.</p>
<p>Shelter WG work plan</p>	<p>The Shelter WG needs a work plan for the remainder of the year. Mohamed requested that agencies complete a matrix to include all remaining Shelter activities for 2014, to aid development of the work plan. This matrix template will be circulated after the meeting. Planned winterisation activities should be included. The matrix should be returned to Ru'a.</p>
<p>REACH presentation on access to housing and tensions in the communities hosting Syrian refugees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The assessment was supported by the British Embassy in Amman. • Data collection took place between December 2013 and March 2014 across the six northern Jordanian governorates of Ajloun, Balqa, Irbid, Jarash, Al Mafraq and Zarqa. • Exploring refugee-host community relations, specifically factors influencing tension and destabilization relating to Education, Employment, Health, Shelter and WASH. • Housing was the most commonly cited sector linked to community tensions by respondents, with a total of 81%. • The thematic assessment report focuses on perceptions of access to housing, and tensions in accessing housing. • Mixed-methods approach using focus group discussions (FGDs) and individual questionnaires using Open Data Kit (ODK) uploaded onto smart phones. <p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings indicate that a lack of adequate housing and high rental costs represented the two most discernible reasons for housing-related tension perceived by both Jordanian and Syrian respondents. • According to anecdotal evidence some Jordanians and Syrians face near insurmountable obstacles in securing housing that is both adequate and affordable. Challenging circumstances have reportedly led many to resort to a range of negative coping strategies, which many entail harmful effects. • FGD findings suggest that access to housing not only represents a basic need but also a social issue, which may have a direct influence on social norms by impeding the ability of young people to marry, and encouraging more communal living. • While some Jordanians have profited from charging Syrian refugees lucrative rents, others are purportedly being replaced by Syrians in the rental market leading to a decline in social cohesion between the two groups. <p>The presentation is available on the Shelter WG portal page of the UNHCR data portal. REACH will share the assessment thematic report and community profiles for circulation to the Shelter WG.</p> <p>Questions raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Are there any links between housing stocks in certain areas, and the perceptions of Jordanians towards Syrians? This was not collected but would be a good follow-up. 2) Any indication on how families cope with insufficient housing? This was not specifically asked but came up during FGDs. A range of positive (moving in with



	<p>extended family) and negative coping mechanisms (moving into unfinished buildings and taking out loans) were highlighted.</p> <p>3) Are there any recommendations from the assessment? No. REACH is an information management and assessment partner for humanitarian agencies. It is for these agencies to take the appropriate actions following this assessment.</p>
AOB	<p>Agencies involved in Shelter upgrading and rehabilitation: Mercy Corps, Medair and PU-AMI. Mercy Corps and Medair use local contractors for the works in consultation with the landlords. PU-AMI gives Syrian tenants the opportunity to conduct work themselves which is monitored by a foreman who initiates phases of cash assistance for the works.</p> <p>The Shelter WG has two new gender focal points; Saname Oftadeh (LWF) and Matthew Richard (UNHCR). They attended the 'Gender in Humanitarian Action Training' on 25-27 August 2014 organised by Merrin Waterhouse the Gen-Cap Advisor for the IATF and HTC. They plan to give a presentation on the gender marker at the next Shelter WG meeting.</p>