

Thursday, 8 October 2015, 10:00 a.m.
Irbid Operational Coordination Meeting
UNHCR FO-Irbid, co-chaired by NRC

In attendance:

ACCTS, ACF, Handicap International, ICMC, Intersos, IRD, Medair, MSF, NRC, Save Syria, SCI, SCJ, TdH, Tearfund, UNHCR, WFP

1. Welcome / Introductions / Description of Programs (in Small Groups)
2. Food Update (WFP)
3. Urban Verification / Document Return (UNHCR)
4. Livelihoods / Incentive-Based Work Brainstorming (Small Group Discussions)
5. PSEA Update
6. Winterization Task Force Update
7. AOB (= Cooperation for Trainings, Awareness-Raising / Leaflet Distribution)

1. Welcome / Introductions / Description of Programs (in Small Groups)

Introduction of UNHCR Operations Coordinator for Jordan and Southern Syria

2. Food Update (WFP)

Assistance at current levels is now guaranteed through January, not just November (10 JD / month for the extremely vulnerable living in urban areas). Full coverage continues for camps.

In September, 229,000 'vulnerable' (as opposed to 'extremely vulnerable') POCs' food vouchers were cut

Pending donations, WFP will try to increase value of 10 JD urban voucher and also to reinclude the 'vulnerable' who were cut in September.

3. Urban Verification / Document Return (UNHCR)

The document return for urban Syrians led by the government with UNHCR support started in late August at some police departments across the country and is expected to continue. As of 05 October, 688 individuals received their documents back at Irbid and Irbid West PDs; 77 individuals at Ramtha PD; 70 individuals at Jerash PD. The number of Syrians approaching UNHCR to request for document return has also increased, presumably because they have actually seen others receiving their documents back and the deadline previously announced by the government is 30 October (although it is likely to be extended). As for MoI Service Card issuance, a total of 206,856 Syrians (191,949 of whom are persons of concern to UNHCR) have been issued with the new cards as of 04 October. No breakdown by governorate is available yet.

4. Livelihoods / Incentive-Based Work Brainstorming (Small Group Discussions)

[Discussion of migration to 3rd countries and smuggling routes ... International community is sending more funding now to Jordan in recognition of the need to stabilize the population before they risk their lives going elsewhere

[Work/Education Schemes might be one way to do this]

Brainstorming for activities to be part of incentive-based work schemes or limited work permit schemes, to be discussed with government officials before any implementation

General principles discussed: Effects on local community should be considered, including price inflation for rent; Effect of discontinuation or dependence should be considered; Effects on conditional cash programs should be considered; Need for proper programming infrastructure and staff to monitor programs; Income-generating activities could be considered; Home-based initiatives could be a good starting point as they don't require work permits currently; however, food projects must comply with many regulations; restaurants might be seen additionally as representing a threat to local JO businesses; Men's home-based activities include pottery, tailoring, mechanics, electronics, as well as professions like medicine and dentistry; Bazaars are seen as a socially accepted place to sell crafts; Recycling and waste management projects are a possibility but would need to be handled sensitively as it could be seen as degrading work; Refugees could be given work permits to compete with other migrant workers rather than local Jordanians;

5. PSEA Update

Partners who are interested in participating in the consultations on community-based complaint mechanisms (CBCM) with the Community Support Committees in Irbid, Jerash and Ajoun are invited to the preparatory meeting scheduled to take place on Monday 12 October at UNHCR FO Irbid.

6. Winterization Task Force Update (UNHCR)

Update on interventions and packages

Partner organizations who have not signed a donor agreement with UNHCR will be expected to in order to fully comply with standards in agreements which they will sign on Winterization.

We are currently in the process of mapping which Winterization funds partners and UNHCR have appealed for, what funding is still being applied for, funds awaiting confirmation and what funding is confirmed – for which target beneficiary population, expected number of individuals to be assisted, what winterization assistance and which areas will be assisted vs % of priority beneficiaries by governorate as informed by the VAF.

A consolidated Winterization document package will be available on the information portal within a number of weeks outlining required standardization of packages, and supporting documentation on operational planning.

Finalisation of Prioritization Guide

Attached and endorsed by Winterization taskforce

UNOCHA call for proposals for Winterization

Details sent previously

Call opened: 06/10/2015

Call closes: 12/10/2015

Ceiling \$400,000 USD

Urban Syrian, Jordanian (if INGOs have the 30% cap) and non-Syrian refugees

Contact is Amani Salah salah1@un.org

Harsh Weather Contingency Taskforce

Led by Intersos as existing consortium already in place with 4 partners across country, first meeting to be held to begin planning 11/10/2015. Contact cribb@unhcr.org for details.

Jordanian Beneficiary Winterization Taskforce

Key INGOs to meet 12/10/2015 to discuss and plan communication strategy with MOSD, previous years have been problematic to obtain lists of vulnerable Jordanians – Top down approach to be taken with conversations beginning in Amman and outwardly to Governorate and Directorate levels as needed.

Timeline and calendar of activities

Submission of data by partners due 7th of Oct to cribb@unhcr.org to establish Operational planning

External deadline of 8th for call for proposals

11th meeting Harsh Weather Contingency Planning

12th Jordanian Beneficiaries: meeting to discuss how to approach MOSD regarding lists of vulnerable Jordanians, Amman, Governorate and Directorate approach, top-down

12th Partner deadline on submission to call for proposals

15th meeting Winterization TF

18th October One or two sessions as needed on the Winterization Module and feedback from partner organisations – ensure partners – General Training and Rollout – Diego and Wadih availability and Module user guide.

29th October Sunday Winterization TF

7. Discussion of Coordination Meeting Format

General feedback: Small groups worked this time as they facilitated more substantive conversations and allowed people to get to know other organizations better; however, maybe it shouldn't be done every time; Tables should be rotated to ensure that people get to know others from many different organizations; Perhaps tables can be grouped according to sector interest; Brainstorming will continue re: topics of such discussions in meetings;

8. AOB = Cooperation for Trainings, Awareness-Raising / Leaflet Distribution

ICMC would like to train its staff more, if any organizations are offering trainings please contact Hisham (ababneh@icmc.net).

Appeal from NRC and ICMC for organizations to bring their awareness flyers and leaflets to the Coordination meeting for distribution among organizations to place in their centers or further disseminate through outreach teams.

[Minutes prepared by Katherine Dunn]