

JORDAN INTER-SECTOR WORKING GROUP UPDATE

August 2015



This update is a coordination tool to improve communication between sectors and up to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF). It focuses on processes, rather than achievements. The latter are covered through separate monthly sector dashboards, available through the inter-agency portal and at <http://data.unhcr.org/jordan/sectors/>

I. General / Inter-Sector Update



Jordan Response Plan (JRP) and Refugee and Resilience Response Plan (3RP):

The Jordan Response Plan 2016-2018 process proceeded from the Assessment to the Planning phase. Government-led task forces met to agree on objectives and outputs, consolidated into 'project sheets'. The project sheets and budgets were further elaborated at a workshop from 24th to 26th August 2015. The plan is being reviewed by the Government, and will be presented at a Validation workshop in early October.

In support of the JRP, an inter-agency appeal will also be launched later in October for the refugee pillar under the 3RP. Aligned to the JRP, UN and NGOs will estimate resource requirements and areas of intervention, to be published before the end of 2015. A regional 3RP workshop took place from 29th August to 1st September, with the aim to share experiences and establish common approaches within the region.

Urban Verification:

The Government-led urban verification continues to register Syrians, issuing new ID cards. Since the process started in the first quarter of 2015, 183,520 Syrians have been registered by the Ministry of Interior¹. Of these, 12,680 (6%) were not previously registered with UNHCR. On 25th August, the process of returning Syrian documents as part of the Urban Verification began. By 1st September, 658 documents had been returned to 426 individuals. This brings the total of documents returned to refugees in camps and urban areas since the start of the process in February 2014 to 98,931 documents (belonging to 67,922 individuals).

CARE Report 'Five years in to Exile':

The recently released report examined the challenges faced by Syrian refugees outside camps in Jordan and how they and their host communities are coping. Key findings included that the ability to pay rent remains refugee families' main concern (79% of respondents). Average income from work has increased in 2015 by 25 JD to 210 JD per month. Still, families still face a monthly income-expenditure gap of 56 JOD on average. Financial constraints were noted as the main barrier to accessing health services.

Introduction to Gender Equality in Humanitarian Trainings:

Building understanding of gender equality and its importance to humanitarian programming to the field staff, the Senior GenCap Advisor conducted two-hour sessions on gender (gender vs. sex; gender roles; gender and culture; gender equality and equity), four in Zaatari camp and two in Mafraq. A total of 118 staff members (44 female and 74 male) from 11 organizations (3 UN agencies and 8 NGOs) attended these sessions. One session was conducted in Azraq. A total of 24 staff members (13 female and 11 male) from 8 organizations (2 UN agencies and 6 NGOs) attended this session.

¹ Based on figure reported by 6th September 2015

II. Sector information

BASIC NEEDS

Cash Distributions: USD \$37,226,951 has been distributed to Syrian refugees since the start of the year. August distributions amounted to USD \$4,587,172 as reported by five partners.

UNICEF Post distribution monitoring (PDM): UNICEF's unconditional cash programme began in February 2015 with the aim to assist children of the most vulnerable Syrian refugee families living in the host communities in Jordan. Under this programme, a monthly cash transfer equal to 20 JD per child per month is transferred to eligible families, thereby aiming to provide the means to meet the children's basic needs and prevent vulnerable families from resorting to negative coping strategies. Post distribution monitoring has concluded with the expected launch of the findings to occur within early September.

Zaatari Camp:

Cash for Work (CfW) Programme: The official launch of the Cash for Work (CfW) program within Zaatari Camp took place on 1st August 2015, with Cash for Work guidelines unanimously adopted by participating partners. CfW focal points for each agency are being identified and dissemination of the Cash for Work guidelines to beneficiaries is ongoing through the utilization of Protection, WASH, A&D Task Force, Health, SGBV/CP, Youth Task Force and Community Mobilization mechanisms.

Post Distribution Monitoring Assessment: A post-distribution monitoring assessment was conducted by Reach, UNHCR and NRC encompassing 6 days of data collection throughout Zaatari. NRC provided lists of recipients of baby diapers and gas vouchers, 200 of which were randomly selected for interview. UNHCR provided demographic information on 400 cases with 385 cases willing to be interviewed, gender ratio was 48% male and 52% female identifying that bread and bread vouchers were the highest received goods within the camp. Comprehensive results shall be shared once validation process complete.

Azraq Camp:

E-Voucher Project: An E-voucher project began in Azraq on the 10th August targeting single female headed households, or single parent households. Eligible individuals received a one off payment of 24.66 JD per household, distributed via e-card to targeted beneficiaries. Beneficiaries were able to purchase specific NFIs and hygiene kits at the Supermarket within the camp and financial assistance was only able to be used until the end of August.

NFI Distribution: Summer clothes distribution took place late August courtesy of donations from the Bahraini Red Crescent. Distribution will take place over a 2 week period with each day dedicated to one family size. Every individual received 2 items (one top and one bottom). Jerry can distribution occurred on the last week of August and distribution of sanitary napkins shall take place in the first week of September.

Enhancing local economy: UNHCR have sent a SMS to inform beneficiaries about the opening of the selection process for future businesses in the market area. A form is ready to be filled in by the interested refugees at CARE community centers in Azraq Camp. It is estimated that 50 shops in village 3 and 50 in village 6 will be established.



EDUCATION

INEE Minimum Standards Training: From 25th to 26th August, the Education sector conducted a training workshop on Jordan's minimum standards for Education in Emergency (EiE) contextualized from the global Interagency Network for Education in Emergency, preparedness, response and recovery. This training brought together 75 sector members from national, international and UN agencies to discuss key action in camp and other urban areas in both English and Arabic.

The Jordan Minimum Standards for education in emergencies are now available on the UN web portal on addition to INEE website:

Arabic: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=9209>

English: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=9210>

ActivityInfo Training: The ESWG conducted a capacity building training for sector members on ActivityInfo monthly reporting. The training was attended by 31 participants from 17 agencies.



FOOD SECURITY

WFP assistance in the community for refugees: WFP had the lowest level of assistance in August: JOD 10 for the extremely vulnerable and JOD 5 for the vulnerable. In September, WFP will continue assistance at JOD 10 for the extremely vulnerable. Food assistance in the camps remains unchanged.

In August, IOM provided NFI voucher assistance to 574 single-parent headed families in Azraq camp via ONECARD, WFP's prepaid card platform. Each family received JOD 24, uploaded to a different "wallet" on the card, which could be redeemed throughout the month in the supermarket in Azraq camp. Mercy Corps, UNRWA and NRC have also expressed interest in using the card for similar assistance projects.

JHCO supported distributions: JHCO has supervised the distribution of food parcels by several organizations. These include ACCTS providing parcels with a value of 34.5 JDs to 300 Syrian Families in Irbid, and 250 Syrian families and 120 Vulnerable Jordanians, in Irbid and Huson. During the same period, the Taiwan Tzu Chi Charity Foundation and Qatar Charitable Society distributed 1500 Kilos of Rice + 150 Cartons of Canned Meat (24 cans per carton), in Halabt, Zarqa to 150 Vulnerable Jordanians; and 500 kilos of rice, to 50 Vulnerable Jordanians.



HEALTH

Iraqi Refugee Access to Health: The Ministry of Health (MoH) has withdrawn subsidised access for Iraqi refugees at the Primary Health Care level. Iraqis are now charged the foreigners' rate at all levels of care. UNHCR will discuss the implications with partners and donors.

Health Access and Utilisation survey: reflecting changes since the withdrawal of free services for Syrians from public health services, main findings include:

- 58.3% of adults with chronic conditions were not able to access medicine or other health services as needed (which is a marked increase cf. 23.7% in 2014); the main reasons for lack of access was not being able to afford user fees.
- Access to childhood vaccination was very good with an increase from 55% to 76% of children under five having an immunization card (cf 2014)
- Deliveries in government facilities reduced from 66% in 2014 to 44% in 2015

- Expenditure on health had increased with the average cost of care paid by the refugee in the first facility, 46 USD in 2015 compared to 32 USD in 2014.

The policy change from free to subsidised care was associated with a reported decrease in access to curative and preventative health care. Main barrier to seeking care when needed was inability to pay; high use of private facilities may indicate a misperception of the cost of accessing Ministry of Health services. Financially vulnerable families may be electing to forgo health care services deemed less necessary or urgent in the short term.

Hepatitis A outbreak: An outbreak was reported in Azraq camp, although this is now slowing. 135 cases have been reported since the outbreak started in late July; 96% are under aged 18 years. Most cases have resolved without any serious sequelae. UNHCR is working with Ministry of Health, SRAD, UNICEF and other partners to manage the outbreak. Control measures have focussed on strengthening hygiene measures

Reproductive Health

RH Working Group meet on 20th August 2015. The working group will now focus more on improving quality of RH services, as well as on sexual and reproductive health among young people in light of the increase in early marriage for girls less than 18 years. The working group is planning to finalize with MoH assessment of 18 PHC centers. During the meeting, the handout on interventions to improve maternal, neonatal and child health services (adapted to the Jordan context) based on Integrated of Management of Pregnancy and Childbirth guideline was shared.

Nutrition

Save the Children Jordan celebrated the world breastfeeding week in coordination with UNICEF and Ministry of Health. Save the Children is working with partners on a local paste designed for severely malnourished children. This is in response to the current stock gap of Plumpy Nut (which will last for one to two weeks). For moderate acutely malnourished cases Save the Children will provide date biscuits (not therapeutic).

Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS)

Presentation and discussion on gender and mental health and a short briefing on application of the gender marker for upcoming fundraising issues was delivered by the gender focal point and the Senior Gender Advisor



PROTECTION

World Youth Day: On 12th August, World Youth Day was celebrated by agencies in Zaatari, King Abdullah Park (KAP), and Cyber City (CC) camps. IMC and Handicap International conducted awareness sessions related to persons with disabilities reaching over 30 volunteers. Around 250 youth and adolescents participated in talent contests, musical performances, and plays at adolescent friendly spaces to foster self-confidence. Mercy Corps also organized a "Social Responsibility Walk" where 25 youth and 20 volunteers walked through the camp collecting garbage to use for recycling activities. Save the Children International celebrated the day by organizing a football match between 30 youth from KAP and Cyber City.

Child Protection

Alternative care arrangements: The Ministry of Social Development (MOSD) and the Child Protection sub-working group continue to formalize the alternative care arrangements of separated Syrian children through Jordanian courts. Shariaa judges are increasingly cooperative in the formalization process, resulting in the process being accelerated and streamlined to the benefit of the children. Partners continue to alleviate the concerns of foster families who are hesitant to approach the courts through awareness raising and the provision of information. One case in particular involved a child in need of an urgent surgery. The consent of the father is usually required in Jordan for operations, so the hospital postponed the child's treatment because the responsible family in Jordan did not have proof of legal custody. The care arrangement was

prioritized by the courts and formalized quickly in order to ensure that the child received the lifesaving surgery needed.

Psychosocial support for children: The child protection and education sectors continue to work to ensure that each of its Makani Centers provide children with the best possible psychosocial support (PSS) services. In the month of August, 52 social workers, animators and volunteers from Zarqa and Karak-based NGOs participated in 5-day PSS/child protection in emergencies workshops. In addition to training participants on the nature of profound stress in children, the workshops also covered child protection minimum standards in emergencies. Trainings in informal education and life skills have also been facilitated with some 35 staff from 11 Makani Centers to ensure that the requisite capacity exists to provide children with all three Makani components – psychosocial support, life skills, and informal education.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence

On 11th August, the Senior Gender Focal Point and the SGBV focal point for Engaging Men and Boys lead a meeting on Engaging Men and Boys to Prevent Gender-based Violence. The Senior Gender Advisor delivered an overview of the current state of the art on Engaging men and boys to prevent violence including an analysis of the factors that cause men and boys to perpetrate violence against women. Xx organizations were present and an initial mapping of activities being conducted to engage with men and boys was conducted. A follow –on meeting will be held in the next few months.

For Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS), see under Health above.



SHELTER

Urban shelter projects: With the freeze on approval of urban projects now lifted, some organizations are implementing urban shelter projects. During August, JHAS conducted assessments of 102 shelters in Amman, Irbid and Zarqa. ICMC have now being approved for new shelter program starting 1st September targeting new 500 families with 4 months of rent. 152 families in Irbid, Mafrag and Aljoun have received two full month rental payments.

Zaatari camp update:

- Under restructuring of the camp, shelter upgrades and assistance continued in August. 1,390 households were assessed, identifying 185 households in need. 93 households were assisted during this period, or 823 beneficiaries.
- In view of improvements to the road network, 178 shelters were relocated.
- Rolling out of the address system, 745 HHs received addresses. When completed, this system will enhance communication with the refugees and facilitated of delivery services.

Azraq camp update:

- The Quick Fix Team has repaired 349 shelters in village 3 and 6.
- A Home gardening project has been started and it is targeting big scale of the refugees in both two villages 3&6 by assisting &providing seeds and seedlings' to the refugees in a step to bring life to the camp and for the next generations



WASH

Country-wide: Throughout August, the provision of essential WASH services continued to approximately 103,115 people, including 56,924 children, in Zaatari, Azraq, King Abdullah Park and Cyber City camps.

Urban response: Three Jetting trucks have been delivered to WAJ to enhance the efficiency of the wastewater services and system. These trucks will remove blockages in the piped system and reduce the chances of overflowing sewerage and the associated critical environmental health issues.

Since January, five (out of seven) sanitation projects have been completed, benefitting 259,066 Syrians and Jordanians as a result of more efficient network systems. Since January, the rehabilitation works have been completed in four water infrastructure projects, benefitting approximately 589,250 Syrians and Jordanians through improved access to piped systems.

Zaatari camp update:

- Technical problems were encountered in BH2 and the borehole was taken out of operation for over 3 weeks. The borehole was back in operation by late August and operating at higher than its previous capacity. Similar works are underway in BH1
- Mobilisation on key WASH message continued with the seasonal focus on food safety, mass handwashing, water conservation and Hepatitis A, in addition to the ongoing communication relating to the progress and impact of the water and wastewater networks.
- Water network: Construction of six of the eight tanks has been completed with construction of the remaining two, as well as the three pumping stations, underway.
- Wastewater network: Site-specific surveys by the partners are underway and the contract for the fabrication, transportation and installation of septic tanks has been awarded

Azraq camp update:

The construction of the Azraq Wastewater Treatment Plant has been completed and commissioning is underway. The construction of the Azraq borehole and filling station has been completed and was inaugurated by HE the Secretary General of Water Authority of Jordan, Tawfik Habashneh and HE Alice G. Wells, the Ambassador of the United States of America

III. Contact

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Jordan Refugee Response portal page at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107>;

ISWG page http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=60