

JORDAN REFUGEE RESPONSE Inter-Sector Working Group

Meeting Minutes & Action Points
8th April 2015 • UNHCR Office, Amman



Agenda

Inter-Sector Linkages: Health (40 Minutes)

Review of Action Points

Border Situation

Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) Baseline Report

Monitoring / Activities tracking: Achievements vs Targets

ERF Update (OCHA)

One Minute Updates:

Action Points from previous meeting:

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	Progress
Sector work plans to be completed.	ISWG members	Partial
Compiling those work plans into the macro-level document.	Inter-Sector Coordinator/s	Partial
Remaining sectors to identify and invite government counterparts.	Food Security, Protection, Basic Needs	Pending FS
MEB Task Force: Feedback to and from sector members and nomination of members.	ISWG members	Completed
IYCF: meeting with each sector	Associate Coordination Officers	Completed
Contingency Planning update: send an email with bullet point and follow up	Inter-sector Coordinator	Ongoing

1. Inter-Sector Linkages: Health.

In line with recommendations from the ISWG retreat, a sector presentation will feature at the beginning of each ISWG meeting; followed by short group work to discuss potential linkages with other sectors. The presenting sector is responsible for keeping track of potential linkages and using them to kick-start bilateral discussions.

The Health Sector – including the Nutrition, Reproductive Health and MHPSS sub-working groups - made the third presentation.

The Main Public Health Concerns for Refugees in 2015:

- Syrian refugees no longer have free access to health services at MoH facilities – considerable hardship for many especially vulnerable refugees
- Significant burden on a well-developed but overstretched national health system
- Secondary and tertiary care need a continued high level of funding to ensure access to essential care such as deliveries, caesarean sections, war-related injuries, and cardiac abnormalities.
- Mental health and psychosocial problems remain a significant issue; clinical management of mental disorders by non-specialized health professionals needs expanding.
- Concerning levels of anaemia in children under five, and women and girls of reproductive age
- Proportion of deliveries in girls under the age of 18 increasing (9.8 percent in first half of 2014 compared with 5 per cent in 2013)
- Eight per cent of Syrian refugees in Jordan have sustained significant injuries (90% conflict-related); significant gaps in acute care, convalescent care, home nursing, functional and community-based rehabilitation.
- Coverage of Syrian community involvement in promotion of health services is insufficient (Amman 1 CHV per 3600 refugees (Target - >1 per 1000)
- Resurgence of communicable diseases previously controlled in Jordan, such as measles and the threat of polio.
- Improve comprehensive health care through integrated community interventions including rehabilitation services for Syrian women, girls, boys and men and Jordanian populations in high impact areas in 2015 (US\$7,530,283)
- Contribute to strengthening national health systems to increase adaptive capacity to current and future stresses by the end of 2015 (US\$124,297,600 **under Resilience**)

Summary of Group Discussions: Potential Linkages with Health

Shelter and WASH Group

- Collaboration on the topic of Hygiene promotion, including health sector providing data to WASH sector on areas of high risk or incidence of hygiene related illness. Shelter and WASH normally work on the side of prevention while Health works on the care side.
- Rodent control is another suggested area of collaboration. Currently under solid waste management, or camp management, depending on local agreements between agencies.

Food Security and Basic Needs Group

- Collaboration on the issue of malnutrition and the minimum expenditure basket. It would be helpful if there was feedback on the changes to food assistance. Case management of malnutrition should be done in collaboration with the Health Sector, using the referral mechanism. In malnutrition cases, the refugees with specific health issues should be prioritized for food assistance.
- It would also be useful to research into the impact hygiene kits are having on the health of refugees in the camps.

Protection and Education Group

- Linkages were made between refugee health care and protection concerns. Need to focus on the ability of refugees to access health care services and the provision of information regarding this assistance. This can be linked to the provision of cash assistance.
- It was decided that the education of people with disabilities should be an area for collaboration between Health and Education. Efforts need to be made to integrate people with disabilities into education. Cases which require an interview with UNICEF need to be reported. There needs to be more information sharing and awareness on the services available for the disabled. There needs to be better data management on people with disabilities so that the data can be used more effectively for programming. There needs to be better access to disability aids, specifically access for certain groups of people e.g. SGBV survivors. There continues to be advocacy for the waiving of medical certificate requirements.

Overall main areas for collaboration to look into:

1. Access to education for children with disabilities.
2. Better information dissemination, using workers in a more effective way to make procedures more efficient. All Sectors have less resources so we all need to use the existing community and network more effectively to disseminate information better.
3. Costs and advocacy.

2. Review of Action Points from previous meeting. (March 2015)

- a. Sector work plans to be completed. By: 18/03/2015. All ISWG members need to do this, they are still waiting for some sectors to complete these plans.
- b. Compiling those work plans into macro-level document.

Alex Tyler explained the Excel spreadsheet for the Master ISWG Plan: all the data is now compiled in one spreadsheet. He explains the purpose of this spreadsheet is to find common themes and linkages between sectors. Themes include Assessment, Advocacy, Gender, Training. 'Referrals' may be added as a new common theme. The completed spreadsheet will be sent around to everyone next week.

Members were asked how they would like the data to be developed: how resource mobilization can be coordinated would be useful. It was pointed out that the ISWG can assist with all topics listed under the 'Advocacy' common theme. It is important that this data unifies the different sectors because it important that common messages, understood and agreed upon by all, are sent out to the heads of agencies.

Action Point: Sectors put the theme 'Advocacy' as an item for the agenda at their next Sector meeting, and draft Common Messages. Some sectors have already done this. When Sectors have completed these discussions they should send the results to Alex Tyler, before next ISWG in early May.

- c. Remaining sectors to identify and invite government counterparts. By: next meeting

Basic Needs has now done this. Protection have orally invited their government counterparts. CP and GBV counterparts have already attended. Food Security will follow-up.

3. Border Situation.

Emergency Assistance to the refugees at the border (at the Berm) while pending entry. A brief overview of the situation was given by Protection and Health:

There was a spike in the number of refugees arriving at the Jordan-Syria border from 12th-19th March with approximately 100-300 arriving each day. From 20th March the number of arrivals started to decrease to roughly 45 per day. Now there are around 20-25 individuals arriving each day. Yesterday a joint mission UNHCR and UNICEF looked jointly at the health issues this accumulation is causing. According to information that UNHCR received directly the border guards yesterday, there are currently 1800 refugees at the Rukban crossing, 760 refugees at the Hadalat crossing and 53 refugees at the collection center. The assembly points were empty yesterday. Situation in the Berm is quite dire. There are makeshift shelters in Rukban and Hadalat, for which ICRC is providing two tanks of 10,000L filtered and chlorinated water on a daily basis. Some in-kind assistance is being provided by various agencies:

A list of assistance provided by ICRC, IOM, UNHCR, WFP, and UNICEF was shared.

It appears that the increase in admissions in mid March resulted in an increase in arrivals. The border then became more tightly managed as a result which is now causing this accumulation of refugees at the border. There are now many advocacy initiatives, while a difficult balance is being sought between the humanitarian imperative to assist, while not endorsing that refugees are being denied the right to seek asylum.

Re: Health concerns - it is important to identify those who are medically vulnerable and allow them access to territory. For example, there were four pregnant women in No Man's Land who were still not admitted. One of the women went into labor and the new born baby then died. There has also been an increase in the number of war wounded coming from the Eastern border however we are unsure if this will continue. It is agreed that donors will be approached for support in the application for referrals, currently the government is bearing this cost. The issue of hygiene in the Bern is discussed: there are no latrines and so there is open defecation.

4. Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) Baseline Report

The VAF Baseline Report is a technical review report based on the VAF Baseline Data survey. It uses the sector models that all sectors have worked on. Sector chairs now need to do reviews: each sector needs to do a data quality check, do the results seem accurate when compared to other assessments that your sector has done? If not, there may be a problem with the data collection. For example, it was found that there was low-level reporting in the initial VAF data collection process. They need to look at the questions being asked of the sectors when creating the indicators, and question whether this provides representative information.

The report is trying to be pushed through in a tidy manner for the 15th April deadline. Once the sections have been examined again by all the sectors, the report will be finalized and re-released. This report can then be used to do a comparison between the VAF data and the Baseline Survey.

The plan for the next few months is as follows: the model will be adjusted, validation visits will be made, a VAF brochure will be created, the Excel dashboard will be encoded into RAIS and the technical

documentation will be uploaded to the RAIS module. It is hoped that this will all be rolled out in early May. After this, there will continue to be an on-going validation process.

Action Point: The Sector chairs need to look at their sector and its findings and perform a data check. Kate Washington will want to sit with all sectors, get their feedback and find out what sort of report they want in the future. Please contact Kate Washington with any feedback or questions at washingk@unhcr.org

Please Note: the data from the VAF report is not yet representative due to errors in data collection so it is not permissible for sector chairs to share the data with sector members. However, if we take a quick look at the data: in the Welfare Sector 79% of the population are below the poverty line which is an increase from the Home Visits Report which suggest the situation is getting worse.

5. ERF Update (OCHA)

Since the beginning of this year, Jordan has its own emergency response fund. Previously there was one fund overseeing 4 countries. There are currently attempts to mobilize more funding and some has already come in from donors. The current funds stand at \$3million. The fund was started at the end of December/beginning of January and a call for proposals was made in response to the Winterization program. No projects have yet been funded since receiving these proposals. NGOs can ask for a reserve allocation of funding for any project at any time. There is now a call for proposals with a more strategic response. The sectoral priorities need to be reviewed and decided jointly by the review board and sector boards. .

ERF/OCHA are requesting information from the ISWG/sector leads on funding gaps. Should they open the call for proposals to call sectors or prioritize certain sectors? Or should there be a different focus, such as geographical or thematic?

Action Point: The sector chairs to revert through the ISWG, to OCHA. The bulk of the response will go to the host communities but some will go to projects in the camps as well. The deadline for the response is 23rd April and the call for proposals will be launched in the last week of April.

Technical point: the General Management System has just been started and all applications have to be online now. All NGOs are invited to come to the OCHA office for an explanation of how to use the system. Global ERF guidelines which narrate how funding is used in all countries will be shared with Alex Tyler. The work flow, including all roles, responsibilities and timelines, will also be shared.

Any project that is presented to the review board has to have received clearance from the sector. They are unable to approve any project that is not endorsed by the sector. Therefore, it is necessary that the sectors have a small committee of experts that can review projects.

OCHA assured sector chairs that they will be using the 3RP in the strategy priorities rather than the 2014 RRP. They are aware of this update. OCHA will use whatever priorities the sectors are using.

Protection asks that the gender marker be applied as a requirement as they believe it is currently not stated clearly enough. OCHA confirmed.

Once the review board reports back with the overall strategy, then work can begin on the sector strategies.

6. Monitoring / Activities tracking: Achievements vs Targets

The refugee response now has country-wide dashboards. Data collected for March in ActivityInfo will be available online by end of next week, along with the highlights.

Dashboard currently only deals with what has been done and not whether the targets have been achieved. To solve this, Kaleem ur Rehman will also send a monthly progress v.s. target spreadsheet next week. In some areas the target figures go quite high so it may be necessary to rationalize them. It is aimed that these spreadsheets will be uploaded as a static image onto the dashboard.

Action Point: Sector chairs need to consider reviewing targets and doing a sense check on whether the caps we have put in are appropriate.

7. One Minute Updates:

a. JRP Approvals Process

JRP have announced that there will no longer be a mid-year review process. A new three-year plan has been announced by the government and will begin in September. The refugee coordination needs to clarify their relationship with this plan.

A large scale vulnerability assessment is also in the making which involves the Jordanian ministries and is led by MOPiC. The assessment will examine how Syrian refugees have impacted the delivery of services: there is a particular focus on infrastructure. Refugees feature purely as a metric in this assessment.

It has been confirmed several times that there are two different streams: the refugee side is distinct from the resilience side in terms of approval process. The refugee side does not require explicit endorsements from the ministry but consultations are encouraged and preferred.

The length of the approval process for proposals is still an issue. It is too soon to tell whether the proposals that NGOs submit are being approved quickly or not as there does not seem to be any change yet.

A new communication two days ago from Zaatari Camp: staff permits are only being renewed if they can produce evidence of MOPiC approval. This is an issue as staff have to renew these permits if they want to keep entering the camps.

b. MEB (Medium Expenditure Basket)

The taskforce is progressing at a rapid pace. Work on the baseline is ongoing and will be finalized this week. After that sectors will be examined. The sector level review has already been done. The review will be tabled in the next few weeks. The project is on track, operational and moving at a determined pace. Six weeks have been set aside for its completion in early May.

c. Coordination Trainings (May)

The three day training with accommodation has been secured. It will take place around 25th-27th May but an email from the Inter-Sector Coordination will be sent shortly to confirm this. Sector coordinators and camp coordinators will be invited. Those who did not attend last year will be prioritized, particular as there has been a large overturn in staff. However it is still possible for those who have already attended to come again.

d. Contingency Planning

There are 4 area locations (Border, Raba, ITS, Camp). This needs to be consolidated next week and sent to sectors for review. Deadlines will need to be changed as they currently all fall at the same time.

New Action Points:

ACTION	RESPONSIBLE	Progress
Sectors should discuss 'Advocacy' common theme at next Sector meeting and draft Common Messages. Results of discussions should be sent to Alex Tyler before next ISWG meeting in early May.	Sector Chairs	Partial
Sector chairs should look at VAF findings and perform a data check for their sector.	Sector Chairs	Pending
Remaining sectors to identify and invite government counterparts.	Food Security	Pending FS
The sector chairs to revert through the ISWG, to OCHA to provide their urgent sector priorities (one or two priorities) in order to include it in the call for proposal. Calls for proposals will be launched in the last week of April.	Sector Chairs	Deadline is 23 rd April
Sector chairs need to review their targets and do a sense check on the caps inserted by the Coordination unit are reasonable.	Sector Chairs	Pending

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