

Livelihood Working Group
Amman, Jordan
03.11.2016

Meeting Location	EMOPS Room UNHCR Khalda	Meeting Date	3.11.2016
Facilitator	Laura Buffoni (Coordinator) Bryn Boyce (co-chair)	Meeting Time	9:00– 11:00
Minutes Prepared by	Leah Beaulac UNHCR		

Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Updates on JRP/3RP Inter-Agency Appeal (Inter Agency Unit) 2) Update on Work permits: figures and sectors of employment (MoL/ILO) 3) Work and leave permits for camp-based refugees (UNHCR) 4) Follow up on the EU agreement Rules of Origin (EU) 5) Brief on CFSM exercise (REACH/WFP) 6) Presentation on “Improving Rural Livelihoods and the Environment through Integral Utilization of Organic Solid Waste for the Production of Renewable Energy and Compost in Mafraq Governorate of Jordan” by FAO 7) AOB 	
<p>Updates on JRP/3RP Inter-Agency Appeal</p> <p>According to the calendar for JRP/3RP and the Inter-Agency Appeal process (already explained in the previous meeting of 13 October), the 20 Project Summary Sheets have been reviewed by line ministries and MoPIC.</p> <p>After the ActivityInfo Database training sessions were conducted in mid-October, partners started to enter their planned projects for the Inter-Agency Appeal which will have to be in line with the JRP logical framework and the JRP budgets.</p> <p>As of 2 November, a total of 24 partners (including UN agencies and NGOs) have entered the data. Sector Coordinators will contact partners to discuss how to reduce or reallocate their budgeted appeals.</p>	<p>ACTION POINTS</p>
<p>Update on Work permits: figures and sectors of employment (MoL/ILO)</p> <p>On 31 October 2016, Jordan has: 275,833 legally registered foreign workers, the majority (56% per cent) of them Egyptians, 35% from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and India, 31,864 (11%) are Syrians comparing to 2% before London conference Feb 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Within the Syrian workers, only 474 (1%) of Syrian women were documented as working. <p>Distribution of workers per sector:</p>	<p>- Access the MoL/ILO presentation here</p>

<p>About 10,000 Syrians are in the agriculture sector, resulting in this sector having the largest amount of Syrian workers. Second is manufacturing, followed by whole sale, retail, trade, and sale services.</p> <p>Distribution of Syrians with work permits by governorate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amman (>8,000), Irbid (>8,000), Zarqa (<8,000) and Mafraq (2,000) have the largest population of Syrian workers. <p>Ministry of Labour is actively seeking ways to increase number of Syrians with working permits. Their goal is to reach 50,000 work permits by the end of 2016.</p> <p>There has been an extension of the grace period for Syrian's to acquire work permits until the end of 2016 (there were previously two other extensions as the original deadline was July)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On the 22nd of September, 2016, the exemption on the medical certificate for Syrians holding MOI card was confirmed 	<p>- There was a call for a review of all the sectors, the quotas, UNHCR can inquire about making that discussion easier for the next meeting. If the group feels it is useful they will organize a presentation of quotas broken down by sector</p>
<p>Work and leave permits for camp-based refugees (UNHCR)</p> <p>A letter sent by Ministry of Interior to Ministry of Labor requested the latter to work on mechanisms to allow refugees to leave camps if they have a work permit;</p> <p>The work permit will replace the temporary leave permit, which now needs to be renewed frequently, affecting refugees' presence at work. To get a leave permit in Zataari can take up to 3 days. ,</p> <p>The leave/work permit will only apply to the holder, not the whole family.</p> <p>Increasing refugee access to leave/work permits will help regularize many currently working without permits. Around 3000 Zaatari refugees are said to be working in farms around the camp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A meeting of UNHCR, SARD, MoL and ILO on 10.03 will discuss the mechanism to be put in place for this increased mobility to happen effectively. 	<p>- It was stated that not all companies and refugees know that there has been additional extensions (until the end of 2016) of the deadline for refugees to obtain a work permit free of charge. The public information printed by UNHCR to be circulated asap.</p>
<p>Follow up on the EU agreement Rules of Origin (EU)</p> <p>Quick update four months after the agreement was signed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not many actors of the private sector are familiar with the EU of rules of origin agreement with Jordan ○ Jordanian companies will have to fulfil certain criteria to be able to export to EU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The garment sector using Chinese inputs had to include at least 70% of added value to products for them to be considered a Jordanian product that can be exported. With the new EU agreement, only 30% of the added value will have to be created in Jordan. This will make it easier for Jordan to export; other sectors will have different requirements. ▪ The rules of origin will be applied to exports of Jordanian origin that are manufactured in 18 designated development zones and industrial estates in Jordan including 52 harmonised system non-agricultural chapters in 18 	<p>- The EU will present more information at the next meeting including a brief video will be catered to European business men and women to attract interest.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outside of these economic zones the agreement will not apply for the time being. Registering within these zones will grant companies access to this deal. ○ No less than 15 per cent of the manpower in any factory that will export to the EU within this agreement should be Syrians and this rate will be raised to 25 per cent in the third year of the agreement. ○ The benefit of this deal includes exporting to a large market ○ The agreement is quite complex. Access to information online in Arabic is not widely available. This is why four months after the agreement was signed, it has been difficult to have a success story. Only last week, a company was able to apply through this system. This company will be the first test run. - Progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ILO conducted an assessment on all 18 economic zones ○ Some companies face challenges with exports, some operate at 50% capacity. They are willing to look into more Syrian work force but there is currently no mechanism to match the skills of this labour source with available jobs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Special economic zones would need an agreement with the MoL for greater flexibility on quotas as certain sectors/companies will not be able to fulfil the workforce requirements. - There is also a sheer lack of knowledge on how the EU/Jordan exporting system should work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Many Jordanian companies are familiar with exporting to the Gulf, Iraq, Syria, a different system than exporting to the EU. ○ The EU will organize sessions in Brussels and Jordan to share information on EU exports and increase the appetite for this trade agreement. - Progress on monitoring of labour standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Better Work Jordan monitors labour standards in the garment industries that export to the US. The EU is planning on expanding this work to other sectors under the rules of origin agreement. The project is being developed. 	<p>- If any organization has information on how to match the Syrian work force with available labour the EU has requested that this information is kindly shared with them in order to assist this project.</p>
<p>Brief on CFSM exercise (REACH/WFP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presentation on the third annual edition of the WFP/REACH nationwide assessment of Syrian refugees' food security monitoring. In 2014 blanket distributions were in place, in 2015 assistance was reduced and in 2016 assistance was adjusted to make up for 2015 shortcomings in assistance. - The objectives of the report were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify current needs and characteristics of registered Syrian refugee households ○ Identify trends in needs and vulnerabilities by triangulating findings with CFSMEs 2014 and 2015 and VAF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Find link to presentation discussed at the Livelihoods meeting here - The full report, which is on all sectors, should be out in the next couple of weeks - Sector members requested that the information for this study be broken down in the different camps.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify the characteristics of refugee households vulnerable to food insecurity - 3,253 households were interviewed with 5,252 cases and 20,067 case members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Data was collected at the household, case, and case member levels allowing for a comparison of data and an understanding of intra-household and intra-case dynamics. Additionally, new livelihoods questions were added in the 2016 questionnaire based on “If you have worked/been employed in the last 30 days” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Which sector have you worked in? ▪ Where has most of this work been carried out? ▪ What was your income from this work in the last 30 days? - It was found that high levels of debt and low levels of savings persist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Households with members who have serious medical conditions have an average of JOD 779 in debt, compared with JOD 562 for households who do not. ○ It was found that working, in order to close the gap in assistance and need, remained a coping strategy for many of the refugees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Of the 19 to 60 year olds who worked in the 30 days prior to being interviewed, 83% were in temporary (irregular) work. ▪ Overall, 26% of households in host communities are sending household members to work in socially degrading, high-risk, exploitative or illegal work as a coping strategy. ▪ Additionally, it was found that access to work did not necessarily ensure increased food security. Households receiving higher levels of WFP food assistance are more likely to be food secure. ○ Currently the assistance in place includes 10JD per month/pp for vulnerable persons, 20JD per month/pp for very vulnerable persons and 20JD per month/pp + bread for persons residing within the camp. - Conclusions of the study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Despite improvements since 2015, food security remains below 2014 levels. ○ The vast majority of refugee households continue to resort to livelihood coping strategies in order to maintain food consumption levels. ○ Access to informal livelihood opportunities appears to have improved, although dependency on aid remains high. ○ Access to livelihoods and employment does not necessarily translate into improved food security outcomes. 	<p>- CFSM is working with VAF to compile a comparative analysis</p>
<p>Presentation on “Improving Rural Livelihoods and the Environment through Integral Utilization of Organic Solid Waste for the Production of Renewable Energy and Compost in Mafraq Governorate of Jordan” by FAO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 3 year - FAO project is funded by the European Union. - Consultations and registration process has been ongoing for the last 8 months. - The objective of the project is to improve livelihoods for residents within Zaatar by creating green-jobs in piloting utilization of organic waste and residues and waste water to generate bio-gas for electricity and compost. 	<p>- Find link to FAO’s complete presentation here</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This will involve the establishment of a Material Recovery facility and a composting research component with the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE) of the Ministry of Agriculture. When the project begins within Zaotari, FAO is hoping to generate jobs for 100 households, providing 70% of the jobs to host community residents and 30% to refugees (mainly unskilled jobs available) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o FAO is also looking to hire technicians from within the host community. - FAO is currently in talks with the Ministries in Jordan discussing licensing for their project through MoPIC and the process is at cabinet awaiting final decision. - The goal is to integrate this project with UNHCR and camp NGO practices to insure practicability and sustainability. - They have met with other organizations and will meet specific sector players at camp to insure that there will not be any overlapping of activities but value addition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The project is in the beginning stages, licensing, project details, and Ministry and on-ground coordination is still in need of additional work. o The scale of the project is a pilot which will allow for scaling up in the future. 	
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Next meeting date: 8th of December

Next Meeting Agenda:
- LWG feedback session

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