

ISWG Meeting Note

April 2022



Inter-Sector
Working Group
Jordan

Date / Time / Venue	Sunday, 3 April 2022, 13:30-15:00, MS-Teams
Attendees	Inter-Sector Coordinator [UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Unit, IACU], Shelter [UNHCR], WASH [UNICEF], Protection [UNHCR, JOHUD], Health [UNHCR], Food Security [WFP, TUA], Basic Needs [UNHCR], Education [UNICEF], Livelihoods [UNHCR], GBV [UNFPA], SRH [UNFPA], Area-Based Coordination: Za'atari Camp and Mafraq Urban [UNHCR] and Irbid Urban [UNHCR], Senior GenCap Advisor, UNHCR Deputy Representative, UNHCR Assistant Representative [Administration]

- The Inter-Agency Coordinator welcomed the new UNICEF Coordinator of the WASH Sector Jesus Trelles.
- The UNHCR Deputy Representative appreciated the efforts taken by the Sector Coordinators in collaboration with the Inter-Sector Coordinator to have elaborated the sector priorities and strategies within the framework of the national planning process, also informing the Humanitarian Partners Forum (HPF).
- The Inter-Agency Coordinator informed the participants that due to the occurring circumstances the scheduled JIF's update on the 'Walk the Talk: six years review of Jordan Compact Commitment' will be postponed to the next ISWG meeting.

Meeting Note and Action Points

1. UNHCR CBI Unit Three Years Strategic Direction

The Inter-Sector Coordinator introduced the UNHCR Coordinator of the Basic Needs Sector with the summary of the strategic direction of UNHCR in Jordan, particularly regarding the basic needs and the Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) in 2023-2025.

Importantly, the UNHCR MPCA programming is aligned with the Jordan NAF (National Aid Fund) and coordinated through RAIS to avoid duplications. It covers 33 thousand out-of-camp households (Syrians and non-Syrians) and 17 thousand households in camps. The post distribution analysis demonstrates that the out of camps beneficiaries spend the received assistance to pay rent, while the beneficiaries in camps mostly cover gaps for basic needs. Currently, the UNHCR and WFP are engaged in the exercise of profiling priorities of persons with specific needs engaging both Syrians and non-Syrians.

The 2023-2025 priorities are largely focusing on promotion of greater resilience, and among others include advancing the financial inclusions through mobile wallets; in collaboration with UNICEF and ILO fostering the economic resilience; rolling out new VAF welfare score for all populations; digitization in camps through mobile wallets.

The forward Basic Needs Strategies for 2023-2025 are aiming to further uphold linkages with livelihoods activities and access to finance and saving products, apply new targeting and exercise a small pilot with NAF.

The programmatic solutions have been advanced by the feasibility studies, such as connectivity for the in-camp and out-of-camp beneficiaries, the gender and disability factors, etc. In close collaboration with the colleagues, surveying of various users' experience is ongoing.

The Senior GenCap Advisor offered her support to look into the gender and disability aspects, which was welcomed by the Basic Needs Coordinator.

The Inter-Agency Coordinator offered the support in engaging the Basic Needs Sector with other ISWG Sectors.

2. Senior GenCap Advisor: Update on the Road Map Process

The Inter-Sector Coordinator noted that in 2013–2018 the operation had benefitted from several missions of the GenCap Advisor supporting gender mainstreaming and programming.

The Senior GenCap Advisor who is currently hosted by UNHCR appreciated updated the ISWG on the ongoing consultations with the stakeholders and studying architecture of the refugee response in Jordan which aim to inform the Inception Report. As of today, consultations with 29 key informants have been conducted, including INGOs, NGOs, JIF, GoJ and donors regarding the gender equality programming.

With reference to the outcomes of the ongoing interviews, a need in gender technical expertise to strengthen linkages between sectors has been identified.

Upon completion of the stakeholders' consultations, the inception report will be finalized within the week time and shared with the IASC (Inter-Agency standing Committee) GenCap Technical Reference Group for reviewing. The final report will be submitted to the ISWG for validation and endorsement, and then for the HPF's endorsement.

Subsequently, the task team will be created to develop a road map, aiming to ensure implementation of the accountability measures designed in accordance with the identified priorities.

The Senior GenCap Advisor encouraged the ISWG to reach her out for technical sector-specific advice / expertise aiming to enhance the gender equality work across sectors.

The Inter-Sector Coordinator appreciated support of Senior GenCap Advisor and extended her invitation to the forthcoming ISWG meetings and suggested to the Sector Coordinators for collaboration with the Senior GenCap Advisor.

3. Status of 2022 Planification

The Inter-Sector Coordinator referred to the ISWG's anticipation of MoPIC official communication regarding the process of JRP Planning in 2022. Remaining committed to engage in the regional 3RP planning (which is normally aligned with the JRP planning), the Sectors were advised to complete reviewing strategies based on the needs and the PSSs approved by the GoJ in 2021.

Meanwhile, aiming to respond to the agencies' individual requests to upload the new projects in JORISS, MoPIC started preparing the system for 2022, and thus the JRP process started without a separate notice and in an unusual format (i.e., the task forces are not established or have not met). The Sectors are recommended to continue and to complete review of the approved PSSs. Most of the Sectors are at the finalization stage. The Sector Focal Points at the UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Unit are well experienced and are well equipped to support Sectors through the process. As soon as the PSS data is validated for the year of 2022, the ActivityInfo Database will be developed to allow entry of the projects.

For the ongoing planning exercise, the Senior GenCap Advisor recommended to conduct gender analysis and to consider applying stronger gender lens to the JRP thus reinforcing the GoJ's accountability for gender equality programming. The Senior GenCap Advisor offered her support to conduct sector specific assessments within the framework of the sector work plans. The Inter-Sector Coordinator appreciated the offer, also advising partners to be mindful of the current process being largely a validation exercise which limits the flexibility to make significant changes.

4. Update on Key Evaluations: 3RP and Humanitarian-Development Collaboration

The Inter-Sector Coordinator updated the participants on an extension of the Longitudinal Evaluation of "UNHCR's Engagement in Humanitarian-Development Cooperation" with an additional fourth year in 2022. The "evaluation" initially covered a three-year period from 2018 to 2021 targeting four pilot countries, with Jordan among them.

The exercise has been based on a solid potential of Jordan operation; it generated qualitative analysis providing a remarkable opportunity to enhance engagement and collaboration of the humanitarian and development partners. As well, the participants were informed on the recent the Regional 3RP Evaluation made by TANGO. The exercise focused on the regional and the country context and prioritized strategic coordination, operational response, programming and innovation, advocacy policy and resources mobilization. The inception report is finalized, and the outcome recommendations will be shared with the ISWG members to support the Sectors’ planning and adapt strategies.

5. Update on the Brussels VI Conference

In May 2022, the European Union and the UN will co-chair the Brussels VI Conference on supporting the future of Syria and the Region. The preparations for the Conference are ongoing, multiple stakeholders are being implicated. Development of the UNHCR internal concept note is at the finalization stage.

The Conference will largely focus on the following subjects and topics: Space for CSOs, Food Insecurity (by ECHO and UNOCHA), Capacity Building, Youth, Syrian Voices (by UNHCR and UNDP).

As for the events, it is confirmed that the ‘Days of Dialogue’ will take place on 9 May through three virtual panel sessions with civil society, and the Ministerial event will be held in person on 10 May. Also, the side events will be arranged, and three of them related to 3RP will be organized by UNHCR in collaboration with the World Bank, UNDP, and the host governments.

In Jordan, the preparatory events have been taking place, including consultations with the civil society led by the EU, UNHCR and UNDP.

Further updates will be shared accordingly.

Action Points	Responsible	Timeframe
Complete validation of the approved 2021 PSSs for 2022	Sector Coordinators	ASAP
Share available gender analysis with the Senior GenCap Advisor	Sector Coordinators	ASAP
Share information on the ‘Longitudinal Evaluation of UNHCR’s Engagement in Humanitarian-Development Collaboration’	Inter-Sector Coordinator	On track
Share recommendations generated from the ‘Regional 3RP Evaluation’	Inter-Sector Coordinator	On track