

ISWG Meeting Note

May 2022



Inter-Sector
Working Group
Jordan

Date / Time / Venue	Sunday, 15 May 2022, 13:30-15:00, MS-Teams
Attendees	Inter-Sector Coordinator [UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Unit, IACU], WASH [UNICEF, ACF], Protection [UNHCR, JOHUD], Health [WHO], Food Security [WFP], Basic Needs [UNHCR], Education [UNICEF], Livelihoods [UNHCR], CP [UNICEF], GBV [UNHCR], Area-Based Coordination in Urban South [UNHCR], JIF Representative. Invitees: UNICEF Humanitarian Affairs Manager; IASC Senior GenCap Advisor [hosted by UNHCR] and UNHCR Transition Officer.

Meeting Note and Action Points

1. Introduction and Updates of the Inter-Sector Coordinator

- The Inter-Sector Coordinator and ISWG Chair welcomed a new UNHCR colleague dedicated to inclusion and development, who is exceptionally invited to the ISWG meeting (normally attended by the Sector Coordinators and JIF Representative).
- The Inter-Sector Coordinator thanked the Sector Coordinators for their inputs to the 'ISWG Refugee Response Coordination and Coronavirus Monthly Updates'. For April, inputs from few sectors are still missing, and the colleagues from those sectors are kindly requested to share their inputs as soon as possible.
- In comparison with the previous years, the 2022 JRP planning was rolled out differently as largely discussed with the ISWG. That has been the decision of the GoJ, and the Sectors have adapted successfully to the changed circumstances.
- The ActivityInfo (AI) Plan database for 2022 is ready. The Inter-Agency Coordination Unit [IACU] has been in contact with the organizations, delivering training sessions on AI and registering users (185 AI users have been registered so far). The organizations can now start entering their data in the Plan database, noting of 26 May deadline. The Sector Coordinators are encouraged to ensure the timely sectors' reporting aligned with Inter-Agency / Inter-Sector Coordination reporting calendar. The IACU is standing ready to guide and support if needed, including to conduct AI orientation sessions to the Sector Coordinators. The [link](#) to the recent training session was submitted in the chat.

2. Strategic Planning

The Inter-Sector Coordinator invited the participants to actively engage in the discussion on streamlining the existing programmes within the refugee sectors aiming to maintain standards in line with the recognized constrictions in humanitarian funding. The Inter-Sector Coordinator encouraged the Sector Coordinators to share their updates on the sectors' activities, developments, challenges, and strategic plans.

With reference to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, it was mentioned that allocation of resources and donors' interest to Jordan operation are expecting a tendency to decrease. The sectors are considering adapting strategically and tactically and to fulfil their responsibilities appropriately ensuring the needed standards.

It was mentioned that the JRP 2022 had been transferred from the JRP 2021, thus providing the Sectors opportunities to review their plans within the frameworks already approved by the GoJ in 2021. Meanwhile, the future planning for 2023 and further on would require Sectors to apply the long-term vision.

3. Sectors' Updates

The UNICEF Coordinator of the Child Protection [CP] Sub-Sector informed the ISWG that the CP meeting are being held in rotation in both languages (English and Arabic), motivating the GoJ's participation in the discussions. The Sub-Sector is currently engaged in the finalization of three documents: Pathway, Work Plan, and the Gaps' Analysis, which will be uploaded at the UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Operational Data Portal accordingly. As well, the CP Sub-Sector is preparing for a discussion how to address the challenges of funds' reduction.

To ensure good participation, the CP is intending to conduct meetings in the mixed face-to-face and virtual modalities. In May, the CP and the GBV Sub-Sectors are planning to hold a joint meeting thus enhancing the inter-sector linkages.

The UNICEF Coordinator of the WASH Sector mentioned that the Sector partners are moving to optimization of costs and significant transition of some activities, particularly reinforcing engagement of the national agencies in the implementation and increasing their ownership. Overall, the Sector is working to engage GoJ more and to include donors in the discussions vis-à-vis the transition strategy.

With reference to the outcomes of the Brussels VI Conference, the JIF Coordinator mentioned that there are envisaged potential shifts to funding development projects. In terms of funding, 2022 looks more stable than, for instance, 2019, while nature of funding has significantly shifted. Majority of the 60 INGOs working in Jordan are not intending to close operations within the coming two or three years, meanwhile most of them have developed the exit strategies for the coming five years aiming for inclusion, absorbing the GoJ's capacities and provision of technical support.

The WFP Coordinator of the Food Security Sector emphasised that the Sector has been facing serious funding challenges which impacts 465 thousand individuals who receive monthly cash assistance for food. In coordination with UNHCR, WFP is working to develop sustainable solutions for refugees, including creation of referral pathways between humanitarian assistance programmes and development programmes. Importantly, the Sector is working to develop long term transition strategies beyond 2023 assuming that the funding levels may decline.

The UNHCR member of the Livelihoods Sector echoed to what the previous participants said. The operation is passing through a transition period, and the momentum has to be taken to elaborate on the common advocacy for a smoother transition from humanitarian response to a more sustainable development response. Along with this, it was suggested to reinvigorate some coordination structures in the operation aiming to support more consistent alignment between humanitarian and development partners.

The Inter-Sector Coordinator informed the ISWG that UNHCR and UNDP started exploring innovative ways of strengthening collaboration, concerning the two pillars [REF] and [RES] in relation to both JRP and 3RP; the humanitarian and the development agendas and formulating the coordination approach which would assume the refugee and the resilience pillars of the response and materialize in a new coordination approach.

The UNICEF Coordinator of the WASH Sector suggested that noticing interactions between donors and facing funds' reduction, all sectors should engage in a coordinated discussion on a transition strategy.

The JIF Coordinator mentioned that no intention is so far demonstrated by the GoJ to review the existing coordination architecture. Meanwhile, there are donors' attempts to renew the development platform and make it more outcome oriented. In this context, it would be useful for the sectors to convene a focused dialogue with the donors and the GoJ.

The UNHCR Coordinator of the Basic Needs Sector briefed the ISWG on the upcoming meeting of the Winterization Taskforce where the BN Sector is invited to participate. The partners are anticipating receiving additional resources

to address the needs of the vulnerable households. Further in July, the partners will carry out a market assessment, decide on the criteria and the assistance packages for the winter support.

The UNHCR Coordinator of the Protection Sector updated the ISWG on the recent meetings of the Protection and GBV working groups, which hosted very useful and informative presentations from the partners. Meanwhile, the PSEA meeting is going to happen soon.

The Inter-Sector Coordinator conveyed appreciation to the ISWG members for their significant contribution to the important discussions and wrapped that the JRP and 3RP are remaining the core inter-sector platforms of refugee response, to which the organizations are committed.

4. Update of the Senior GenCap Advisor

The Inter-Sector Coordinator appreciated support of the ISWG members who had participated in the interviews conducted by the Senior GenCap Advisor within her mission in Jordan.

The Senior GenCap Advisor also thanked the ISWG members for their support as key informants and presented the main findings that have fed the draft 'Inception Report'. The 'Inception Report' will be used as a base for the operation to apply gender equality in programming in emergency roadmap.

The presentation focused on the achievements, resources, gaps and challenges across all sectors, coordination entities and other stakeholders in several areas i.e., Leadership, Coordination, Programming, Localization and Accountability. The findings will be translated into the next steps of the road map in the refugee response with clear indication of activities, leading agents, timelines, and desired results. The finalised 'Inception Report' will be submitted to the ISWG for endorsement.

The Senior GenCap Advisor recommended to create a task team aiming to support the sectors' plans and coordinate implementation of recommendations of the 'Inception Report' across the refugee response. With full participation of the relevant stakeholders and with support of the GenCap, the recommendations are feasible to be implemented within two years.

The Gender Focal Point from the IACU appreciated the information provided by the Senior GenCap Advisor and noted that it can be used by the sectors for better planning. There were questions raised and a discussion convened regarding methodology of the GenCap's study and examples of actual tools, capacities and work done applying gender in the operation.

The Inter-Sector Coordinator will share the 'Inception Report' with the ISWG members for their familiarization and further endorsement.

5. AOB

- The Inter-Sector Coordinator suggested to maintain the on-line format of the ISWG meetings for a couple of months.
- The Inter-Sector Coordinator informed that she had been reassigned to another operation, and she will be leaving Jordan soon. Her replacement will be introduced to the ISWG as soon as assigned.

Action Points	Responsible	Timeframe
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Submit inputs to April 'ISWG Refugee Response Coordination and Coronavirus Monthly Updates'.	Sector Coordinators	ASAP
Share outcomes of the Brussels VI Conference with ISWG.	Inter-Sector Coordinator	after the ISWG meeting
Send guidance / instructions on reporting to Sector Coordinators.	Inter-Sector Coordinator	ASAP
Conduct orientation sessions on ActivityInfo to the interested Sector Coordinators.	IACU	ASAP
Dedicate agenda item of the June ISWG meeting to Brussels VI Conference.	Inter-Sector Coordinator	5 June
Share the findings of the 'Inception Report' of the Senior GenCap Advisor.	Inter-Sector Coordinator	Once finalized and validated for circulation