

Shelter Working Group

January 25, 2023

Attendees: UNHCR, IOCC, Islamic Relief, UN-HABITAT, Habitat for Humanity, Caritas, PRM, and NRC

Welcome & Introduction of Samira + ISWG Updates

- **Introductions & Partner Updates**

- Islamic Relief (IR) reported that the organization is working on a multi-sectoral project with health, education, protection, livelihoods, infrastructure, and seasonal activities. Targeting includes 4,000 orphans. IR is also implementing shelter rehabilitation work for 40 households, as well as supporting solar heating systems for 500 households in Jerash and Irbid – primarily targeting Palestinian refugees. In Mafraq, IR is rehabilitating seven public schools along with five play areas. Through this activity, IR is also distributing school bags. Additionally, IR is rehabilitating 30 shelters. Additionally, IR is providing cash-for-rent (CFR) assistance to 100 households for 10 months, unconditional cash assistance for 650 households, and COVID-19 cash assistance to 1,400 households in northern and central Jordan. Also, IR's winterization project is targeting more than 2,800 households. Projects include soft components, such as awareness raising, empowerment, and education.
- **UN-HABITAT** reported that the agency is working at the policy level with the Ministry of Local Administration. They are working in two neighborhoods (each) of Amman and Irbid focused on mainstreaming migration in focused neighborhood planning. In Mafraq, they are working on a project focused on climate change and water. Additionally, they are working on an urban gardening project focused on enhancing social cohesion and livelihoods in East Amman (Quesmeh area).
- **Habitat for Humanity (HfH)** reported new funding for projects in 2023 in Jordan focused on additional communal projects and reaching orphans and other vulnerable groups. HfH is working on the rehabilitation of four Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) centers, two schools, and two Ministry of Health (MoH) medical centers. Additionally, HfH is rehabilitating 80 households in Amman (Marka), along with two community-based organizations (CBOs), one school, and one medical center. HfH also reported on their green homes project. They have completed 14 homes and are seeing savings in electricity bills of approximately 15% and water of approximately 5%. However, more time is needed to assess the impact of utilities. In 2023, HfH plans for three more green homes – one in the Jordan Valley, one in Salt, and one in Azraq.
- Following up on the National Housing Forum hosted by HfH in late 2022, HfH is hosting the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee meeting on February 2. All Working Group members are invited to attend. Through the committee, organizations will discuss shelter issues and talk through solutions for Jordan.
- **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)** reported a cost extension to its CFR assistance project, targeting an additional 30 households in Amman in early 2023. IOCC is actively coordinating with several Shelter WG members on referrals for those most in need of assistance. IOCC's project includes targeting of non-Syrian refugees. IOCC raised this point to WG members and encouraged others to implement CFR activities to include refugees of other nationalities.
- **Caritas** reported reaching 400 households with CFR assistance in 2022. Caritas focused on those with a legal eviction notice within the previous three months. Caritas explained its updated modality of providing ATM cards to beneficiaries rather than paying landlords directly. In its post-distribution monitoring (PDM), Caritas found that 86% of beneficiaries

covered rent with the assistance provided. The remainder of the funding was spent on utilities, education fees, healthcare costs, etc. In 2023, Caritas is starting a new project through April 2025 targeting 125 households, reaching all nationalities.

- **UNHCR** reported that it is working with NRC to achieve targets set for 2023, as follows:

Indicator	Zaatari	Azraq
New Shelter	100+149	100+288
Shelter Repair	0	1,150
Shelter Rehabilitation	400	350
Refugee Empowerment	50	250
Infrastructure Maintenance	120	120

In Azraq, during January, UNHCR through NRC repaired 171 shelters, installed concrete floors for 38 shelters, and 38 new T- Shelters were constructed.

In addition, UNHCR energy team was able to increase of 2 hours in the electricity provision in the last third of January in Azraq, covering almost 92%.

In Zaatari, the consumption rate and invoices of the energy are very high, causing a high energy bill of around 426k JDs in December and estimated for January according to the smart meters system will remain similar. Shall this rate continue, the total energy bill for 2023 will exceed the available budget.

Nonetheless, despite continuous maintenance works by the solar plant's O&M team, the current loss of production continues to remain at 30%, leaving the operation limit of the plant at 70%.

At both camps, UNHCR's rodent and vector control campaign is ongoing.

At both camps, the emergency response plan has been activated, and partners remain available for emergency support such as additional water trucks, and desludging tanks. Further to NRC's reserving additional materials such as silicon, glass, and insulation sheets in stock, and teams (UNHCR and NRC) availability of emergency team to respond to the urgent request for shelters' repairs also during weekends.

Welcome Samira + ISWG Updates

- Samira, from the UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Unit, will be supporting the Shelter Working Group. The Unit is piloting an exchange of Coordination Associates between working groups to improve linkages between them. Ehab, who was previously working with the Shelter Working Group, is supporting other sectors during this time. The group welcomed Samira!
- Regarding the Jordan Response Plan (JRP), the plan is to proceed with an extension for 2023 with no planned changes for indicators at this time. UNHCR is in communication with the regional MENA office on the finalization of the 3RP.
- By the end of February, the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) has requested updated terms of reference (ToR), strategy, and other documents from the various working groups. The focus of today's meeting will be to develop the updated ToR. All updated documents will be circulated to members and validated during the February meeting.

Review & Discussion on Working Group TOR

- The group had a detailed discussion on the working group ToR, looking at the previous ToR (updated in 2019), as well as the new ToR template shared by the ISWG. The bulk of the meeting was spent on this agenda item.
- Topics discussed included:
 - Building on the strategy discussion that Bernard led in November
 - What do members see as the purpose of the working group?
 - Why do members think it is important to participate in the working group?
 - What do members get out of the working group?
 - What do members expect from the working group?
 - Updates on the context and the situation in Jordan, particularly vis-à-vis the humanitarian-development nexus
 - Focus on including all refugees, not just Syrian refugees
 - Who should be members of the working group and what are the expectations of members?
 - The role of government and other stakeholders (i.e. local NGOs and CBOs) in the working group
 - The definition of what “shelter” covers and what is it an umbrella term for
 - How can members meaningfully support the sector through their active contribution to WG activities?
 - Mainstreaming cross-cutting issues, including climate change and issues related to the environment
 - Responsibilities of the chair and co-chair and what members' expectations are
 - The selection process for the co-chair of the WG
 - Set up of meetings, topics to be covered, and logistics of future meetings
- All feedback was taken into consideration for the drafting of the updated WG ToR. The document will be circulated in advance of the next meeting. Members will have an opportunity to provide feedback. And, the document will be validated by members at the upcoming February 2023 meeting.

AOB

- The MENA Shelter Forum will take place in Amman on February 22 and 23. A registration link was circulated to WG members. There is no opportunity to participate in panels at this time. However, members can RSVP to attend.
- Based on the dates of the MENA Shelter Forum, the upcoming Shelter WG meeting will take place on 1st of March 2023 at 11:00 AM at UNCHR. NRC will be presenting findings and has requested UNHCR VAF colleagues be invited, and the TOR, strategy, and work plan will be brought up for endorsement by members. Any other agenda items can be shared with IOCC and UNHCR.