# Economic Empowerment Working Group (EEWG)

## Jordan

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## NOTE FROM MEETING

**30th Jan 2025**

### AGENDA

- Welcoming and introduction remarks.
- Understanding the Current Needs and Plans of Syrian Refugees
- Information Sharing with the Group: Engaging with the Private Sector: Panel discussion and Q&A.
- Orange Foundation presentation and guided tour of the Orange Digital Village.

### Attachments support this Note:

Supplementary documents and reports referenced in this paper are attached to the accompanying e-mail and will be uploaded to the Economic Empowerment Sector weblink, https://data2.unhcr.org/en/working- group/49

- Inter-Sector Meeting Minutes
- EEWG TOR
- EEWG Action plan.

### Understanding the Current Needs and Plans of Syrian Refugees

Introduce everyone's updates in this current climate.

- ARDD has been working on with UNHCR on clarifying and providing the right information to refugees as it is available
- NSC, NSC conducted a rapid needs assessment to understand Syrian refugees' plans and needs in Jordan, considering short-, mid-, and long-term possibilities. Findings indicate a shift in priorities:
  - Decreasing interest in long-term income-generating opportunities.
  - Increasing demand for cash assistance to clear debts and liabilities.
  - Growing focus on preparing for potential return, including transportation and shipping needs.
  - Awareness of pre-existing challenges, such as work permit restrictions, influencing decisions

- Plan Jordan, had conducted a short survey within the camp and it shows that most refugees plan to return to Syria, with many targeting post-winter, post-Ramadan, or after the school year—expected departures in early summer (June-July).
- Project priorities and activity planning should adapt to this shift in refugee intentions.
- A meeting may be needed to reassess how to best meet Syrian refugees' evolving needs.

### UPDATE FROM THE INTER-SECTOR GROUP

Meeting Outcomes :

- IA presented the preliminary results of the UNHCR Regional Bureau intention surveys were
- presented by the chair of the ISWG.
- IA together with UNDP proposed a two-day workshop on February 19-20, 2025, to discuss the evolving context and coordination structure. The IACU will provide coordination support, with the workshop facilitated by UNDP.
- Updated FAQ on returns is being shared regularly with all partners and stakeholders.
- The UNHCR pilot project, launched on January 20, 2025, involves transporting refugees from
- different locations in Jordan, including Amman, Azraq ad Mafraq to Damascus, Dara, and Homs.
- IA presented the Refugee Coordination Model -RCM, which was first introduced in 2013 and
- updated in 2019 to reflect the Global Compact on Refugees. An updated version of the RCM was launched in November 2024.
- Refugees expressed interest in returning to Syria even if remains on the Situation in remains fluid. The Bureau decided to maintain the current structure of the 3RP while introducing an addendum focused on returns.

### Update The EEWG TOR and Action plan

As part of our ongoing efforts to strengthen the Economic Empowerment Working Group (EEWG), we have initiated a collaborative exercise to review, refine, and update the Terms of Reference (TOR) and Action Plan. This process aims to ensure that our strategic direction, priorities, and planned activities align with the evolving economic landscape and the needs of our stakeholders. Through this collective review, **we seek to reinforce our shared vision, enhance coordination, and reaffirm our commitment to achieving impactful and sustainable outcomes**.

**Key Discussion Points:**

- Information Exchange and Legal Updates on Economic Empowerment
- Advocacy Efforts for the Working Group
- Inclusive Membership involving diverse stakeholders (Government, LNGOs, CBOs, etc.)
- Enhancing Member Engagement and Knowledge Sharing
- Discussion on Project Challenges and Successes
- Regional Engagement with EEWG, particularly in Syria and Turkey, for knowledge-sharing and learning

The drafted Action Plan, and TOR, will be shared alongside the Minutes of Meeting (MoM) for members' review and input. Your feedback is crucial to ensuring the document accurately reflects our collective priorities and strategic direction.

We kindly request members to share their comments **by February 15th**, as your insights are essential in finalizing a comprehensive and effective plan.