



ISWG Meeting Note and Action Points

Date / Time / Venue	Wednesday, 16 April 2025, 10:00 - 11:30, UNHCR office
Attendees	Inter-Sector Coordinator, Sector Coordinators, Leads/Co-Leads of the Shelter, WASH, Food Security Basic Needs, Education Sectors, Health, Protection, Sexual Reproductive Health sub-sectors, Senior Protection and Senior Gender Advisor this in addition to participants from UN Women, UNDP and JIF.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES

- **Prioritization Exercise:** Sector leads will receive detailed instructions, including the guidance note, template, and workplan, to initiate the prioritization process.
- **ISWG Sensemaking Workshop:** The presentation and intelligence report from the workshop will be shared with sector leads, who are encouraged to provide feedback on the conclusions.
- **VAF 2025:** Sector leads should ensure VAF 2025 is included in the agenda of their next working group meetings

Agenda:

- 1- High-Level planning for 2026 & Prioritization: JoSH discussion outcomes.
- 2- ISWG Sensemaking workshop: Recommendations and key outcomes.

3- Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) results for Q4/2024.

4- AOB

PLANNING FOR 2026 AND PRIORITIZATION

The ISWG Chair provided an overview, highlighting the following:

- **An ad hoc JoSH Advisory Group** meeting reviewed the financial outlook and recommended that sectors undertake a prioritization exercise, planning for an expected 30% to 50% funding reduction in 2025. This process will inform senior leadership and guide strategic decision-making.
- Sector leads are instructed to focus on life-saving interventions, critical protection services, and essential basic services such as WASH and shelter within camps, as well as health and education both inside and outside camps. Planning must also consider the allocation of earmarked funds.
- The prioritization exercise must be completed by the end of May. All necessary documents will be shared to support the process.
- The outcomes will be presented to JoSH during its June 2025 meeting.

ISWG SENSEMAKING WORKSHOP: RECOMMENDATIONS AND KEY OUTCOMES

1. UNDP presented findings from the ISWG Sensemaking Workshop held on 19-20 February 2025. The workshop focused on:

- **Situation Mapping and Scenario Building:** Assessing the evolving context and its impact on ISWG activities.
- **Sensemaking:** Reviewing the current scope of ISWG work in light of emerging trends.
- **Action Planning:** Defining coordinated actions based on intelligence gathered.

Three core recommendations emerged:

- Reassess the humanitarian coordination architecture to establish a more focused and prioritized approach.
- Strengthen collective advocacy and pursue strategic financing options.
- Adopt a unified communication strategy to support a coherent response.

The workshop outcomes and full report have been shared with JoSH members.

FOOD SECURITY OUTCOME MONITORING RESULTS FOR Q4 2024

- Data collection in November and December 2024 covered 1,900 households in camps and urban areas, including both WFP beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries.
- The findings are comparable with Q4 2023 and included expenditure patterns and economic indicators.

Key Findings:

- Food security among WFP beneficiaries in host communities remained stable, with slight improvements noted in camps.
- Non-beneficiaries in host communities experienced similar levels of food insecurity, with 81% of households classified as food insecure.

Additional Insights:

- Indicators Monitored: Household food consumption, economic behavior, livelihood coping strategies, job market participation, and work permit access.
- Overall Status: As of Q4 2024, food insecurity remains critical, with 83% of host community beneficiaries and 81% of camp residents experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity. Continued humanitarian support is essential.
- Economic Trends: Refugees reduced spending and focused on debt repayment amid stable prices and a milder winter, influenced partly by political changes in Syria that might signal potential returns.

- Labor Market Access: While labor market participation improved slightly, limited access to affordable work permits remains a key barrier to sustainable livelihoods.
- Adaptation of Deprioritized Households: Households excluded from WFP assistance since July 2024 have adjusted through alternative income sources and spending cuts. However, without improved access to work permits, this adaptation may not be sustainable.

The full report and presentation are available here: [FSOM Report Q4/2024](#)

PREPARATION FOR VAF 2025

Sector leads are reminded to include VAF 2025 in the agenda of their upcoming working group meetings. A representative from the UNHCR VAF team will attend to provide updates and discuss next steps.

NEXT ISWG MEETING:

An invitation to the upcoming ISWG meeting, including the agenda, will be sent out later.