Economic Empowerment Working Group (EEWG) Meeting

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026
Time: 1:00 -02:30 PM
Location: Remote- Microsoft Teams

Attendees	UNHCR, UNDP, ILO, Education for Employment – Jordan (Efe Jordan), EU Delegation, Vento di Terra, MAP Canada, International Medical Corps (IMC), Near East Foundation (NEF), TDH Italy, World Food Program (WFP), ACTED, Mercy Corps, Plan International, ICRC, IOM, GIZ, UNRWA, DRC, Jordan River Foundation (JRF), RHAS, STF5Care, Dar Abu Abdullah (DAA), Al Aman Fund, COOPI.

Agenda

- Welcome and member updates
- Inter-Agency operational updates
- WFP Jordan presentation: *Food Security Outcome Monitoring (Quarter 3) Key Findings*
- Introductory briefing by Vento di Terra
- UNDP-Mercy Corps Bulletin 2 update
- AOB

Agenda items	Discussion points	Action points
1. Inter-Agency operational updates	Ms. Lina Tu'aimeh from the Inter-Agency Coordination Unit (IACU) at the UNHCR presented the following operational updates: **Visit of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees-Mr. Barham Salih- to Jordan (Feb 2026)** • Meetings with HM King Abdullah II, Deputy PM/Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, Minister of Planning & International Cooperation Zaina Touqan, Minister of Interior Mazen Al-Faraya, field visit to Za'atari, consultations with civil-society networks. The mission was described as productive, with feedback shared to Geneva. **3RP 2026 (Jordan component) — "Light Review" & Funding Status** • **Appeal for 2026: USD 654M** (≈30% reduction vs last year) reflecting reduced registered refugees, voluntary return trends, and 2025 prioritization outcomes. • **2025 funding status:** As of Jan 2025, Jordan 3RP partners received **USD 326M** (**34.9% coverage**), down from **45% in 2024**, indicating continued decline in available funding. **Information Management / Financial Tracking** • **JFT (2025)** remains open until **end-Feb 2026** for final partner updates; **2026 JFT** opening to follow ActivityInfo trainings.	For more information, please reach **Ms. Lina Tu'aimeh**: tuaimeh@unhcr.org

	Partners urged to **register and attend refresher sessions** (Arabic Thursday / English Sunday) led by the Inter-Agency Unit (Nisreen Abu Sammour). If an organization name is missing from the registration list, partners should email **Nisreen** to be added. • **ActivityInfo:** 2025 results framework integrated into **2026** to preserve continuity; partners must keep planning/reporting in ActivityInfo pending Government system finalization (needed for dashboards, monthly outputs, donor reporting). • **GRES (Government Project Approval System):** UNDP is upgrading GRES; it will remain a **project approval/financial tracking** tool (not M&E). UNHCR/UNDP advocating for future **M&E component** to avoid duplication. **Government-Led Strategic Planning** • Process now referred to as **Government-led strategic planning** (MOPIC lead), with a UNHCR-seconded lead strategist embedded since Jan 2026; supported by UNDP, EU, World Bank, others. • **Timeline:** Full plan expected by June 2026; sectors will then align/update strategic objectives, results frameworks, target groups, and budgets, and re-submit to the Regional Bureau. • **Government priorities:** Protection for refugees in camps/urban areas, **voluntary return**; open to discussing sensitive topics (camp mergers/management, regional approaches).	
2. WFP Jordan presentation: *Food Security Outcome Monitoring (Quarter 3) Key Findings*	**Overview:** Ms. Martina Lappo- Research, Assessment, Monitoring (RAM) Officer- gave a presentation on *Food Security Outcome Monitoring (Quarter 3) Key Findings*: **Discussion Points:** • **Food insecurity remains high**, especially in host communities (≈8 in 10 WFP-assisted households' food-insecure); in camps, roughly half of households cannot meet basic food needs. Some improvement in camps may reflect adaptation/resilience two years after ration cuts, and possible compositional change due to movements/returns • **Food consumption:** 60% of refugees in camps and 31% of beneficiaries in host communities do not eat enough even with WFP assistance; acceptable consumption often maintained through consumption-based coping (e.g., less preferred/cheaper foods in camps; borrowing food or reducing portion sizes in host communities). • **Income:** Share of households with at least one income source in host communities declined back to prior-year levels (likely seasonal); main sectors: agriculture, retail, construction, community services (aligned with "open sectors"). Work permits remain limited; most beneficiaries lack permits and perceive shrinking labour opportunities due to policy changes. • **Debt: Monthly borrowing in camps** up ~43% since 2023 ration reductions; host-community borrowing relatively flat	For more information, please reach **Ms. Martina Lappo:** martina.lappo@wfp.org

	(+~4%). Accumulated debt shows a camp-level peak in early 2025 (linked to lack of winterization and timing of data collection). • **Coping strategies:** Rising reliance on unsafe/exploitative jobs (≈24% host communities; 36% camps). • **Child labour risks:** in host communities, ~1 in 10 households reported temporarily withdrawing children from school to work. • **Intentions to return:** Majority of WFP beneficiaries do not view conditions in Syria as enabling for immediate return; many intend to wait ≥1 year, relying on opportunities in Jordan and assistance. Small shares reported household members departing to Syria (≈15% camps; 5% host communities); among those who left, fewer are currently working in Syria. A written report is in preparation; slides will be shared with members	
3. Introductory briefing by Vento di Terra	**Overview:** Ms. **Silvia Bonanomi** – Program Coordinator - gave an introductory briefing about Vento di Terra: • **VdT profile:** Italian NGO active since 2006; in Jordan since 2014 (Amman, Mafraq, Zarqa; expanding to Ajloun and Aqaba). Work spans protection, education, and socio-economic inclusion (e.g., "No Woman Left Behind" with AICS/AIDOS; education initiative with Terre des Hommes Italia). **Workability (2026–2029; 36 months; inception started Jan 2026):** • **Goal**: Enhance professional skills and private-sector support to improve employability & inclusion of vulnerable youth and women with disabilities. • **Partnerships:** Rafeeq Al Kheir, Princess Taghreed Institute (VTC-accredited training), Fondazione Carpigiani (private-sector skills), Namasté Onlus (Italy; disability-inclusive employment good practices). Institutional partners: Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Labour • **Approach:** Training/capacity-building (incl. mentoring, peer support) → job placement & enterprise incubation; private-sector engagement to promote inclusive workplaces aligned with Jordanian law; emphasis on formal labour inclusion. • **Scale:** ~16,000 people to be reached (women with disabilities & awareness participants); ~52 organizations engaged (private companies/start-ups). • **Theory of Change:** Normative alignment (SDGs 4 & 8; Decent Work), capability/empowerment lens; risks include labour-market absorption capacity; potential spillovers via networks and private-sector practice change.	For more information, please reach **Ms. Silvia Bonanomi:** s.bonanomi@ventoditerra.org

4. UNDP–Mercy Corps Regional Socioeconomic Update Bulletin (Vol. 2)	**Overview:** Mr. Ghady El Hattouny - Crisis Analyst at Mercy Corps Lebanon - gave a briefing on UNDP–Mercy Corps Regional Socioeconomic Update Bulletin (Vol. 2), **covering the period Aug to Dec 2025**: **Key updates (Syria–Lebanon–Jordan):** • **Syria - Housing & Services:** Severe housing destruction (with hotspots e.g., Hama/Hasakeh); many communities reside in damaged dwellings; documentation/tenure gaps persist; electricity rehabilitation shows urban-centred improvements, rural areas remain underserved; tariff hikes increased living costs. • **Education/Health/Labour:** Access barriers for displaced Syrian children in Lebanon/Jordan; health funding cuts (e.g., UNHCR in Lebanon; Emirati field hospital closure in Jordan) widened gaps; displaced workers largely informal, with residency/work-status constraints. • **Macro & Policy Dynamics:** Cost of living ≈ SYP 7M/month for a family of five vs public salaries ≈ SYP 1M; ~90% poverty, ~25% extreme poverty; authorities exploring redenomination in 2026. The briefing referenced changes around sanctions and financial connectivity (e.g., investor interest, card/payment systems), noting potential but still **limited** investments to date. **Cross-Border Trade:** • **Lebanon–Syria:** Trade fell ~70% during sanctions period; modest intentions to revive cooperation; Tripoli port positioned as a maritime gateway; efforts to curb smuggling (e.g., scrap export restrictions). • **Jordan–Syria:** Exports from Jordan up ~383%; decisions (Nov 2025) to ease movement and explore a joint free zone; Syria created a General Authority for border crossings/customs; potential livelihood gains in logistics/transport/small commerce. • **Climate/Winterization:** 2025 saw higher precipitation across parts of the three countries, yet winter needs remain acute: a USD 98M funding gap, 5M at winter risk, 1.5M in informal sites; 357 camps affected last winter (≈115,000 people impacted). Lebanon LCRP winter ask at USD 31M (-62% y/y). Jordan also saw significant reductions in winter cash for refugees/hosts amid broader economic stress.	For more information, please reach **Mr. Ghady El Hattouny:** ghattouny@mercycorps.org **To access the Bulletin (Vol. 2), please click here.**
Any Other Business (AOB)	- **Resource sharing reminder: All partners** to **share outputs** (assessments, surveys, reports) with **IACU-Lina Tu'aimeh** for posting on EEWG webpage; the page is publicly searchable and supports sector visibility. - **EEWG platform for reference and access to information: https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/49** - **To access the Bulletin (Vol. 2), please click here.**	For more information, please reach **Ms. Lina Tu'aimeh from UNHCR:** tuaimeh@unhcr.org