

Informal Tented Settlements taskforce meeting Syrian Refugee Response in Jordan

Meeting Location	UNHCR large conference room	Meeting Date	19 December 2013
Chair Person	Volker Schimmel (UNHCR)	Meeting Time	11:00am
Minutes Prepared by	Matthew Richard (UNHCR)		
Purpose of Meeting	Coordination of response for assistance to informal tented settlements (ITS) in Jordan		
Next Meeting	To be confirmed		

1.) Summary of action points

Item	Action point	Focal Point / Organization
1.)	Immediate: Hasan Mohammed (UNHCR - 0799098537) to lead coordination of response to ITS affected by the snow and rains for next week as Volker is absent. He will be assisted by the UNHCR coordination unit.	Hassan Mohammed (UNHCR), Matthew Richard (UNHCR) & Yara Maasri (UNHCR)
2.)	Medium-term: The ITS taskforce should develop a coordination mechanism to assist vulnerable families in ITS. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This coordination mechanism will be a taskforce under the Inter-Sector Working Group and should incorporate an effective information sharing mechanism on ITS. The interventions should be coordinated area-based responses. This mechanism should be structured through a network of focal points, which should be partners who have operations in ITS. 	Volker Schimmel (UNHCR) and all partners of the ITS taskforce.

2.) Attendees of the meeting

Name	Organisation	E-mail
Faris Kasim	Save the Children	faris.kasim@savethechildren.org
Eva Niederberger	Oxfam	eniederberger@oxfam.org.uk
Francesco Rigamonti	Oxfam	frigamonti@oxfam.org.uk
Volker Schimmel	UNHCR	schimmel@unhcr.org
Fremz Lanheslofer	Swiss Red Cross	ERT002@redcross.ch
Aoife Dineen	UNICEF	adineen@unicef.org
Lucio Melandri	UNICEF	limelandri@unicef.org
Cyril Cappai	JEN	jen.emergency@jen-npo.org
Chiaki Ota	JEN	chiaki.ota@jen-npo.org
Maram Al-Kailani	Islamic Relief	maram.kailani@irworldwide.org
Hasan Bahjal Mohammed	UNHCR	mohammeh@uncr.org
Hanaa Mcdady	ActionAid	emergencyteam.jordan@actionaid.org
Nesreen Hadwi	ActionAid	emergencyteam.jordan@actionaid.org
Emily Beadle	Acted	emily.beadle@acted.org
Madimir Jouavovic	REACH-Acted	jouavovic@acted.org
Yara Romariz Maasri	UNHCR	maasri@unhcr.org
Matthew Richard	UNHCR	richard@unhcr.org

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3.) Minutes

Item	Discussion
<p><u>Objectives of the ITS taskforce</u> <u>UNICEF</u> Lucio Melandri</p>	<p>Assistance to ITS is incorporated into Winterisation response and this very meeting for winterisation assistance to ITS was set up following the ISWG meeting on 17 December 2013. The ITS taskforce should proceed by liaising with government departments, municipalities and local authorities to identify needs and seek approvals. UNHCR has reached out to all local authorities and established a full set of needs. Partners are encouraged to work with UNHCR if assistance can be provided.</p> <p>Objectives</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide immediate coordinated assistance to families in ITS in response to recent weather conditions. 2. Define common criteria on how the humanitarian community should respond in terms of assessment, inter-sector response, and information-sharing (medium-term) 3. Enhance protection and eliminate risks of vulnerable families in ITS (medium-term)
Agency Updates	
<p><u>Oxfam update</u> Francesco Rigamonti</p>	<p>Oxfam are assisting ITS in the Jordan Valley and in Jawa. There are more than 380 families receiving assistance in the Jordan valley and 80 families in Jawa. Winterisation kits are being distributed which include plastic sheeting, gas cylinders and porch kits. There are still problems obtaining government approvals for distribution in Jawa.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blankets 2. Access/ transportation to shops for refugees to cash-in food vouchers 3. Lack of information <p>Oxfam will inform partners if Government approval takes longer in order for other partners to provide assistance instead.</p>
<p><u>Save the children update</u> Faris Kasim</p>	<p>There is a hesitation from the government to recognise ITS. SCI does have enough information on the ground. Key concerns revolve around child protection. Possible responses include mobile units such as mobile child friendly spaces.</p> <p>SCI has not identified needs in particular ITS, but offered a full winterization kit (NFI-based) for up to 350 families that partners should be ready to draw upon</p>
<p><u>ACTED update</u> Emily Beadle</p>	<p>ACTED has included ITS in the North in the winterization response, but does not have specific updates on the impact of the snow/rains. Assistance will be provided to 418 HH in ITS in Mafraq. Emergency winterisation kits have been distributed including gas, blankets and hygiene kits. ITS are difficult to monitor and track assistance due to the transient nature of refugees who live in ITS. Conditions are constantly and quickly changing. It needs more monitoring on the ground. Following the REACH assessment 550 HH in ITS were identified but numbers are constantly changing.</p>
<p><u>Action Aid update</u> Hanaa Mcdady</p>	<p>ActionAid are working in Zarqa and Zaatari but waiting approval for distribution of winterisation kits in Mafraq. ActionAid does not have information on ITS affected by the snow/rains.</p> <p>ActionAid have a stock of 150 women's kits that they can avail to distributions in ITS in Mafraq. Women's kits include winter clothes (jackets, jeans, socks, gloves, jeans, t-shirts), and gas.</p>
<p><u>UNHCR update</u> Hasan Mohammed</p>	<p>Rapid assessment conducted by UNHCR to identify families in ITS affected by the recent snowstorm. Today (19 Dec) there will be a distribution of 650 mattresses and 1,100 blankets to families in ITS. 550 blankets and 250 mattresses in Azraq ITS.</p>
<p><u>Islamic Relief update</u> Maram Al-Kailani</p>	<p>Islamic Relief have a the following contingency stock: 1,898 gas heaters, 670 clothing kits, 1,000 blankets</p>

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<p><u>JEN update</u> Cyril Cappai</p>	<p>JEN has a large quantity of clothing kits leftover following distributions in Zaatari (roughly 1,000 kits – possibly more). JEN is ready to assist with clothing distribution to families living in ITS. The challenge is to find clothing for the age group 5-16 years, which are not part of JEN’s current contingency stock.</p>
<p><u>Swiss Red Cross/ERT update</u> Fremz Lanheslofer</p>	<p>200 families in Al-Touraa have received gas heater and gas cylinder distribution. On Saturday 4,000 blankets will be distributed to families, both Syrians and Jordanians in ITS surrounding Amman. ERT has a stock of gasoline heaters in stock ready for distribution – roughly 300-400 items. Partners can draw on JRCS for support if needs are identified.</p>
<p><u>Concluding remarks</u> <u>UNICEF</u> Lucio Melandri</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ITS taskforce should develop a coordination mechanism to assist ITS (to be attached to the Inter-Sector Working Group) • This coordination mechanism should incorporate an effective protocol for sharing information • The interventions should be coordinated area-based responses. • This mechanism should be led by NGOs as a focal point of interventions responsible for facilitating response. • Concerns were raised regarding the tension related to ITS assistance with the local government authorities who do not recognise ITS.