

## JORDAN INTER-SECTOR WORKING GROUP UPDATE

December 2013



### I. General / Inter-Sector Update



**Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) taskforce:** In mid December, ACTED/REACH and UNICEF released an insightful paper into the particularly vulnerable situation in ITS in three northern provinces. Following the 17<sup>th</sup> December ISWG meeting, a taskforce for winterization assistance to ITS. The ITS taskforce will 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.

Objectives of the ITS taskforce

- Provide immediate coordinated assistance to families in ITS in response to recent weather conditions.
- Define common criteria on how the humanitarian community should respond in terms of assessment, inter-sector response, and information-sharing (medium-term)
- Enhance protection and eliminate risks of vulnerable families in ITS (medium-term)

**ISWG Work-plan 2014:** ISWG is currently reviewing a draft work-plan, focused on a series of common processes, which will be implemented in the first half of 2014. These include

- Design and implementation of a Vulnerability Assessment Framework, to improve targeting and aid effectiveness.
- Mainstreaming Gender into sector and inter-sector planning and practice
- Establishment of Coordinated Needs Assessment System
- Strengthening of Referral Networks
- Contingency Planning
- Support to and engagement with the Government on Project Approvals
- 5Ws and Development of ActivityInfo
- Advocacy – agreement on common messages
- Monitoring and Reporting on RRP6 implementation
- Greater donor engagement at the inter-sector level
- Capacity Building of Sector Coordination, both of structures and staff.
- Further investments in Inter-Agency Information Management Capacity
- Response to Informal Tented Settlements

**ISWG Portal Page:** has been set up for Minutes and Updates from the ISWG. This is available online at [http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working\\_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=60](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=60)

## II. Sector information



### CASH:

**Cash strategy 2014 (continued):** WG discussed lessons learnt from 2013, vulnerability criteria, co-ordination of assessments, establishing SOPs across WG, and combined monitoring and evaluation tools. Outputs include: categorization of level of assistance- possibility of way to build basic unit to identify what families should receive; definition of assistance level based on assessments; DRC will draft a self-assessment document along Oxfam & IFRC to assess the quality of the work that was done by each partner.

**Debit Card Service:** A technical group headed by ACTED drafted and communicated a joint letter to the banks asking for potential interest in developing a pre-paid debit card service to deliver cash transfers.

In early December, a technical group drafted a set of standards to be used in submissions by partners under the HIP. The document sets out standardized figures to be used by the members in project design and proposal formulation and it will also be forwarded to ECHO focal points by the chairs of the CWG for reference.



### EDUCATION:

**Transport Guidance Note:** A note to guide education partners on how to ensure school access, mobility and transport is on its finalization status.

**INEE Meet up Event (International Network for Education in Emergencies):** The INEE meet up was held on 8th December in UNICEF in collaboration with NRC. Facilitators gave a general description of the standards as well as some concrete examples of how and when they have been or can be used. Key recommendations of the meeting have been shared and are mainstreamed in the ESWG workplan for 2014.



### FOOD SECURITY:

**Coordination:** The last Food Security Sector meeting of 2013 was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December at the WFP offices in Amman. Items on the agenda included financial reporting for RRP5, the launch of RRP6, endorsement by sector members of the gender-based violence and child protection SOPs, and needs assessment harmonization, as well as an update on the Humanitarian Assessment and an overview of the Vulnerability Assessment Project.

**Voucher and ration distribution:** WFP distributed partial vouchers and dry rations to 92,072 Syrian refugees living in Zaatari refugee camp, and vouchers to 430,164 Syrian refugees living in Jordanian communities.

**Food Security Monitoring:** Data collection by ACTED staff for the Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME) was largely completed in December and will continue through the first week of January in Zaatari camp, following delays due to the bad weather conditions in mid-December. The processing and analysis of data will begin following the completion of Zaatari camp data.



### HEALTH:

**Community Health Task Force:** First meeting of the Community Health Task Force was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. The task force is chaired by IFRC, and its objective is to harmonise the approach to community health, share tools and find similarities in community health programming. The task force will meet monthly in addition to ongoing work/communication through e-mail.

**Urban refugee health assessment:** IMC started an assessment of health-related issues among urban refugees. The aim is to determine which health conditions are most heavily impacting Syrian refugees residing in non-camp settings throughout Jordan, the ability of the refugees to manage these conditions, and the primary barriers preventing them from accessing the necessary health services.

**Health findings of Jordan Valley Assessment:** The multi-sectoral assessment, completed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December, found that almost all families interviewed were registered with UNHCR and had a Ministry of Interior (Mol) card; however, most refugees living in the Jordan Valley do not have a card issued in their area of current residence and therefore do not have access to health services unless they travel to other governorates or pay for health services. All children were vaccinated during the recent immunization campaign, but awareness of the routine immunization programs is low, and most refugees are not going to health facilities for routine immunization of their children.

#### **Nutrition Sub-Working Group**

**Treatment for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM):** JHAS started treatment for children diagnosed with SAM inside Zaatari camp after the closure of the MSF paediatric hospital, and are accepting referrals from other agencies. Cases of SAM with complications will be referred to Jordan University Hospital.

**Guidance and protocols:** After the formation of a dedicated task force, both the Anaemia in Pregnancy Protocol and the Operational Guidance for Integrated Management for Acute Malnutrition have nearly been finalized.

#### **Reproductive Health Sub-Working Group**

**New clinic in Zaatari:** A UNFPA/JHAS clinic, providing antenatal care, pre-natal care and family planning services, opened in District 8 in Zaatari on the 10th of December.

**Referral of cases:** In Zaatari, the UNFPA/JHAS clinic taking care of uncomplicated vaginal deliveries is currently facing a challenge for the referral of women to other hospitals or clinics when it is medically necessary. For many reasons, access to appropriate services can be delayed.

#### **Mental Health and Psycho-Social Support Sub-Working Group**

**Coordination webinar:** IMC and WHO participated in the MHPSS.NET webinar on “Coordination in Emergencies: Experiences from Jordan”. The webinar addresses main achievements, lessons learnt and challenges, and is available on [www.mhpss.net](http://www.mhpss.net).

**Sub-working group ToRs:** The MHPSS SWG is currently working on the revision of the group’s TORs.



#### **NON- FOOD ITEMS:**

**CP/GBV training and Gender marker training** was organized for the members of the NFI working group in the beginning of December.

**NFI Coordination Survey** drafted by DRC was completed by members. The results have been circulated among the members. Gaps: lack of common mechanisms, especially related to needs assessments.

**Coordination of Winterization activities** with the Cash WG. Development of an on –line mechanism to avoid duplication. Through this mechanism both Syrians (registered or non-registered) as well as Jordanians can be identified and assisted).

**ERF proposals:** Members have been encouraged to apply for ERF funds. ERF criteria of approval have been shared with partners. Committee is going to be established with the NFI WG in order to review the proposals and make sure they comply with the groups' standards and prioritize.



## **PROTECTION:**

**Inter Sector referral mapping (non-camp):** UNHCR and partners are developing a cross-sectoral referral system. First meetings took place in Irbid and Karak. An online database of partners' services and selection criteria is under construction (in ActivityInfo) to feed into an electronic referral interface.

### **Child Protection Sub-Working Group**

**Inter-Agency Child Protection and Gender-based Violence Standard Operating Procedures:** Training on the SOPs has been delivered to over 300 people within two months. In addition to those who have already signed up, several more agencies have endorsed the SOPs

**Child Protection Minimum Standards:** The Child Protection Sub-Working Group is working to contextualize the global Minimum Standards on Child Protection in Humanitarian Action.

### **GBV Sub-Working Group**

**GBV Focal Points:** GBV Focal points have been appointed for each sector and received training in mid-December. Focal points are available to their allocated sectors to provide input on discussions relating to GBV

**Early and Forced Marriage Task Force:** The Task Force has finalized a desk review of early and forced marriage and have conducted an assessment detailing the issues in Jordan. The Task Force remains action-oriented and its strategy centres upon information sharing, provision of relevant tools, advocacy, improving inter-agency assessments and providing technical advice or assistance.

**Case Management Task Force:** Case management training began on 29 December. The Task Force has developed some guidance on the format of referrals and how to prioritise cases.



## **SHELTER:**

**Development of guidelines for shelter interventions:** The Shelter WG is in the process of developing guidelines and minimum standards for shelter interventions. The guidelines set a series of mechanical, civil and electrical standards for the upgrading of substandard housing units and interventions that increase the availability of housing units in unfinished buildings. These guidelines will be observed by all partners and are necessary to avoid duplication and ensure activities meet minimum standards. The guidelines raise a series of legal issues, such as property ownership, that require further investigation before the guidelines can be finalised.

**Coordination with WASH:** The Shelter WG is encouraging stronger coordination with the WASH sector regarding shelter interventions for the upgrading of housing and unfinished buildings. The Shelter WG needs to avoid duplication with this intervention as many shelter interventions have WASH components such as the installation of water tanks and plumbing. The WASH WG has a series of minimum standards for interventions and the Shelter WG should also follow these standards.



## **WASH:**

**WASH minimum standards:** The WASH WG is developing minimum standards for the WASH sector to be used as a guidance document for partners. The unit of 30 litres per person per day is the agreed minimum standard for refugee households however this may vary based on other influencing factors on a case by case basis. Werner Schellenberg (Shelter coordinator) will meet with Jamal Shah (WASH coordinator) to share standards and coordinate priorities for 2014 interventions between the two sectors.

**National Resilience Plan (NRP):** There is need for more coordination with the government for a more centralized approach in 2014 with the launch of the NRP. The WASH WG requires stronger linkages to the NRP and should help with the facilitation of data collection for gap analysis and prioritization of WASH activities.

**WASH in Schools:** A separate working group for WASH activities in schools will be organized to focus directly on interventions targeting schools. Interventions are currently only focusing on restoring functionality of facilities. This will be amended throughout 2014 to cater for the increase of students in existing schools.



## **ZAATARI:**

**NFI-related:** Distribution of blankets since the beginning of the month. Distribution of heaters started mid-December. Clothing distribution has finished and has covered the total number of population. Toys distribution through CFS by SCI has been completed.

**WASH-related:** The repair of damaged sewage tanks has now been completed. vBorehole 2 is now operational and as of next week will start supplying water to the camp.

Continued vandalism/looting of WASH facilities by refugees. Last week WASH facility # 108 was destroyed. Some beneficiaries tried to protect it but they were over powered.

UNICEF is planning to flush the storm water drains to which refugees connected their waste water pipes illegally.

## **IV. Contact**

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Jordan refugee response portal page at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107>;  
ISWG page [http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working\\_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=60](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=60)