

Outside of the camps, Syrian refugees do not use the tap water for cooking or drinking: only for washing, bathing and cleaning. Showers and toilets are not separated which is inconvenient due to increased number of family members per household and carrying out preparation for prayers. When arriving during or after lunchtime, the kitchens were mainly dirty with uncovered food leftovers. In informal settlements, food handling seems to be an issue due to the presence of flies.¹ Females surveyed in Ramtha and Mafraq reported that not being able to afford basic hygiene expenses affected their dignity and contributed to a feeling of shame.²

Overall, women didn't refer to hand washing before feeding babies or after changing baby diapers which suggests that hand washing is not necessarily practised at those times. With dwindling financial resources, some women are using water and soap instead of sanitary napkins. Women in temporary shelters indicate they are using only cloth for diapers, which seems to have been their regular practice in Syria. Women with younger children regularly request support to purchase baby diapers.³

Communal kitchens in the camps are regarded to be particularly unsafe. Men stand outside the kitchen and there is a lack of lighting within the kitchens. Single men enter the family communal kitchen specifically to harass women. Some women prefer to cook on portable gas stoves outside their tents, exacerbating broader concerns about fires and impact on health.⁴

Women, girls and men have asked for lighting to be provided around the latrines in Za'atri camp to prevent sexual crimes against women and girls (nothing was mentioned about the role of lighting in prevention of other crimes).⁵ A high proportion of Syrian women and children in Za'atri camp do not feel safe using WASH facilities in Za'atri camp at night: 82% of women, 28% of teenaged girls and 39% of boys and girls under the age of 12 fear harassment occurring on the way to and from the facilities. Consequently families are creating private, basic washing facilities and open pit toilets near or inside their tents. ⁶ Girls generally refrain from using toilets after 7 pm because of lack of lighting in some areas of the camp and broken locks in latrines and showers. Girls and women tend to go in pairs or in groups to latrines. ⁷

Discussions convened by the GenCap Advisor with key informants reveal that this is not the only security issue involving latrines and water supply: for example, rubbish or dead animals have been used to contaminate the water supply in some areas. Service providers are cautious about installing infrastructure such as lighting because of the extensive vandalism to property to date.

Some refugees (14.1%) in Za'atri camp are reporting there is a shortage of sanitary napkins, sanitary towels or diapers while 11.8% are indicating that they are purchasing the shortfall. Married teenaged girls report that they have insufficient clothing such as a second pair of underwear for themselves or a second set of clothes for their children, making it more difficult to get clean.⁸

The use of hygiene practices was variable: men were most likely to wash their hands (90%) and use soap (59.4%), while children (no sex-disaggregation) were less likely to wash their hands

¹ Oxfam GB, Jordan (March 2013) *Integrated Assessment in Host Communities: Emergency Food Security and Livelihoods; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Protection*

² IRC (Nov 2012) *Assessment Report Cash Transfer Program to Syrian Refugees in Jordan*

³ Oxfam GB, Jordan (March 2013)

⁴ CP&GBV SWG Jordan (Jan 2013) *Findings from the Interagency Child Protection and Gender-Based Violence Assessment in the Za'atri Refugee Camp*

⁵ Oxfam GB Jordan (2013) and CP&GBV SWG (2013)

⁶ Agence d'aide a la cooperation technique et au developpement, JEN, Oxfam, Relief International (Nov 2012) *Za'atri Baseline KAP Household Survey, Jordan*

⁷ CP&GBV SWG Jordan 2013

⁸ ACTED, JEN, Oxfam, Relief International (Nov 2012)

(65.5%) or wash with soap (33.8%). The rate of women washing their hands was more similar to that of children (70.5%) while it was more similar to that of men using soap (55.3%). Given the different practices, it is not clear whether men are rationing the water and soap, both of which are in limited supplies.⁹

⁹ ACTED, JEN, Oxfam, Relief International (Nov 2012)