

JORDAN INTER-SECTOR WORKING GROUP UPDATE

June 2015

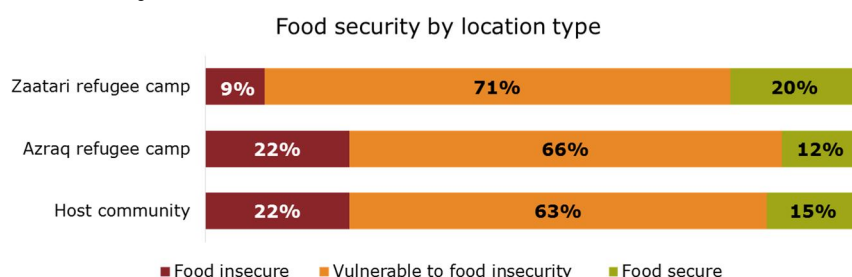


This update is a coordination tool to improve communication between sectors and up to the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF). It focuses on processes, rather than achievements. The latter are covered through separate monthly sector dashboards, available through the inter-agency portal and at <http://data.unhcr.org/jordan/sectors/>

I. General / Inter-Sector Update



Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME): WFP has released initial findings from the CFSME for 2015, in partnership with REACH. The results show a deterioration in food security for the Syrian refugee population compared to the CFSME 2014. In 2015, 85% of households were assessed as either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. Compared to 2014, there are 36% more refugee households that are food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity.



Zaatari refugee camp remained relatively stable compared to 2014, with 9% food insecure. However, urban areas have jumped from 6% food insecure in 2014 to 22%. Azraq currently has 22% food insecure. The difference between Zaatari and Azraq, who are both receiving the same food e-vouchers and bread from WFP, is attributed to the limited informal economy in Azraq, whereas there is a vibrant economy in Zaatari. Currently pending Government approval, the opening of the market in Azraq remains a key operational priority.

Reduction of Food Assistance in Urban Areas announced: In parallel, WFP have sent a message to all refugee beneficiaries announcing that, due to a lack of funding, all food assistance in urban areas will be halted. The implications of such a cut are extremely serious, and could further exacerbate negative coping mechanisms, such as removing children from school, reducing food intake, begging, overcrowding in sub-standard housing, and/or accepting exploitative, informal jobs. Several discussions have been held with donors and the government, including on alternative mechanisms to provide refugees access to resources. The Inter-Agency Task Force is already discussing contingency plans on how best to support refugees in such a situation. FAQs are available at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=9104>

Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB): Building on the first MEB developed by the Cash Working Group (CWG) in 2014, the Inter-Sector Working Group for the Syrian refugee response agreed to establish a task force (TF) to review and update the MEB. The MEB TF convened five times between mid-March 2015 and early June 2015 to develop the MEB, including all sectors. The MEB will be operationalized to 1) help shape appropriate assistance packages and levels of intervention and 2) provide poverty lines that are used in modelling approaches such as those underpinning the Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF). The MEB Guidance Note is available at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=9098> and the MEB Excel table at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=9097>

II. Sector information



BASIC NEEDS

Winterization: a joint task force between Basic Needs and Shelter met twice to draft the winterization standards for the 2015-2016 cycle. It was agreed that the two-tier system would be maintained from last year, but that the minimum standards would be based on a per capita model. A document outlining the final standards is to be circulated shortly.

New project with Health: the Health Sector is setting up a new project in cooperation with Basic Needs with the aim of increasing the number of beneficiaries who receive healthcare assistance. This will be done through targeted cash assistance.

Azraq Camp Update: There were 1,590 new arrivals to the camp in June, all of whom receive a full package of NFIs at the Reception Site. Items distributed at the Replenishment Site include: 8,730 diapers; 337 packets of infant milk; 13,806 sanitary napkins; and 1,921 gas cylinder refills.

Zaatari Camp Update: The Winterization standards for the camp have been revised and submitted to the Basic Needs WG for the 2015-2016 winterization funds appeal. 29,000 Toms shoes were distributed to children aged 2-18 years and 2,224 households have benefitted from UNHCR/IKEA donated solar lanterns distributed this month.



EDUCATION

Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB): On behalf of the ESWG, Save the Children Jordan conducted FDGs with refugee families to determine their minimum education expenditure per month per child. Based on their findings, ESWG has set the MEB at 13 JD for transport, 7 JD for uniform, 4 JD for supplementary school supplies and 6 JD for daily allowance, totaling to 30 JD per child per month.

INEE minimum standards: The Ministry of Education in partnership with the ESWG members have finalized the INEE minimum standards for the education sector. INEE is a tool that education actors in emergencies use to ensure that they meet the minimum level of educational quality. The document will be formally launched in July after Eid, followed by training sessions with partners within the sector. The document will also be translated in Arabic.



FOOD SECURITY

WFP/REACH Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME) 2015: CFSME was launched on the 30th June, presented to partners. The final report will be published in August 2015. Dramatic decrease in food security particularly among refugees living in host communities. A significant increase in refugees employing crisis and emergency coping strategies.

CARE International has launched two assessments: The first one is a Baseline Assessment of Skills and Market Opportunities for Youth in Azraq Refugee Camp, and the second is an Assessment of the Situation of Urban Syrian Refugees and Vulnerable Jordanian Host Communities five years into the Syria Crisis.



HEALTH

War wounded: MSF Holland reports that June saw 125 war wounded patients arrive in the emergency room in Ramtha Hospital, a significant increase from the first five months of the year (average 67 per month) and higher than the 2014 monthly average of 102. 30% cases came after 25 June, reflecting the events in Dara'a (the June figures were taken up until 27 June). There was a 12% increase in the number of women treated; 74% were aged between 18 – 55 years. 23 out of the 125 were under 18 years of age, and many of these were without their parents. The majority of these have more complex injuries (49% head and spinal injuries). 31% were admitted into Ramtha and 11% died. Some fatalities were contributed to by the delays of treatment. These delays were identified as being at the border, filtering happening on the Syrian side of the border, and in finding appropriate ICU care. Patients unable to be referred to other agencies receive support

from MoH with ICU access but this is stretching their capacity of blood transfusions, beds, facilities etc. Blast injuries made up 74% of the cases and gunshot wounds around 7%.

Immunization: A routine vaccination programme (Reaching Every Community) will be launched by Ministry of Health and UNICEF. The programme will target 23,000 people, Syrians and Jordanians, with 23 teams aiming to reach 1,000 children. UNICEF requests that NGOs and CBOs mobilize and assist in the project.

Capacity Building: As part of strengthening non-communicable disease management (NCD) among the refugee community, UNHCR in collaboration with the Royal Health Awareness Society, IMC and JHAS conducted a training for clinic staff providing health education including health educators and nurses. The training took place in the period of 7-10 June with 21 participants from different agencies including JHAS, IMC, MSF-F, MSF-H, IRD, Relief initiative, ICRC, IOM, and Mercy Operation. Core topics included: Asthma, Diabetes, Hypertension and smoking cessation. The main outcomes of the training: key messages in Arabic will be shared; requirements for implementing health education, such as body mass index charts, monofilament and peak flow meters should be availed to staff.

Azraq: The Finnish Red Cross has announced they will no longer operate the hospital in Azraq camp as of the end of October. UNHCR, and UNFPA along with the main donor, ECHO are seeking an alternative agency to assume the main functions especially emergency obstetric care. Furthermore continued funding into 2016 will be needed. During June there were 7,464 primary health care consultations, 218 referrals for secondary and tertiary care and provision of reproductive health services including 50 livebirths.

Disease free certificate: A town hall meeting was held in Ruweished by UNHCR on 8 June. Main findings were as follows: Many PoCs lack access to Ministry of Health facilities because they cannot issue the new Mol card as they need to travel to Mafraq to do the required medical test. This is costly and they run the risk of being caught by the police on the way to Mafraq. Refugees were asking if it is possible to consider Ruweished Hospital in addition to Mafraq for the issuance of the disease free certificate.

Nutrition: In Raba Sarhan 334 children under aged 6 months to 5 years were screened by Save the Children Jordan with mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC); with 1 severe acute malnutrition case and 4 moderate acute malnutrition cases identified; this is a global acute malnutrition level based on MUAC of 1.5%. Save the Children Jordan have seen a significant increase of the new admissions to the SFP in camps, 37 cases were admitted in Zaatari and 20 in Azraq with most reported cases having suffered from diarrhea for the previous 2-3 weeks.



PROTECTION

Urban Verification: The Government of Jordan has continued with the registration of all Syrian nationals living in Jordan. As of June 25, 2015, 124,881 Ministry of Interior service cards were issued. Agencies working within the Protection Sector have continued to disseminate messages encouraging refugees to register at their nearest police stations.

Gender Focal Point Network: With the support of UNHCR, the SGFPN and the Snr GenCap Advisor to the IATF conducted a three day workshop on Gender in humanitarian action (GIHA) on 31 May, 1 and 2 June. Each sector was represented through their focal points. By the end of the workshop, the focal points were trained to: 1) support the sectors in incorporating gender into their sectoral assessments, analysis and strategies; 2) facilitate coordination processes that meaningfully integrate critical dimensions of vulnerability based on gender and age analyses; 3) articulate clearly the imperative for gender equality programming in the humanitarian legal and architecture frameworks and demonstrate an understanding of gender equality which is operational and applicable at the field level; 4) identify opportunities to advocate for gender and contribute to systematically integrate gender analysis through the programming cycle; 5) use a gender lens to assist in making advocacy and communication materials/processes more relevant in articulating the distinct needs of women, girls, boys and men.

Child Protection

Child Labour: UNICEF and Save the Children launched a report on the recently conducted baseline assessment on child labour among Syrian Refugee children in Zaatari Refugee Camp. Findings from the report indicate that there are 212 children aged 7 to 17 are involved in income-earning activities. Out of this number,

200 or 94% are boys. In addition to that, three out of four working children reported health problems at work – nearly 80% suffered from extreme fatigue and a further almost 40% reported injury, illness or poor health while almost 60% of the sample do not go to school. On June 30, CARE International also launched two reports; a baseline assessment of skills and markets opportunities for youth in Azraq Camp and an assessment of the Situation of Urban Syrian Refugees and vulnerable Jordanian host communities five years into the Syria Crisis.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence

IASC GBV Guidelines: An evaluation on the implementation of IASC GBV guidelines (2005) was conducted in June focusing on health and shelter sectors. The purpose of the evaluation was to determine the extent to which the humanitarian community has adhered to the minimum standards of GBV prevention and response in the Syria crisis and responded to the needs of GBV survivors, as outlined in the 2005 GBV Guidelines in the last 4 years of intervention including through 3RP and SRP. The performance of the two sectors in GBV prevention and response will be compared against the minimum standards outlined in the 2005 Guidelines (IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings). The evaluation also team met with members of the SGBV SWG, donors and conducted field visits to project areas.

For Mental Health and Psychosocial Services (MHPSS), see under Health above.



SHELTER

Urban Shelter projects: As reported last month, and based on a review by the Ministry of Interior, all approvals through of urban shelter projects by the Inter-Ministerial Committee are on hold. The issue remains under review / discussion with the Government.

Jordan Response Plan: the Shelter component of the Jordan Response Plan 2016-2018 was submitted.

Zaatari Camp Update:

- Camp restructuring is ongoing. Shelter and household assessments are being conducted, followed by shelter assistance and relocation of households.
- Of 1,040 households visited, 278 HH require shelter assistance, 182 HH received a new shelter and 500 HH were relocated.

Azraq Camp Update:

- Concrete flooring in all villages completed.
- Maintenance of shelters ongoing (260 shelters fixed in June).
- Additional shades in the markets of V3 & V6.
- Proposal to reuse spillover water from tap stands for greening is prepared.
- Site developments works ongoing.



WASH

Country-wide: Throughout June, the provision of essential WASH services by UNICEF and partners continued to approximately 102,492 people, including 56,577 children, in Zaatari, Azraq, King Abdullah Park and Cyber City camps. These included the daily provision of over 3.6 million litres of treated water, maintenance of sanitation facilities, collection and disposal of over 2.2 million litres of wastewater and 800 m³ of solid waste, as well as the dissemination of key WASH messages in communities.

Coordination:

- The Refugee and Resilience chapters of the Jordan Response Plan are being developed and coordinated by UNICEF as Lead Agency of the WASH sector.
- The Sanitation Vulnerability map has been developed and is currently being reviewed by the Government – the vulnerability criteria used include the risk to the wastewater treatment plants, sewer coverage, the density of Syrian refugees, the population as well as water basin protection zones. The

maps will be of critical importance to assist the government and sector partners to prioritise interventions

- Work on the National WASH in Schools standards is underway
- The preliminary report on the nationwide WASH in Schools assessment has been shared for review

Host Communities:

- Rehabilitation of Zarqa water pumping station in Zarqa has been completed which is now benefitting approximately 505,000 people with increased access to water as a result of the increased pumping efficiency of the system
- Rehabilitation of the Asara and Swellmeh water pumping stations is underway and scheduled to be completed in August
- Work on WASH facilities in six schools is underway and expected to be handed over to the Government by mid-July

Zaatari Camp Update:

- Water trucking continued with one minor disruption (due to the continued reduction in external water as a result of the operationalisation of the new Zaatari borehole) which was promptly addressed
- The new seasonal water allocation was introduced to coincide with Ramadan, when the water demand rises dramatically, which has led to an increase in the allocation of 10%, which has been well received by the refugees
- Water quality monitoring has been significantly scaled-up as a result of an increase in the number of cases of watery diarrhoea, complemented by disinfection of the public water tanks (which takes place every six months)
- Mobilisation activities continued with a renewed focus on food hygiene and storage, as well as handwashing and water conservation, as a response to the increased cases of diarrhoea, which was carried out in collaboration with the Health sector. Mobilisation on the water and wastewater networks continued which has been supported by visible progress on the infrastructure increasing the confidence of the refugees that the networks are underway
- Waste-water network design criteria have been finalised and approved by the Government, which includes some context-specific deviations from the national standards for construction of sewerage systems

Azraq Camp Update:

- A handwashing campaign with children was conducted amongst WASH partners
- Third party monitoring was also undertaken in Azraq to assess the condition and functionality of the water taps. Similar monitoring was conducted in Zaatari.
- Final works are ongoing for the Azraq wastewater treatment plant which is expected to be operational by early August
- The water quality of the new borehole has been confirmed as acceptable and the license is expected imminently.

III. Contact

For more information, please 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