



## Inter-Sector Working Group Jordan

<b>Date/time/venue</b>	Sunday, 3 May 2020, 13:30-15:00 WebEx
<b>Attendees</b>	Inter-Sector Coordinator [UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Unit, IACU], Basic Needs (UNHCR, IOM), Education (UNICEF), Protection (UNHCR), Livelihoods (UNHCR), Food Security (WFP), WASH (UNICEF, ACF), Shelter (NRC), SGBV (UNHCR, UNFPA), CRTF (UNHCR, IOM), RH (UNFPA), JHF (OCHA)

### Meeting Note and Action Points

#### 1. ISWG Work Plan 2020

IACU appreciated inputs from ISWG members to ISWG Work Plan 2020. The updated draft of the Work Plan will be shared for their final feedback. It is suggested that in case no comments are received by mid-May, the document will be considered final.

#### 2. Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA)

IACU and Food Security sector briefed participants on the methodology and main findings of the Rapid Needs Assessment, which was undertaken jointly by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF. The document can be found here: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/75926>.

The RNA was designed as phone-based survey targeting 1,124 vulnerable households: Syrian and non-Syrian refugee households living outside of camps, non-Jordanians and migrant workers living in Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) as well as Jordanian households. The joint report focused on different sectors (Food Security, Livelihoods, Health, WASH, Education and Protection) and provided for general conclusions. Despite the fact that the Jordanian government has been very effective in flattening the COVID infection curve, with one of the lowest infection rates in the world, COVID19 placed stress on systems that were already stressed before the crisis.

Food Security sector: The outbreak of COVID-19 reduced the access to food for all population groups. 32% of respondents indicated that they did not have enough to eat in the past week due to lack of money, of food stocks (40% of households had no stocks, while a majority had stocks for a week or less), and travel restrictions. For refugee households' levels of poor and borderline food consumption increased compared to September.

Livelihoods sector: It is concluded that current loss of access to livelihoods and limited savings will see a greater dependence on humanitarian cash assistance, as the number of vulnerable households will increase (46% of Jordanians and 35% of refugees reported a secure job to return to once the curfew is lifted).

WASH sector: COVID-19 and the resulting curfew have led to an increase of around 40% in water consumption nationally due to people spending more time at home and applying enhanced hygiene and cleaning practices. In communities such as ITS where 46% lack access to improved water supply and 30% to improved sanitation, the transmission risk is heightened due to economic hardship, with communities relying heavily on daily agricultural work as their main source of income and facing challenges in accessing health services.

Health sector: Access to health information and services is found to be of critical importance in the context of COVID-19. Yet, the survey showed gaps in awareness, along with challenges in access to both health services and essential medicines, especially among female-headed households and ITS communities.

Education sector: In Jordan, while remote learning strategies have been put in place by the Government, they heavily relied on TV and online learning modalities. The assessment confirmed that children in the hardest-to-reach and most vulnerable communities are not always able to access these opportunities due to a digital gap. Beyond connectivity, there is a need to provide quality online content, teacher training and support parental engagement.

Protection sector: The assessment indicated that in Jordan children's well-being has been negatively impacted by the crisis and resulting curfew, with an increase in the signs of distress reported among children, in family tensions and in violence against children specifically related to COVID-19.

Generally, the ability of Jordan to host large refugee populations increasingly depends (and always depended) on the support of the international community. It is found that the Government and international institutions supported by humanitarian donors will be at the forefront of maintaining stability and ensuring the basic necessities of the most vulnerable.

The initial focus of the rapid assessment has been urban, while it is intended to consequently expand the joint assessments to broader populations and to engage additional stakeholders who are interested to contribute to the joint efforts.

IACU highlighted that a number of rapid assessments conducted by various partners resulted in findings similar to those of the RNA. The organizations are encouraged to upload documents illustrating results of their rapid assessments at the Needs Assessment Registry (NAR) page of the data sharing portal, thus granting public access to the important data that may feed better programming and optimize resources.

### **3. Jordan Humanitarian Fund (JHF)**

Ms. Amani Salah, OCHA, informed on the launch of the Jordan Humanitarian Fund for COVID-19 closely intertwined with the COVID 3RP and Global Humanitarian Plan. The JHF current budget already obtained allocations amounting to USD 2,5 mln, but OCHA expects more contributions and is actively engaging with donors in this regard. JHF is now accepting applications from NGOs, which are interested in accessing the Fund focusing on two or three sector priorities and covering persons with specific needs. OCHA invited sectors to define the sector priorities so as to allow OCHA to finalize all priority areas by the end of the week.

The local organizations are encouraged, thus strengthening the localization component. The template of previous JHF allocations will be shared with the partners to facilitate formulation of sector priorities.

Using the opportunity of OCHA attending the meeting, the participants enquired whether access to projects' approval will be granted, considering that JORISS system is not completely operational yet. Ms. Salah responded that on the exceptional basis certain projects can be and are approved.

### **4. Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB)**

IACU reminded the participants that normally the establishment of MEB starts in April, but in 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak it is slightly delayed and shall be carried out in May – June. The sectors are invited to update their MEB figures with consideration of actual amounts and expenditures that should be maintained in 2020. For reference, the MEB 2019 is shared.

Livelihoods mentioned that due to the hygiene and transportation measures applied by the GoJ in relation to COVID-19, the MEB will see the increase of transportation costs. IACU recommended that sectors apply consultative approach to study the cross-cutting issues (including transportation costs) and ensure that no duplications occur.

IACU referred sectors to the available resources, such as VAF, WFP shops and the GoJ DOS, and recommended sectors to create task teams that would build sector specific MEB inputs, IACU can be engaged in

consultations. The MEB document should be compiled by mid-July to ensure timely contributions to the JRP'2020 process.

**5. AOB**

The ISWG meetings will continue to take place on a monthly basis on each first Sunday of the month. The next ISWG meeting will be held on Sunday, 7 June.

Action Points	Responsible	Timeframe
Share JHF related set of documents to facilitate submission of proposals	IACU	ASAP
Carry out internal discussions, develop and submit JHF proposals to OCHA	Sectors	By 10 May
Sector coordinators to provide input on the draft Work Plan 2020	Sectors	ASAP
Check with JHF when the JHF funding for 2019 projects will be approved/released	IACU	ASAP
Build sector MEB inputs	Sectors	May - June