Shelter Working Group
June 7, 2023
Attendees: IOCC, UNHCR, NRC, Caritas, Qatar Charity Jordan

- **World Environment Day**
    - Bernard, UNHCR Chair, gave a presentation on World Environment Day. This presentation was also given at the monthly Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG). Discussion focused on the impact of plastic and included the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse, and recycle), how COVID-19 has changed the way we use products (particularly disposable products more), and the need for using the knowledge chain to raise awareness. Members were asked to consider how the topics covered in the presentation, particularly on reducing the use of plastic, could be incorporated into programming and also agency-level work.

- **Inter-Sector Linkages – Shelter & WASH**
    - Coordination is ongoing, particularly between UNHCR Chair of the Shelter Working Group and UNICEF Chair of the WASH Working Group. Through the Shelter Working Group 4Ws, the sector has an updated mapping of actors that are also implementing WASH programming. The WASH Working Group is conducting a similar exercise. Following completion of the mapping, plans will proceed with a workshop to consider joint programming and area-based approaches. The coordination between these two groups aligns with the modernization plan and the direction work under the Jordan Response Plan (JPR) is moving in Jordan.
    - Updates on mapping + plans for joint workshop and area-based approach
    - Alignment with modernization plan + updated JRP and direction going

- **Updates from the ISWG**
    - During the ISWG, information was provided related to increase discussion of potential returns of Syrian refugees throughout Jordan. Currently, there is not a significant increase in returns of refugees from Jordan to Syria. Since 2018, approximately 48,000 refugees have returned. Post-COVID-19, returns are around 4,000 – 5,000 per year. The focus on voluntary returns remains, as well as considerations of safety. A FAQ is being developed to respond to increased inquiries and rumors among refugees. This document will ensure harmonized messaging when sharing information with refugees.

- **ActivityInfo Reporting**
    - Partners reviewed options for reporting on ActivityInfo for 2023 and agreed on a preference for quarterly reporting. This information will be shared back with the ISWG for consideration.

- **Partner Updates**
    - ***Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)*** reported that work is ongoing in the camp and host community. In relation to topic of World Environment Day, NRC shared information about two initiatives linked with environment internally. NRC is providing a Sustainability & Environment training for all staff, led by the NRC shelter team. NRC is also updating its assessments for shelter to look at environmental risks, particularly by area, i.e. Irbid and then have an action plan.

- ***International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)*** reported that its cash-for-rent project is ongoing in Amman. Urgent cases in Amman can be referred to IOCC for consideration. IOCC flagged that the Yemeni family whose shelter burned down who was previously raised by Working Group members will be receiving cash-for-rent support. Those partners able to provide other types of support are encouraged to reach out to IOCC to be connected with the family. The full list of needs is included in the previous month's minutes of meeting.

- ***UNHCR*** reported receiving 55 new caravans to be installed in Zaatari Camp from Helping Hands. UNHCR reported that there are not less than 700 people on the waiting list in need of new shelters. With NRC, UNHCR handed over the new health clinic in Azraq Camp, serving both Village 3 and Village 6. In Azraq Camp, UNHCR repaired 87 shelters and provided 35 new, rehabilitated shelters. In Zaatari, 63 shelters have been fabricated for the camp's needs. In both camps, rodent and vector control campaigns are ongoing. Road construction work is ongoing in Zaatari Camp for urgent/prioritized roads. With UNICEF, UNHCR is drilling a new borehole in Azraq Camp. Water production is 50 cubic meters per hour. UNHCR is waiting for the water quality testing to be shared. UNHCR finalized an accessibility project in its Irbid offices to better serve the community (i.e. for the registration unit) with a focus on reaching persons with disabilities (PWDs) according to international standards.
    - As an action item, UNHCR will invite Helping Hands to join the Shelter Working Group.

- ***Caritas*** reported their cash programming is ongoing with a focus on those who have received a written, court-ordered threat of eviction. Caritas is targeting 200 households (70% Syrian refugees) for six months.

- ***Habitat for Humanity (HfH)*** reported that they are in the final stage of rehabilitation of 100 homes. HfH has also finished 12 communal projects, including schools, centers, safe spaces, CBOs, etc. With MoSD, they are supporting orphans and vulnerable families. HfH has two newly constructed green houses – one in Azraq (that utilizes solar) and one in Irbid (with a focus on addressing water that includes a rainwater harvesting system). The Home Equals Campaign launched on May 15. Additionally, HfH held an event for World Refugee Day.

- **Qatar Charity Jordan** joined the Shelter Working Group. They provided a brief overview of their work. Qatar Charity Jordan implements health, education, shelter, livelihoods, and protection programming in Jordan. Three months ago, they met with UNHCR to discuss provision of caravans to the camps. During COVID-19, Qatar Charity Jordan provided 400 caravans to the MoH and police to use on borders and as medical centers in response to the pandemic. They planned that, after COVID-19, the caravans would be collected by Qatar Charity Jordan and given to vulnerable people or sold and the funds would be used to support those in need. Qatar Charity Jordan is the in the process of collecting the used caravans and would like to donate them to Zaatari Camp. Thus far, they have donated more than 50 caravans to people in urban areas in coordination with Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization (JHCO). Qatar Charity Jordan knows that they size of their caravans is somewhat different to that of those currently in Zaatari Camp; however, they would like to coordinate with UNHCR on how to move forward. There are around 200 that can be recovered and provided. Qatar Charity Jordan has many other projects in Jordan; for example, a potential project in Zaatari Camp to build 1,000 latrines, funded by the Qatar

Fund for Development. Under WASH, they are considering distribution of hygiene kits in Azraq Camp. There is also the potential to install solar for 1,000 shelters in Azraq Camp as a pilot project. Other potential projects include a paving project in Zaatari Camp, additional of electric buses to transport people in Azraq Camp, as well as charging stations for electric bicycles. Qatar Charity Jordan has been working in Jordan since 2016 but under JHCO. They are registered on their own as of 2021. Qatar Charity Jordan will do a presentation at the next working group meeting on their work.

- Working Group Chair and Co-Chair raised the need to follow-up with missing members, including UN Habitat, Islamic Relief, Care, and others.

- **Updates on Sector Strategy + Review & Endorsement of Indicators**
  - Significant discussion took place regarding indicators developed by the Strategic Committee (SC), following revision of the sector strategy.
  - Following debate and discussion, the following indicators were agreed on and shared with the ISWG:
    - Objective 1: Vulnerable refugees have access to physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic services
      - 1.1 # of refugee households empowered to undertake shelter construction or maintenance
      - 1.2 # of communal structures maintained or improved
    - Objective 2: Vulnerable refugees and host community have access to adequate and affordable housing and basic services
      - 2.1 # of households receiving shelter assistance
      - 2.2 # of communal structures maintained or improved
      - 2.3 # of households that have security of tenure for their shelter option

- **AOB**
  - Due to the Eid holidays, the next Working Group meeting will take place on Wednesday, July 5, at 11 AM at NRC.