

GBV SWG MoM – 28.01.2024

Agencies present: UNHCR, UNFPA, UNRWA, IOM, UNICEF, UPP, Caritas Jordan, LWF, JOSA, IRC, IMC, SCJ, AWO.



Agenda

- Refugee Returns to Syria
- Coordination updates (Updates from the field)
- Monitoring and JFT Activity Info updates
- TF GBV Glossary presentation by JOSA
- 2025 GBV SWG Workplan
- AOB

Agenda items		Action points
Refugee Returns to Syria	<p>UNHCR Updates on Refugee Returns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As of 20 January, more than 20,100 refugees registered with UNHCR have returned from Jordan to Syria since 8 December ● 27% of refugees in the region intend to return home in the next 12 months. This is a significant increase from the last RPIS conducted in April 2024, which found only 1.7% of refugees intended to return in the next year. The full survey results will be published by UNHCR in the coming weeks. ● UNHCR launched a pilot voluntary return initiative, with a focus on tracking experiences and support needs. ● Humanitarian aid remains insufficient, and livelihood challenges persist, limiting refugees' ability to sustain themselves upon return. <p>Key Protection Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Misinformation and rumors are impacting decision-making among refugees. ● GBV risks and negative coping mechanisms need to be prioritized, especially with a potential increase in female-headed households as men return first to assess conditions. ● Cross-border coordination: UNHCR is ensuring that refugees have access to essential information on available services before they return. <p>Border Operations & Protection Measures</p>	

- **Jaber border crossing** operates from **9 AM to 6 PM**; UNHCR staff provide **counseling services** to returnees.
- **GBV SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures)** are being developed to include provisions for **individual interviews with female survivors** at the border.
- A **CP (Child Protection) officer** will be deployed as part of the return response.
- Discussions with the **Jordanian government to allow one family member to return temporarily for a one-month visit**, with UNHCR advocating for extended stay options for **heads of households**.
- **Mixed marriage cases** (Jordanian-Syrian families) are excluded from refugee return tracking.
- UNHCR Syria is coordinating efforts on the other side of the border.

Transport & Return Logistics

- **Pilot bus initiative**: The second return convoy, carrying **43 individuals**, successfully reached **Daraa, Homs, and Damascus**.
- **Private transportation** is permitted for returnees from **Village 5 in Azraq Camp**. **IOM continues to provide buses and trucks**, expanding transportation support to open areas.
- Coordination with **SRD Office** ensures that **children's custody cases** are resolved before departure.

GBV & Child Protection Considerations

- **UNICEF** will collect **data on child marriage trends**, while NGOs are encouraged to **report on new negative coping mechanisms**.
- **Families with active resettlement cases** have had their processes **paused**.
- The **recent U.S. funding suspension** presents additional challenges for humanitarian operations.
- UNHCR will incorporate **child marriage and custody concerns** into the GBV SOPs.
- Proposal to develop **two-pager guidance documents** for agencies on **CPGBV management in the context of returns**.

Open Questions & Follow-ups

- **IOM** raised concerns regarding the **"go-and-see" option** for refugees considering return.
- **UNRWA** requested data on **mixed marriages in camps** and the number of families who have returned.
- **UNHCR** confirmed that return numbers are increasing, indicating positive trends, but no figures are available for **mixed marriage cases**.

<p>Coordination updates (Updates from the field)</p>	<p><i>Azraq & EJC</i></p> <p>The Joint Protection Working Group (PWG) & CP-GBV SWG – Azraq meeting was held on January 22, 2025, covering key topics including return updates, follow-up on the Unified Approach recommendations, achievements and challenges from 2024, and the 2025 action plan. Updates from EJC (NHF & TDH) and agency reports were also shared. A PSEA training was conducted in December 2024 at Azraq Camp for AMR medical staff and volunteers. Additionally, a meeting took place at Azraq Camp with CPGBV, health agencies, and the FPJD officer to finalize the CPGBV referral pathway mechanism in alignment with national CPGBV SOPs. The EJC Monthly Camp Coordination Meeting on January 20, 2025, at the TDH site, addressed return updates, 2024 achievements and challenges, the 2025 work plan, community engagement efforts, and agency updates. It was also noted that the FPJD office in EJC has not yet opened.</p> <p>The return of refugees to Syria remains a priority for 2025, with a focus on enhancing the response for CPGBV return cases requiring high-level protection support from case management agencies. Reports indicate a notable increase in returnees from both Azraq and EJC camps. On January 23, 2025, a convoy of 102 refugees (37 families) returned to Syria from Village 5 (V5) in Azraq Camp using IOM transportation (3 buses and 5 trucks). Additionally, it was observed that more refugees are approaching the Sharia Court in Azraq to reissue Jordanian documents such as marriage, divorce, and custody papers, particularly after the fall of the previous regime. The December 2024 return figures for Azraq Camp stood at 133 refugees, while in January 2025, 909 refugees (270 families) returned.</p> <p><i>Irbid</i></p> <p>The Irbid Protection Working Group (IPWG) meeting was held in person at the UNHCR Irbid Office. 15 organizations attended the meeting, presented the achievements of the protection working 2024, The new work plan, service matrix, referral pathway, and prevention activities tools were presented during the meeting, and the members were encouraged to update the documents. Discussed the current situation overview and UNHCR position on return. Co-chair Voting was conducted, IRC and IFH got the high number of votes. Therefore, they will co-chair IPWG along with UNHCR. Dina Abu-Zreaq d.abuzreaq@ifh.org.jo and Rana Al-Motairi <rana.almutairi@rescue.org.</p> <p><i>Zaatari:</i> N/A</p> <p><i>Mafraq</i></p> <p>The CP-GBV meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 2025, and will cover key agenda items, including the selection of the Working Group Chair and Co-Chair, updates on child marriage, voting on the preferred meeting day and time, and partner updates.</p>	<p>MoM will be uploaded on UNHCR’s Data P Portal</p>
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<p>Monitoring and JFT Activity Info updates</p>	<p>UNHCR updated the members on the Activity info, which serves as a reporting tool for organizations to input two types of data: funding agencies and implementing agencies. However, many organizations have yet to report their data. Currently, the module is in the planning phase for the 2025 Appeal, with only five organizations having submitted their appeals so far. The 2025 PLAN refresh training session is scheduled for next week, and an additional monitoring session will be available next month. The deadline for submitting the 2025 Appeal is in February. The co-chairs will share the invitation for the session, and it was emphasized that filling the appeal is crucial in identifying funding gaps, which will support advocacy efforts.</p>	
<p>TF GBV Glossary presentation by JOSA</p>	<p>The JOSA team presented the recently released TF GBV Glossary, developed to provide a standardized reference for all TFGBV-related terms. The team outlined the development process, which included a literature review, translation, localization of terms, and consultations with key stakeholders, culminating in the categorization of terms.</p> <p>During the discussion, UNICEF inquired whether the glossary would be linked to penal codes. In response, Yara emphasized that the glossary represents a foundational step in addressing this form of GBV. Moving forward, efforts should focus on informing service providers about these terms to enhance their awareness and capacity in delivering relevant services.</p>	<p>TFGBV Glossary available here</p>
<p>2025 GBV SWG Workplan</p>	<p>The Co-Chairs provided a quick overview of the draft 2025 workplan, inviting members to share any additional requests or priorities. Key discussions included the need to update the Terms of Reference (ToR) and requesting Sub-National Groups to submit their updated workplans or 2025.</p> <p>Several updates were shared, including changes in referral pathways, as the Amaali App is no longer funded by UNHCR. UNFPA is exploring a new national-level app led by the government to ensure inclusivity, though this transition may result in a temporary gap. The 4Ws mapping is due for an update. Discussions also addressed the Safe Referrals Training of Trainers (ToT), which took place in 2023 and was replicated in 2024. Members were invited to express interest in another Safe Referrals ToT if needed.</p> <p>Key reporting and planning updates included the release of the GBVIMS 2023 report, with work underway on the 2024 report. The Gap Analysis conducted in October 2024 was reviewed, with members asked to consider whether it should be continued this year or replaced with an alternative assessment. Capacity-building needs were discussed, emphasizing specialized training based on feedback from the Capacity Building Survey.</p>	<p>available here</p>

	<p>Advocacy efforts will focus on ensuring continued access to essential services, particularly in the current humanitarian context. Upcoming campaigns include International Women’s Day (IWD) and the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV. Other planned priorities include updating the Clinical Management of Rape (CMR) guidelines, and holding the annual joint meeting with the National Task Force on Child Marriage. Livelihood support for GBV survivors remains a key priority, with UNFPA and JNCW collaborating on a policy paper. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for returns are also under review.</p> <p>Finally, discussions emphasized the importance of coordination to ensure continuity of GBV services across Irbid, East Amman, and Mafraq, avoiding duplication of efforts and improving service accessibility. Co Chairs highlighted the need for stronger coordination mechanisms to prevent service disruptions during the current situation.</p>	
AOB	N/A	