

JORDAN INTER-SECTOR WORKING GROUP UPDATE

May 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



Vulnerability Assessment Framework: The Vulnerability Assessment Framework, or VAF, baseline report was launched on 19 May 2015. Under the auspices of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, the Government of Jordan has welcomed the VAF and has incorporated it into the Government's Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment process, building up to the 2016-2018 Jordan Response Plan.

The results of VAF underline the extreme difficulties refugees are facing in Jordan. 86% of Syrian refugees in urban areas are living below the Jordanian poverty line. Over 80% of refugees are using crisis or emergency coping strategies. Having exhausted their savings, refugee families are reducing their food intake, sending family members - including children - out to beg or resorting to high risk, illegal or socially degrading activities to earn money.

The VAF Baseline Survey can be downloaded at: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8844>

Key Welfare Findings from the Baseline: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8845>

Power-point from the VAF Launch: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8837>

Welfare and Population Maps: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8825>

Universal Indicator Maps, All Regions: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8826>

Basic Needs Maps, All Regions: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8831>

Education Maps, All Regions: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8832>

Food Security Maps, All Regions: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8833>

Health Maps, All Regions: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8834>

Shelter Maps, All Regions: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8835>

WASH Maps, All Regions: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8836>

All of these documents, as well as existing Guidance notes, can be found at the VAF portal page: http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=69

Contingency Planning: Developed through area based plans at the Border, Raba Sarhan, and Azraq, together with addition information on internal transfers from urban to camps, the final Contingency Plan has been completed and reviewed by the IATF. The document is internal to the humanitarian community, and available from tyler@unhcr.org.

Coordination Capacity Trainings: The latest round of UNHCR Coordination trainings for UN agencies and NGO sector, camp and urban coordinators was held between 26 and 28 May. The trainings are accompanied by a toolkit on refugee coordination, available at <http://www.coordinationtoolkit.org/>

II. Sector information



BASIC NEEDS

Zaatari Camp Update:

- Discussions on Cash for Work (CFW) harmonization in Zaatari have resumed. 6 NGOs submitted information on available CFW opportunities. UNHCR will facilitate centralized information management of beneficiary records. All actors offering cash for work opportunities in the camp are encouraged to be part of discussions which continue on Tuesday 9 June 2015.
- The 'Needs Based' Working Group endorsed guidelines on Post Distribution Monitoring and Exit interviews for NFIs.
- Baby Diaper Distribution targeting children 0-2 years is ongoing.
- In early June, 2,800 Solar lanterns will be distributed to vulnerable families; including special protection risks and children sitting for Tawjihi exams.



EDUCATION

Strategic Advisory Group: The ESWG elected 3 INGOs who will be part of the SAG. Other members include SCJ, representing national agencies, UNESCO, UNHCR and UNICEF. This group of agencies are tasked to provide technical assistance to the sector.

Higher education survey: UNESCO conducted a survey to map out High Education needs among Syrian refugees in Jordan. This information will be used to design future HE initiatives. The survey was conducted through SMS and web portal. Results of this exercise will be shared with all sector members.



FOOD SECURITY

WFP Assistance: Due to lack of funding, WFP was forced to reduce the voucher value for the extremely vulnerable in communities from JOD20 to JOD15. Vulnerable beneficiaries received JOD10; and regular assistance levels were maintained in the camps. 47,117 eligible appeals were filed following WFP's April targeting. WFP is working closely with the VAF team to accelerate the review process through the development of auto-inclusion methodology.

Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME): Preliminary 2015 CFSME findings indicate a drastic deterioration of the food security situation among Syrian refugees in Jordan. In comparison with 2014, food insecure and vulnerable to food insecurity households increasing from 48% to 81%, and the poor and borderline food consumption score rising from 10% to 25%. The draft report will be available at the end of June.



HEALTH

Border Guards SOPs: The Health chapter for Border Guard Standard Operating Procedures on Receiving Syrian Refugees was drafted after a workshop in mid-May. The importance of prioritized entry for medical cases including those who are medically vulnerable such as infants under six month and women in the last trimester of pregnancy was emphasized. Approval by the government is pending.

UNHCR's Exceptional Care Committee: met on the 28th of May to review high cost secondary and tertiary care treatment. 51 non-emergency cases were reviewed of which 42 were approved (Syrians 37 and Iraqis

5). During the same month 98 emergency cases received pre-approval (Syrian 78 cases, Iraqi 11 cases, Sudan 6 cases, and other 3 cases). These are less than April when 63 non-emergency cases were approved and 120 emergency cases received pre approval.

The impact of the new health policy on Syrian utilization of services was reviewed. In summary:

- Reduction in use of Ministry of Health facilities but still significant burden
- Increase in use in private sector facilities and of some NGO/ RC facilities
- Costs of providing services for health sector actors has increased even with vulnerability targeting
- Some of camp return may be related to contribution of health care to overall cost of living
- No information on key outcomes yet (coverage of services, mortality)

Camp Updates:

- The first part of School Health project is almost complete. In summary: All first class students received a physical and medical check-up and polio, tetanus/diphtheria vaccination as well as measles mumps and rubella catch up if they have not received before. All 4th and 7th class students received a physical and medical check-up and all 10th class students received a physical and medical check-up and tetanus/diphtheria vaccination as well as measles, mumps and rubella catch up if they have not received before.
- The final polio campaign was held in April may with the aim of reaching children under five years in high risk areas with polio vaccine. There were 273,022 Jordanian children under five years vaccinated against polio (90.4% coverage) and 77,604 Syrian children (94% coverage as well as 22,996 children of other nationalities. In Azraq camp 3,631 children received polio vaccine (coverage was 85.7%) and in Zaatari there were 18,492 children vaccinated (coverage was 99.1%).

Reproductive Health

UNFPA started roundtable discussions in Zaatari to be conducted on a monthly basis. The 1st session was conducted jointly with UNHCR on syndromic approach to management of STIs and HIS reporting. The second was on early detection of high risk pregnancy using Copoland form to ensure timely referral. UNFPA in coordination with its partner IFH also conducted three training courses during May on Minimal Initial Service Package (MISP), RH protocols, Family planning counseling.

In addition, UNFPA celebrated the International Midwives Day in Zaatari through conducting health awareness session on important role of Midwives in life saving of mothers and babies in camp.

Nutrition

Save the Children Jordan completed three capacity building workshops with MOH in Amman, Karak, and Aqaba on infant and young child feeding. Each workshop was 3 days long and included 12 MoH staff (nurses, midwives, nutritionists). The aim was to unify IYCF messages and facilitate collaboration.

Save the Children Jordan continued their new arrivals screening in Raba Sarhan and in May screened seen 290 children aged 6-59 months with MUAC and 53 pregnant and lactating women (PLW); on severe acute malnourished children and two moderately acute malnourished children were identified and referred. Overall 1.03% of children were found to be malnourished by MUAC this indicating no change in the nutritional status of new arrivals. . There were two moderately malnourished women amongst the PLWs



PROTECTION

New exemption of fines on undocumented marriages: A recent Cabinet decision has announced a time-bound exemption from penalties for couples who have not officially documented their marriages under the Jordanian Personal Status Law. Under the terms of the Cabinet decision, couples can approach a Sharia Court to apply for the exemption from 13 May to 13 July 2015. This Cabinet decision is the second such exemption issued by the Jordanian Government – a previous exemption was announced in November

2014, and provided a 2-month period for couples to apply for regularization of their marriages with the Sharia Court. As a result of the 2014 Cabinet decision, 1,947 couples (including 1,032 couples in Zaatari Camp alone) were able to benefit from the exemption and officially register their marriages in the Sharia Court. This second exemption will enable Syrians (and other nationalities) who were unable to benefit from the first exemption to approach Sharia Courts in order to register their marriages legally. Many Syrians in Jordan lack important civil documentation such as birth, marriage and death certificates due to lack of awareness of Government procedures and challenges in providing the necessary documentation in order to register important events. Protection partners are mobilizing the refugee community to raise awareness on the importance of marriage registration, and civil documentation more generally, through Town Hall Meetings, information leaflets, legal awareness-sessions and SMS messages to refugees.

This important legal development will enable Syrians to document their marriages, a prerequisite for documenting a child's birth, thereby reducing the risk of statelessness. These exemptions follow significant advocacy on the issue of civil status documentation, and are based upon the recommendations of a Round Table Discussion on Documentation of Marriages organized by the Syrian Refugee Affairs Directorate (SRAD) and the Sharia Court, with the support of UNHCR and the Forced & Early Marriage Task Force in June 2014. UNHCR and protection partners have increased their activities to ensure that all refugees have civil documentation as part of efforts to minimize the risk of statelessness among the refugee population in Jordan. These activities include the joint UNHCR/UNICEF/SRAD birth registration campaign, increased support to the Sharia Court and Office of the Civil Registrar (including through their regular presence in Zaatari and Azraq), and advocacy with the Jordanian Government on issues related to late birth registration. All of these activities form part of the Refugee Protection Sector's efforts to contribute to the #I Belong campaign, UNHCR's global campaign to end statelessness in the next 10 years.

Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA): The Inter-agency PSEA network held a meeting where they revised their TORs, work plan and priority areas which include; SOP referral mechanisms, awareness with refugees, complaint mechanisms, setting standards common training materials for PSEA focal points and agencies' staff.

Engaging Men & Boys in SGBV Prevention & Response: The SGBV Sub-Working Group (SGBV SWG) organized the first workshop in the Middle East on "Engaging men and boys in SGBV prevention and response" for SGBV SWG members. The two-day workshop was facilitated by the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (AoR) Regional Advisor with the support of the Senior Gender Capacity Advisor to the Inter-Agency Refugee Response (GenCap) and the SGBV SWG coordinators. The 27 participants actively discussed strategies and tools to engage men and boys in SGBV prevention and response, which had been identified as a priority area for 2015 by the SGBV SWG. A briefing note and action plan are being developed to guide the interventions of the SGBV SWG during the upcoming 6 months.

Regional Workshop on Child Protection: A regional workshop on child protection jointly organized by UNHCR and UNICEF took place in Amman on 20 and 21 May 2015. The workshop was an opportunity to share good practices, challenges, experiences and tools among Child Protection actors in the MENA region. From Jordan, UNHCR, UNICEF, Save the Children International and International Medical Corps participated and presented good practices achieved at the inter-agency level through the humanitarian response, including the development of the Inter-Agency Emergency CP/SGBV SOPs, the Alternative Care Guidelines, child protection case management information management (CPIMS) and the joint UNICEF/UNHCR campaign for the prevention of child recruitment.

SOP trainings: Jordan River Foundation and UNICEF conducted a refresher training for child protection actors on the SOPs from May 17-20, 2015.

Spontaneous Returns from the Camps: Spontaneous returns to Syria are facilitated through the Jordanian authorities from Zaatari and Azraq Camp. During the past three months, the numbers of refugees returning to Syria from the camp have doubled each month. Zaatari received nearly 2,000 individuals approaching

the authorities to apply for return (urban and Zaatari), while Azraq camp has processed 435 individuals. The number of returning refugees for the month of May 2015 is almost 120 % higher compared with the numbers of refugees returning during April 2015 and 110 % higher compared to those who returned during March 2015. The Protection Sector is assessing the reasons behind this increase in spontaneous returns to Syria.

[For Mental Health and Psychosocial Services \(MHPSS\), see under Health above.](#)



SHELTER

Urban Shelter projects: 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 is currently under review / discussion with the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. A

Zaatari Camp Update:

- 197 caravans with concrete flooring and 200 mobile were distributed
- 186 caravans with concrete flooring installed but not distributed yet
- Under the restructuring plan; 209 HH assessed and 202 caravans relocated

Azraq Camp Update:

- Concrete flooring in 370 T-shelters in Village 3 completed (concrete flooring for the whole of village-5 completed in April)
- Maintenance for 365 shelters completed (of which 186 vacant and 179 allocated shelters)
- A Maintenance tender is issued for T-shelters and premises
- Works at SRAD compound is on-going
- Additional shades in market areas in V3 & V6 provided



WASH

Zaatari Camp Update:

- Water supply in the camp is stable. Boreholes 1 & 2 are fully functional, with Borehole 3 is functioning with 400 m3 / day. The supply for boreholes will be scaled up within the coming weeks.
- The WASH sector is finalizing the contingency plan for water supply.
- ACTED is working on phase 1 of water network. Still in the excavation stage.
- For Sanitation: Desludging is on-going, with on average 1000 m3 per day Zaatari WWTP, and the rest to the external treatment plant.
- Hygiene Promotion: Routine hygiene promotion and community mobilizations activities are on-going in all the districts, by the district focal implementing partners. Partners are preparing for the World Environment Day which is celebrated globally on 5th June. WASH will give a presentation in the next Camp Coordination Meeting on the water network and contingency plans.

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