

## ISWG Meeting Note December 2022



Inter-Sector  
Working Group  
Jordan

### ISWG Meeting Note and Action Points

Date / Time / Venue	Sunday, 04 December 2022, 13:00-16:00, UNHCR office and MS Teams
Attendees	UNHCR Deputy Representative, Inter-Sector Coordinator, plus leads/co-leads of the Shelter, WASH, Protection, Food Security, Education Basic Needs, GBV, Health, SRH, SGFPN, UNDP Nexus Advisor, and Inclusive Growth Team Leader, UNDP Resilience Inter-Sector Coordinator, UNHCR Transition Officer, UNHCR VAF Officer, JIF Coordinator

The ISWG meeting took place on Sunday, December 04, and was convened to discuss the way forward of the ISWG reforms initiated with the workshop on the “future of the Inter Sector Coordination Working Group”.

A **refresher of the key recommendations was presented** by the ISWG lead together with the outcomes of bilateral technical/sectors consultations which took place after the workshop as follows:

- ISWG to be more strategic, ensure humanitarian-development coherence and channel the cross-cutting elements across coordination structures and with various stakeholders
- Establish stronger linkages with other coordination structures across Jordan
- Consider medium- and long-term prospects to engage the GoJ at the strategic level (ISWG) and sector(s) level
- Institutionalize the humanitarian and development accountability
- Define the areas where the ISWG can bring evidence-based analysis and guide the sectors
- The ISWG and sectors' ToRs to be reviewed and include the overall strategic objectives of ISWG & sectors
- Ensure a strategic and technical capacity is in place to inform the best way to mainstream gender across sectors
- Review the rationale of having multiple sub-sectors and taskforces under the current eight sectors

Further to the active discussion of the above, overall, **the meeting participants concluded** the followings:

- Develop an initial **outline of the ISWG coordination strategic objectives and renewed TORs**
- Sector Lead/co-Led to embark on the discussion with their constituencies on the coordination milestones including i) **definition of sector coordination vision & objectives; ii) outline of sectoral coordination strategies and iii) definition of how best to mainstream gender.**
- **Basic Need and Food Security sectors to initiate bilateral discussion on potential merging and provide a final recommendation to ISWG**
- Potential creation of a Cash coordination entity (including its name, setting, and structure).

**These recommendations are derived from the following detailed discussion.**

### **Gender Mainstream**

The forum saw prospects for strengthening gender mainstreaming across sectors and ensuring that gender is at the core. A review of the existing structure of the Sector Gender Focal Points Network (SGFPN) could enable the reinforcement of gender mainstreaming.

Various options were put forward by the participants including i) **maintaining the SGFPN as it is**, ii) **a Senior Gender Advisor within the ISWG to replace the SGFPN and advise and guide the gender mainstreaming strategy**, iii) **a combination of the SGFPN & Snr Gender Advisor to strengthen the role of SGFPN**.

**The meeting concluded that UNHCR & UNWOMEN initiate a bilateral discussion on the best way to move gender mainstreaming forward.**

Meanwhile, the ISWG will share a template with key questions on gender mainstreaming for the sector coordinators' reflections and assessment. The outcome of this review will further inform UNHCR/UNWOMEN discussion

### **Strengthen Protection**

It is crucial that the Protection Sector priorities and directions are at the core of the ISWG undertakings. Ideally an Snr. Protection Advisor within the ISWG ensures the mainstreaming of protection across all sectors and develops the sector's guidance and strengthens protection at the strategic level.

### **Sectors' structure**

**All sector leads/co-leads** should initiate a discussion with their respective constituencies – if not done already – and **agree on the best way forward for the sector coordination vision, objectives, and structure. The outcomes will feed into the sector TORs to be developed soonest.**

The outline of the structure includes a discussion on the rationale to potentially maintain, merge or create sectors to fit the purpose and to respond to the current context, as well as aligning to the extent possible with the GoJ structure.

**Areas/sectors of potential revision were:**

**(i)** Merge of the Food Security (FS) and the Basic Needs (BN) sectors This is considered in light of the followings: the two sectors' similarities in terms of mandates and involved actors, the potential for alignment with the GoJ national food security structure and the scope of simplifying coordination within a holistic approach to basic needs/food security.

**FS & BN leads/co-leads to continue the discussion bilaterally and with their constituencies on the potential merge of the two sectors and bring back recommendations to ISWG**

**(ii)** Creation of the CASH coordination entity given the need to enhance cash programme coordination, the scope to align with the outcomes of the Grand Bargain's 2021 Cash Coordination Caucus recently endorsed by IASC.

It is recognized that cash is not a sector but a modality thus the new entity should have a clear scope in advising on cash targeting, coherence, and graduation as well as ensuring coordination approaches across

all cash activities now embedded in almost every sector. In addition, the CASH entity shall be positioned to tackle economic inclusion and strengthen livelihoods.

**BN sector to draft a concept note outlining the proposal for setting-UP a CASH entity, including the objective, name, proposed structure, and potential impact.**

### **Strengthen evidence-based, analysis, learning, and information management**

The forum agreed that it is imperative to have evidence-based analysis/data-driven to ensure better planning, programming, inform decision & policymaking, and funding advocacy. To this end, there is a need to establish a coordination and technical advisory body.

It will ensure coordination of assessments & analysis and learning, enhance complementarity and avoid duplications while looking at data compliance, protection, integrity, and quality assurance.

A slide presentation was offered to the participants, and it is attached for easy reference. In principle, the participants agreed with its suggestion though it was recognized that the involvement of the Department of Statistics (DOS) is still premature. It remains an aspiration in the medium- and long-term prospects. In addition, the involvement of JoSH will have to be set at another level hence avoiding confusion across the inter-agency coordination structure.

**In terms of the next steps, a draft TOR will be developed and shared for endorsement by the ISWG. A call for membership applications will be sent out to ISWG members.**

### **UNDP role in the ISWG**

UNDP recommended that the ISWG is co-led by UNHCR & UNDP to ensure a coherent humanitarian-resilience approach to the Syria crisis. The recommendation is grounded in the protracted nature of the crisis, and the potential role that UNDP will play as secretariat In the Humanitarian-development Partners Forum (HDPF) thus ensuring the linkages between the two fora

It has been agreed that UNHCR and UNDP discuss this bi-laterally and agree on the way forward.

### **Road Map of Deadlines**

Based on the above, here below is a road map of the key actions agreed and respective deadlines.

Action Point(s)	Timeframe	Focal Point(s)	Status	Note(s)
<b>ISWG to share a template with key questions on gender mainstreaming for the sector coordinators' reflections and assessment.</b>	8-Dec-22	ISWG	In progress	
<b>ISWG to develop and share an initial outline of the coordination strategic objectives for the ISWG</b>	11-Dec-22	ISWG Lead	In progress	UNHCR to share a template for the sector leads and co-leads review
<b>ISWG to share a template for Sectors' coordination scope, objective, and structure</b>	11-Dec-22	ISWG	In progress	

<b>All sector leads/co-leads should initiate a discussion with their respective constituencies – if not done already – and agree on the best way forward for the sector vision, objectives, and structure. The discussion will include brainstorming on the rationale to potentially maintain, merge or create sectors to fit the purpose and to respond to the current context, as well as aligning to the extent possible with the GoJ structure. The outcomes will feed into the sector TORs to be developed soonest.</b>	Starting immediately and to be completed on 22 December 2022	Sector Lead/co-lead		
<b>Develop ISWG TOR</b>	15-Dec-22	ISWG, sectors	In progress	
<b>Develop a TOR for the establishment of a Coordination and Technical Advisory Body and share it for endorsement by the ISWG</b>	15-Dec-22	ISWG		
<b>A call for membership applications to be body will be sent out to ISWG members.</b>	18-Dec-22			
<b>Establish a Coordination and Technical Advisory Body</b>	20-Dec-2022	ISWG		
<b>Sectors to submit their analysis of the best way to mainstream gender (One pager)</b>	20-Dec-22	Sector coordinators in consultations with the WG members including the SGFPs. SGFPN co-chairs to provide also a snapshot		
<b>Sectors to submit their draft one-pager on the way forward for the sector's vision, objectives, and structure</b>	20-Dec-22	Sector Lead/co-lead		
<b>FS &amp; BN leads/co-leads to continue the discussion bilaterally and with their constituencies on the potential merge of the two sectors and bring back recommendations to ISWG</b>	Starting immediately and to be completed by 20-Dec-22	BN & FS Sector		UNHCR and WFP

<b>BN sector to draft a concept note outlining the proposal for setting-UP a CASH entity, including the objective, name, proposed structure, and potential impact</b>	Starting immediately and to be completed by 20-Dec-22	BN & FS Sectors		UNHCR and WFP
<b>Based on the ISWG strategic outline, each Sector has to initiate discussions with its constituencies to formulate the sector strategy</b>	Starting immediately and to be completed by 31 January	Sector Lead/co-lead		
<b>Sectoral strategies to be submitted to ISWG</b>	31-Jan-23	Sector Lead/co-lead		
<b>ISWG to ensure coherency between the strategies and consolidate them</b>	10-Feb-23	ISWG Lead		