ISWG Meeting Note
May 2023

ISWG Meeting Note and Action Points

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<tr>
<th>Date / Time / Venue</th>
<th>Wednesday, 07 May 2023, 14:30 - 16:10, UNHCR office</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendees</td>
<td>UNHCR Deputy Representative, Inter-Sector Coordinator, Sector Coordinators, Leads/co-leads of the Economic Empowerment, Shelter, WASH, Protection, Food Security Basic Needs, Education, and Health sectors, Senior Protection and Senior Gender Advisors</td>
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**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND OUTCOMES**

- The sector strategies, 3RP log frame, including indicators, targets, calculation methods and financial requirements, to be completed and submitted by Wednesday, 31 May.
- The sector strategic documents and vision to inform 3RP 2023 and show case for Brussels Conference in June.
- The Peer Review Board consisting of Senior Protection and Gender Advisors, JIF Coordinator, and UNDP, will review the drafted sector strategies to ensure coherency, alignment, and inter-sector linkages.
- The sectors to engage in consultations on the scope and channels of gender mainstreaming
- The ISWG to seek support from JoSH for advocacy with the government on the smooth project approval process.
- Economic Empowerment sector to share practices and lessons learnt from collaboration with the GoJ.
- The ISWG Advisors to attend sector meetings and establish strong rapport of collaboration and linkages

**SECTORS UPDATES**

Majority of the sectors have finalized their strategies and submitted to the ISWG for peer review. The sectors have engaged in establishment of sector log frames, including formulation of smart indicators, defining targets and calculation methods.

Protection sector developed strategy in two language - English and Arabic.

The Peer Review Board had commenced reviewing the strategies to ensure coherency, alignment, and strengthening of inter and cross-sectoral linkages.

The Shelter and WASH sectors advanced consultations to strengthen cross-sectoral collaboration.

The Strategic Committee at the Shelter sector chaired by UNHCR extended its membership to the CBOs and governmental entities, thus contributing to the inclusion of national actors in sector coordination and decision-making.

Health sector has progressed in advocacy with donors on supporting vital services for refugees. Discussions with the Ministry of Health on covering gaps in health information system and reaching compatibilities, particularly in urban, are ongoing.
Education sector is in the process of mapping education services, aiming to avoid duplication of activities.

Food Security Basic Needs sector shared concerns on the delays of partners’ obtaining project approval from the line ministries. The challenges are caused by the level of exposure of the ministerial committee to JRP and its core processes. The ISWG will draw the subject to JOSH to seek advocacy with the Government.

**Presentation of Economic Empowerment Sector**

The Economic Empowerment sector provided an overview of the sector activities and the way forward. The sector priorities are reflected in the sector strategy and include measures to promote access to income, facilitate employment and self-employment opportunities, as well develop and scale market-driven businesses, aiming to create job opportunities for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians.

The sector is working in alignment with national systems and in collaboration with the governmental entities, including Ministry of Labour (MoL) and Ministry of Local Administration. As an outcome, the sector is in the process of handing over leadership of the Vocational Training and Graduation coordination task forces to the ministries and local authorities, including to the National Aid Fund (NAF) and the Technical and Vocational Skills Development Commission (TVSDC).

**Gender Mainstreaming**

The Senior Gender Advisor presented her vision of gender mainstreaming in the inter-sector refugee response, and particularly in identifying and covering gaps in coordination, participation, financing, monitoring and analysis.

The ‘ISWG Strategic Directions’ developed in early 2023, stipulate that gender mainstreaming should be approached through a multi-sectoral perspective, and ensure integration of women, men, girls, and boys with other individuals across the planning and programming cycle.

Through the ISWG reform and development of sector strategies, sectors have conducted consultations on integrating gender in the sector activities, and proposed measures on enhancement of gender mainstreaming in alignment with national plans and avoiding creation of parallel structures.

The need has been identified to support sectors incorporate gender mainstreaming in sectors’ planning, monitoring and implementation. The Senior Gender Advisor will perform a leading role in this process. A pool of gender experts might be an asset to channel these efforts and implement at the sectors. The sectors are looking for practical outcome of their gender representation at the ISWG, including, for example, introducing gender mainstreaming in partners’ programming.

The sectors will continue discussion on the format and approach of gender mainstreaming through the cross-sectorial paradigm, engaging the Senior Gender Advisor’s expertise and referring to the experience of participation by nomination of focal points to the Sector Gender Focal Points Network (SGFPN).

**AOB**

UNHCR has embarked in consultations and generating ideas for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). There is awareness of the Government of Jordan preparing strategic directions and pledges to the GRF.
MoPIC has engaged in restructuring the Jordan Response Plan (JRP), including establishment of working groups / task forces. Through the ‘deep dive’ process, UNHCR and donors are contributing with inputs.

The UN Resident Coordinator has engaged with the goal of updating and reforming the development coordination. There has been recognition of the inter-sector coordination transformation, and the similar process has a tendency to undergo at the development side. The two coordination platforms acquire potential to strategically align.

MOPIC has initiated a revision of the government approval process for all international projects. A new draft law is expected to be launched, and it would transfer bigger authority to MOPIC.

The sectors are best placed to bring strategic updates which are tangible and affect refugees. The ISWG is key to identify operational challenges and flag to the JOSH, as well suggesting solutions.

With regard to the situation in Syria, UNHCR welcomes discussions on human rights in the area. Assuming the voluntary return to happen, partners shall take preparatory steps, i.e., assessments, engagement with the GoJ on protection issues and asylum space,

The Brussels Conference in June will indicate level of international commitments towards Syrians and host communities. The ISWG is encouraging sectors to ensure 3RP is ready for Brussels to reinforce messaging and pledges of Jordan.

The UNHCR Senior Inter-Agency Coordination Officer is appointed and is expected to arrive in September.

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

- Sectors to complete the **development of the strategic documents**, 3RP log frame, set targets and means of verification **by end of May**
- Peer Review Board to review the submitted sector strategies
- WASH and Shelter sectors to prepare presentation on cross-sectorial consultations for the June ISWG meeting
- The sectors are reporting delays in obtaining project approval by the larger inter-ministerial committee and seeking support from JoSH for advocacy with the Government.
- The sectors prepare to monitor and check efficiency of the coordination systems and mechanisms, assess impact of the operational processes on refugees.

**ROAD MAP OF ISWG DEADLINES**

Based on the above, the road map of the key actions and the respective deadlines were updated:

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<tr>
<th>Action Point(s)</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Focal Point(s)</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Note(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sectoral strategies, 3RP logframe to be submitted to ISWG</td>
<td>31-May-23</td>
<td>Sector Leads</td>
<td>Developed pending review/validation by WGs members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review sector strategies to ensure coherence</td>
<td>May</td>
<td>Peer Review Board</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Task</td>
<td>Deadlines</td>
<td>Responsible</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share ‘ISWG Strategic Directions’</td>
<td>asap</td>
<td>ISWG</td>
<td>To feed consultations on gender mainstreaming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final 3RP &amp; submission to Bureau in preparation for Brussels</td>
<td>Mid-June</td>
<td>ISWG</td>
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