Note and Action Points

1. Brief Update on JRP / 3RP

IACU informed that the Jordan Response Plan 2020-2022 is under final review by the Prime Minister’s Cabinet for endorsement, which has been delayed due to COVID-19. Following the endorsement by the Cabinet, it will be officially launched on 22 June 2020. IACU indicated that COVID-19 crisis has significantly impacted the operational environment and requires validation of the planning figures used in JRP and 3RP.

In relation to the revalidation of the JRP in the context of COVID-19, the sectors were encouraged to review the 2020 JRP’s Project Summary Sheets and sector matrices, and share with IACU which activities cannot be maintained and respectively which objectives can no longer be fully implemented in the context of COVID-19 and the changed operating environment. IACU suggested the sectors and partners engagement in the validation to make it more meaningful.

Jointly with MoPIC, IACU is engaged in the review and will ensure that inputs received by the sectors will be reflected. The validation documents will be shared with ISWG.

WASH mentioned that the sector budget would increase because couple of partners joined the planning process at a later stage.

2. Activity Info: Few Issues

IACU updated the participants on the progress of entries in the ActivityInfo (AI) Planning Database. IACU briefed that the partners were given intensive training sessions on AI and explained importance of maintaining data in AI accurate and that it should match the sector matrices. It was highlighted that sector matrices summarise what had been planned by the sector and that they are also used for fundraising through the 3RP mirroring projects of the JRP. In order to ensure our monitoring and reporting accountability vis-a-vis donors and other key stakeholders, the data in AI and sector matrices should match.

IACU displayed the comparison of sector matrices and AI, where in both Resilience and Refugee components some sectors demonstrate discrepancies so as to ease harmonisation by the sectors.

Livelihoods clarified that some discrepancies might relate to the fact that some partners missed the planning phase and have been added to the process recently. IACU confirmed this statement and encouraged a review at the sector level and to re-communicate the updates to the Government.
The UN agencies are also encouraged to re-visit the AI to check if all the projects on behalf of the agencies’ respective partners are entered.

3. **“COVID-19: Working with and for young people”. Guide by the Global Compact for Young People and Humanitarian Action**

UNFPA presented the Guidance Note on working with young people in the COVID-19 context, which is developed by the Global Compact to assist humanitarian actors, youth-led organizations, and young people across sectors, working at local, country, regional, and global levels in their response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. The document is exploring the impacts of COVID-19 on young people and proposes a series of actions to ensure that COVID-19 preparedness, response plans and actions are youth-inclusive and youth-focused.

Recommendations are structured around the five key actions of the Compact for Young People in Humanitarian Action: Services, Participation, Capacity, Resource, Data. This guidance is targeting not the youth workers only, but it suggests a cross sectorial and multi-facet approach in the areas of Protection, Education, Civic Space and Participation, Health, etc. As a reference, a positive example of Zaatari camp was made, where the cross-sectoral Youth Task Force has been created and successfully engages various sectors in the activities with and for the young people.

The document presents analysis of youth vulnerabilities across various sectors and highlights how young people can mobilize and engage within programming. The Compact and the COVID-19 Guidance will be launched on 18 June with participation of MOY, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR, and NRC.

UNFPA offered to make presentation of the Guidance at the working groups’ meetings, provided that other sectors are interested.

IACU cordially welcomed appreciated UNFPA’s presentation at the ISWG meeting.

4. **Livelihoods: Brief Update**

Among the key social-economic impacts of COVID-19 crisis on the livelihoods, the Livelihoods sector indicated, first of all, introduction of the Defence Laws, effective suspension of the livelihoods (particularly the informal opportunities which were the main source of income for refugees) since the curfew was introduced, very quick impact on the households’ income, assessed low job security amongst refugees (which increased risks of the most vulnerable households), and situation of non-Syrians worse than Syrian refugees.

A slightly more positive development can be anticipated with the recent lifting of curfew and of movement restrictions, GoJ ministries getting back to work and economic sectors will almost completely re-open. At the same time, camps remain closed, new quotas for Jordanian employment levels are introduced, employment centres are not yet opened and receive telephone referrals only. Work permits have not been processed creating a backlog of cases arising from the rectification campaign in 2019, the cases submitted by refugees before the Defence Laws were not followed up upon.

The Basic Needs and Livelihoods sectors have established significant cooperation in reaching those who had income before the crisis, and through appropriate programming help them sustain, mitigate
risks of debts and negative coping mechanisms. It was noted that many partners are advocating to move to basic needs assistance for the coming months to help alleviate impact of the crisis.

It is admitted that relevant programming shall be resumed to get people back to work, and the cash-for-work scheme might be vital in the short term. It is recognized that the longer-term impact on the economy forecasts variable opportunities of different sectors to resume its operations. The Government is strongly pushing to formalize the market and convincing employers to conform with the social security law.

It would be useful to envisage how economy can adopt the approaches generated by the COVID-19 outbreak. Currently, negotiations are ongoing on the potential financing from the World Bank to allow more flexible work permits for Syrian refugees across all the open sectors. A lot of discussions are conducted around agriculture as an area attractive for refugees and able to support the country’s food needs. Home based businesses remain of interest especially in the area of female participation. The livelihoods sector will elaborate to advocate for the refugees’ enrolment in the restaurants delivery activities sector.

The recent assessments have illustrated the stronger impact of the crisis on the non-Syrian refugees, because they had more limited assistance even before the outbreak. There is a need for the advocacy and searching for the actual opportunities available for the Syrians which might be equally accessible for the non-Syrians.

The Livelihoods are affected by the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19. According to several assessments, many people have lost employment. Youth and women, which were already struggling to find decent employment opportunities, are worst hit by the crisis, as the majority of them are engaged in informal activities. Remittances received by vulnerable groups are most likely declining, and half million people are expected to return to Jordan and so compete on the scarce employment opportunities. In the absence of economic opportunities, the already unstable social equilibriums are being further stressed, endangering the social cohesion that had been achieved in recent years.

All activities and courses provided through vocational training centers are still suspended. Instead, partners supported beneficiaries with internet bundles and provided online financial literacy, digital marketing and some other online courses. More focus on online courses will continue in order to temporarily replace classes and vocational trainings. The main concern is that online vocational training will not be effective, as the practical aspects are missing. Feedback from beneficiaries on online courses is generally positive, pre and post evaluations are showing good results.

Virtual job placement activities are happening on a smaller scale, to be followed by assessments for their effectiveness.

Partners are now adapting livelihood activities to mitigate COVID-19, addressing restrictions on social distancing and redesigning logistics of activities. They are providing kits for protection measures in the workplace for beneficiaries who resumed work or are engaged in the cash-for-work activities; working on supporting businesses and SMEs.
UNFPA flagged absence of collective efforts to establish alternative spaces in addition to the virtual ones as a critical problem of the vocational training and the youth centres. UNFPA suggested to discuss the topic at the high-level meetings to ensure that no one is left behind.

The participants admitted a dire need in the livelihoods strategy to engage joint efforts of humanitarian and development actors and the Government to gain sustainability, with particular attention to female and youth.

5. **WFP Update**

WFP informed the participants that the Food Security (FS) sector is in the process of reviewing the TOR of the working group. The FS sector is planning to engage closer with the Basic Needs sector; the internal discussions are being held on getting food assistance more aligned with the basic needs. More updates will be shared shortly.

6. **AOB**

As the situation improves and the movement restriction measures loosen up in the country, it has been decided to reduce the frequency of the COVID-19 weekly Sitrep to biweekly.

Frequency of HPF meetings is reduced to biweekly.

The next ISWG meeting will be held on Sunday, 5 July.

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<td>Circulate last version of JRP to sector coordinators</td>
<td>IACU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review 2020 sector activities and send revision to IACU</td>
<td>Sectors</td>
<td>By 9 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Validate entries in ActivityInfo to match sector matrices</td>
<td>Sectors</td>
<td>ASAP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share presentation of ActivityInfo vis-a-vis sector matrices</td>
<td>IACU</td>
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<td>Re-open ActivityInfo for revision</td>
<td>IACU</td>
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<td>Share link to the Guide by the Global Compact for Young People and Humanitarian Action</td>
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<td>Share ISWG Work Plan’ 2020</td>
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