**Meeting Note and Action Points**

1. **2021 Reporting and Key Events Calendar**

   ISWG reporting calendar 2021 (incl. reporting requirements and key events) was introduced confirming that timely and accurate reporting and harmonization across sectors remained one of the core responsibilities of the ISWG vis-à-vis 3RP and donors. Qualitative reporting provided relevant information to donors and granted opportunities to maintain visibility and mobilize resources, which was particularly critical in the current context of the increased competition among countries for funds. Certain reporting products were particularly time sensitive e.g. Refugee Response Update, ActivityInfo, Jordan Financial Tracking, sector dashboards and consequences of underfunding.

   IACU sector focal points would continue to provide support to sector chairs in report compilation. Sector chairs played a key role in encouraging partners to quality reporting.

   Emphasis was put on JRP and 3RP planning cycles and Inter-Agency fora (ISWG and SGFPN).

   Sector leads were invited to share their preferences on day and time for regular monthly ISWG meeting, which was confirmed to remain the first Sunday of each month from 13:30 – 15:00.

2. **Final Regional Needs Overview and Regional Strategic Overview**

   Regional Strategic Overview (RSO). ISWG chair appreciated sectors’ inputs that enabled timely compilation of the Regional Strategic Overview. Donors commented on the document and welcomed that e.g. Food Security and WASH elements included a longer-term strategic perspective. The final version of the document would be shared with the ISWG.

   Regional Needs Overview (RNO) was finalized and was now available online. If there were issues to be rectified in the RNO, sector chairs should communicate them to IACU for advocacy for adjustment.

3. **Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) 2020**

   The MEB 2020 exercise which concluded in December aimed to update the minimum living costs for refugees in living in Urban areas/outside of camps. All sectors contributed to the process by providing their sector-specific items and costs to the MEB. The MEB can be used by the partners to determine amount of levels for assistance packages and to provide price lines for modelling within programme budget.

   In 2020, two poverty lines (MEB – absolute and Survival MEB - abject) were developed for Syrian refugee population in urban areas i) to mirror how the GoJ calculates poverty lines relating to object and absolute poverty and ii) to support the vulnerability calculations under the Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF).
The participants were debriefed on the comprehensive MEB process and on the steps taken by the separate sectors within the taskforces created to establish sector inputs to MEB. In 2020, the MEB saw new components included in the MEB document: the Livelihoods sector was added, which can be used for cash-for-work schemes and the WASH sector added hygiene items to the SMEB due to COVID-19. The participants were guided through the analysis of changes in costs from 2019 and 2020, and discussed various factors impacting expenditures at certain sectors, relevance of MEB being a reference point to design assistance in comparison with the GoJ poverty line, dynamics of prices for families of different sizes, etc.

In order to enhance effectiveness of MEB 2021 it has been recommended to include non-Syrians, to conclude exercise by the third quarter, to develop sector-specific guide and documentation and to create one taskforce with sector focal points for the MEB calculations.

4. Updates of Humanitarian Partners Forum (HPF)

The HPF foresees an Advisory Group. Its responsibilities until recently had been limited mostly to the forward-looking agenda selection. The Advisory Group had been composed by the humanitarian donor representatives, JIF, and UN.

It was decided to reinforce the Advisory Group and to provide it with a strategic role more like the one of a ‘think-tank’ thus ensuring substantial discussions and identifying issues that are most relevant in the context of the Jordan operation. Furthermore, the adjustment aims also at bringing development and humanitarian fora closer together and it is aimed to include a development representative in the group.

The Advisory Group has been expanded to also include a national NGOs’ representation.

The updated TOR of the Advisory Group would be shared as soon as finalized.

5. ISWG Work Plan for 2021

It was suggested to proceed with establishment of ISWG Work Plan for 2021 similarly to the 2020 exercise. IACU would share an initial draft for comments.

6. Strategic Discussions on Cross-Cutting Issues

To encourage a more interactive and strategic exchange at ISWG meetings, the sector lead were invited to identify or present subject matters of common interest or cross cutting themes to be discussed at ISWG. Reference was made to the 2020 successful advocacy of the ISWG to maintain 70 / 30 proportion of Syrian / Jordanian beneficiaries across JRP.

ISWG would start to contemplate longer-term strategic issues of possible interest to all sectors e.g. ‘sustainability of cash assistance vis-à-vis shrinking resources’ or ‘future of camps’. Reference was made to the successful experience of HPF to having included thematic discussions in its agenda. The Basic Needs (BN) sector chair kick-started a discussion on COVID cash and winterization assistance. Around 55,000 families had been identified eligible for COVID cash assistance for an initial period of three months, which was agreed to be expanded for additional three months subject to available resources. 84% of this population had already received the assistance. Around 89,000 families had been identified eligible for winterization assistance, of which 55% were already assisted by UNHCR and partners.

It was flagged that partners at the BN sector were facing financial challenges. Fundraising efforts were underway to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable could be addressed. Discussions with donors were ongoing to identify households for eventual transition into self-reliance. In general, the BN sector expressed an increasing interest in livelihoods activities. Livelihoods partners involved in graduation programmes were
invited to attend the BN working group meeting to share their experience. Inclusion of non-Syrians in line with the one-refugee approach was also in the sector’s focus.

Livelihoods (LH) sector chair clarified that the sector would be focusing on projects that would lead to graduation and create rather sustainable self-reliance. It had been decided to prioritize digital economic trainings, accredited vocational trainings, skills recognition, on-job training, establishment of microbusinesses and self-employment. In 2021, the sector would be aiming to identify governorates with market demands and assess motivation of communities in the identified areas.

The LH sector volunteered to present the graduation model at the following ISWG early March.

A member of the Food Security sector emphasized that in the current challenging funding context and economic and political environment which may not be conducive for quick graduation approaches, partners would need to focus on the most vulnerable and look into linking assistance with a graduation process.

7. **AOB**

JIF enquired if sectors of ISWG had been contacted by the JRP Monitoring Group for inputs.

Next ISWG meeting: 07 March 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Points</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share Contingency Plan</td>
<td>IACU</td>
<td>asap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share Regional Strategic Overview</td>
<td>IACU</td>
<td>asap</td>
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<tr>
<td>Share draft ISWG 2021 Work Plan</td>
<td>IACU</td>
<td>Feb</td>
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