

## Introduction

Jordan is one of the most water scarce countries in the World. In the past decade, Jordan has shown remarkable progress in ensuring access to wash services, with 4,307,709 people gaining access to safely managed water services from the year 2000 to 2017, while in the same period 3,942,261 gained access to safely managed sanitation services<sup>1</sup>. Unfortunately, these achievements have been offset by low water availability, competing water demands from other water consuming sectors as well as influx of refugees from neighbouring countries.

As of 2021, the challenge remains in terms of providing universal access to water and sanitation services, with access to safely managed water at 93.8% and while only 80.6% had access to safely managed sanitation services<sup>1</sup>.

Since 2011, Jordan alone has provided refuge to more than 1.3 million Syrians, including 664,226 registered refugees, who face increasing vulnerability as their savings, assets and resources are exhausted. 123,359 of these refugees live in camps, while the remaining have settled in urban and rural areas, primarily in northern governorates and in Amman<sup>2</sup>. The impact of Covid-19 threatens to further impact the most vulnerable, both in terms of public health and socio-economic outcomes.

Since 2013, the Government of Jordan has established a comprehensive national response plan (JRP) to manage and coordinate the response to the Syria crisis. Accordingly, the WASH Sector in Jordan aims to:

- Meet the immediate humanitarian and protection needs of Syrian refugees and Vulnerable Jordanians affected by the Syria crisis.
- Upscale critical capacities of the central, regional and local authorities to plan, program, coordinate and implement responses in a timely, efficient and effective manner.
- Support the resilience of the service delivery system, at the national and local levels, and mitigate the negative impact of the increased pressure on the water and sanitation systems in a cost-effective and sustainable manner.

## Objectives:

1. To foster a coordinated and integrated approach in all WASH related interventions in Jordan.
2. To ensure formal links between the WASH sector and other relevant sectors (shelter/NFI, health, camp management and education).
3. To ensure prioritization, evidence-based actions and gap filling; and to enhance accountable, predictable and effective WASH response to the affected population.
4. Coordinate with key stakeholders to ensure participation and review of the strategies at operational levels.
5. Coordinate and promote synergies with other actors active in complementary sectors.

## Structure:

1. The WASH Working Group shall be led by UNICEF in close collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI). UNHCR shall provide coordination support while one of the active NGOs will be appointed as WASH Sector Co-chair. The members of the WASH WG will democratically elect a new co-chair on a 2-yearly basis<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Monitoring Programme by WHO and UNICEF, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR, 'External Statistical report on UNHCR registered refugees', 31 May 2019

<sup>3</sup> ACTED co-chaired the sector to December 2015, WVI to December 2016, ACF to December 2017, Oxfam to December 2019, and currently is co-chaired by ACF.

2. The WASH WG is open to all WASH sector stakeholders i.e. governmental organisations, national and international NGOs, faith-based organisations, UN agencies, private sector, and donor organisations etc.
3. The WASH Sector will have several Technical Working Groups focused on the technical priorities of the sector. These working groups shall provide recommendations in relation to their specific areas to the WASH WG, and other sector and coordination mechanisms as required.

### Frequency:

1. WASH WG meetings will take place every two months and can be held in any organization's offices (who can provide the space) or remotely online.
2. WASH Technical Working groups will meet as necessary and when required.
3. There is no time limit for the validity of the Terms of Reference for the WASH WG, but can be revised when the members, in consensus, with the sector leads, agree to revise the document.

### Responsibilities:

1. Bring together agencies that are actively supporting the most vulnerable populations with the provision of WASH services.
2. Ensure effective coordination of all WASH interventions in refugee camps and Host Communities.
3. Ensure that all planning is based on gender sensitive programming and are promoting gender equity.
4. Support development of adequate preparedness measures and contingency plans for the WASH sector in emergency and recovery periods (including Covid-19 Response and Recovery plans)
5. Provide a platform for learning and sharing - including dialogue on establishing links between humanitarian and development WASH actions through interventions that build resilience in the affected communities.
6. Promote WASH responses are in line with existing water and sanitation policy guidelines, technical standards, and relevant Government human rights legal obligations.
7. Compile data from WASH members and provide consolidated sector reports and updates to WASH partners and other relevant stakeholders, and jointly advocate for needs in the WASH sector.
8. Identify sector vulnerabilities and gaps and brings them to the attention of the donor community for prioritization.
9. Link to other coordination mechanisms such as JRP Task Force, Inter-Sector Working Group, WASH Technical Working Group, Water Sector Donors Group, Camp Coordination Working Groups, Sector Gender Focal Point Network, etc.
10. Reporting on gender data to be done in a monthly basis.
11. WASH SGFPN member to participate in reviewing proposals submitted for the humanitarian fund

### Technical Working Groups<sup>4</sup>

1. **Humanitarian WASH (in camps)**
2. **WASH in Institutions (WINs)**
3. **WASH in development**
4. **(Informal Tented Settlements addressed through separate coordination group)**

### Principles of Partnership

WASH Sector will uphold the spirit of supporting a culture of mutual respect, equality, trust and transparency where partnerships flourish, in accordance with the Global Humanitarian Principles of Partnership.

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<sup>4</sup> New Technical Working Groups can be created upon existing needs and previous approval by the WASH Sector Chairs