

# Documenting Inter-Sector Linkages within Syria refugee crisis response in Jordan in 2017



Inter-Sector Working Group  
December 2017

Following 2015 work plan<sup>1</sup> and 2016 work plan<sup>2</sup>, in its work plan for 2017, the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) continued to be committed to promote common processes through the sectors, including identifying, promoting and documenting the inter-sector linkages<sup>3</sup>. The present document comprises cumulative efforts of eight sectors to enhance inter-sector cooperation within the refugee coordination mechanism in Jordan<sup>4</sup> (Protection, Education, Basic Needs, Food Security, Livelihoods, Water and Sanitation, Shelter, Health) in 2017. The sector members of ISWG plan to continue promoting and documenting inter-sector linkages in 2018.

Based on the inputs received from the sectors, the examples of inter-sector linkages in 2017 have been logically grouped in:

1. Multi-sectoral linkage led by Basic Needs sector
2. Cash assistance
3. Other linkages

## I. **Multi-sectoral linkages led by Basic Needs sector**

### Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) Review

The Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is a way of establishing poverty lines for refugee populations. It is emerging as the primary tool to develop a cost and market based expression of minimum needs of refugees in any given country. In Jordan, the MEB includes inputs of the following sectors: Protection, Health, Education, Shelter, WASH, Food Security and Basic Needs.

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<sup>1</sup> See the work plan of the Inter-Sector Working Group for 2015 at:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=8260>

Examples of the inter-sector linkages in 2015 are recorded in documents entitled “Inter-Sector Working Group Retreat Summary 02 December 2015 (1/2)” available at:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=10146>

as well as “Inter-Sector Working Group Retreat Summary 02 December 2015 (2/2)” available at:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=10145>

<sup>2</sup> See the work plan of the Inter-Sector Working Group for 2016 at:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=10342>

as well you can find “Inter-Sector Linkages 2016” document at:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=14784>

<sup>3</sup> See the work plan of the Inter-Sector Working Group for 2017 here:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=13087>

<sup>4</sup> For more information contact [guseva@unhcr.org](mailto:guseva@unhcr.org)

Through the Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) the Basic Needs (BN) sector requested sector coordinators to review the relevant components of MEB. A task force led by BN was created to drive the process. A guidance note was developed to serve the source of data and market surveys. The revised MEB 2017 is being finalized and will be presented at the ISWG for the sectors' overview and endorsement of the ISWG.

## II. **Cash Assistance to Syrians living in host communities: linking Basic Needs sector with a number of other sectors**

### Cash-for-Health

The SOPs has been developed to indicate what type of assistance should be covered under Health, what is classified a health intervention, and containing criteria for beneficiaries' selection. During ten months of 2017, more than 3,380 cases were approved for the cash-for-health assistance, reaching the amount of one million USD expenditures.

### Livelihoods and Graduation out of cash assistance

Inter-Sector linkages between the Basic Needs sector and the Livelihoods sector have been ongoing, including the referrals of the cases graduated from cash assistance to the Livelihoods sector partners for the follow up, and discussion on harmonizing the cash-for-work projects. In May 2017, the Basic Needs sector submitted a list of individuals to be targeted for graduation action to the agencies engaged in graduation project in order to inform selection of their target beneficiaries.

### Protection and Urgent cash assistance

Guidance was updated to coordinate sizing and interfacing between urgent and regular cash assistance for Syrians living in host communities:

[http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working\\_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=10](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=10)

As reported by five agencies contributing to the emergency cash assistance, during ten months of 2017, totally 3,681 households were provided with urgent cash assistance, reaching out 10,109 individual beneficiaries.

### Cash-for-Shelter

A document "Technical Guidelines: Cash for Rent" is updated:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=10425>

For the period of January - September 2017, totally 18,366 individuals benefitted from the cash-for-rent assistance.

## III. **Other inter-sector linkages**

### Food Security and Education

A need to further improve implementation of School Feeding in camps and host communities was identified by the Food Security and the Education sectors. The programme targeted 41,600 Syrian and Jordanian school age children. In March 2017, the Education Sector requested the Food Security sector for regular updates on the activity, and expressed interest to be more involved in implementation of the School Feeding programme carried out by the Food Security partners.

The Food Security sector assigned a focal point to attend the Education working group meetings, thus enhancing the information sharing process and regular updates on the vulnerable children at schools eligible to receive food packages under the School Feeding projects. The information sharing alerted

more attention towards the most vulnerable areas with the schools with high number of students. It was agreed that this programme will be included under the Education sector in the JRP 2018-2020. The increased school attendance has been reported as one of the positive outcomes of the project.

### Food Security and Health

The Nutrition Survey targeting Syrians living in camps and urban setting was jointly conducted by the Ministry of Health of Jordan, Department of Statistics, UNICEF and WFP, with participation of UNHCR, WHO, UNFPA, Save the Children, other NGOs. As a result, the Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) guidelines and tools were applied.

It has been found that in Zaatari and Azraq camps the main source of income is the WFP food vouchers, while in the host communities it is generated by the unskilled labour.

Another link between Food Security and Health sectors was identified and implemented through the "Nutrition Awareness for Improved Food Utilization and Nutrition" project. As of September, more than 500 thousand Syrians and Jordanians in the urban settings were trained in good nutritional practices. The Food Security sector assigned a focal point attend the Nutrition sub-working group meetings thus enhancing the information sharing process, to avoid conflicting approaches towards proper nutrition practices and to promote for comprehensive multi-sector approach to nutrition.

### Protection and Shelter

Through regular consultations, the two sectors worked jointly on revision on several technical shelter guidelines, addressing the protection side, including promotion of security of tenure and mechanism of referring eviction cases.

See the helpful links here:

Technical Guidelines on "Cash-for-Rent":

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=10425>

Technical Guidelines on "Completion of Housing Units in Unfinished Houses"

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=10426>

Technical Guidelines on "Increased Awareness about Housing, Land and Property Rights"

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=10427>

### Protection and Livelihoods

In view of the emerged livelihoods opportunities for the refugees, a need has been identified by the Protection and Livelihoods sectors to explore on the legalistic framework for persons of concern, as well to ensure information sharing between sectors on the matter, targeting Syrians living in the host communities and camps.

The UNHCR Legal unit reviewed legal provisions on self-employment and shared with the Livelihoods working group (LWG).

A focal point from the Legal unit regularly attends the LWG to consult on the framework for refugee livelihoods, labour standards, home-based business and entrepreneurship, and to answer questions of the group members.

The "Frequently Asked Questions" on work permits is regularly updated by the Legal unit, shared with the LWG, and is now available at the portal:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=13187>

The meetings led by ILO in collaboration with Ministry of Labour and UNHCR were held with refugees and job fairs in Amman, Mafraq, Zarqa and in Zaatari camp.

The both sectors are cooperating in monitoring the process of child labour.

#### Protection and Education

Capacity building on Child Protection and Education-In-Emergencies (EiE) standards for members of the sectors.

Two sectors discussed and agreed on the mechanism to address the common challenge of reporting of Psychosocial Support Services (PSS) by Education partners who provide PSS services under Makani programme. The challenge was addressed by monitoring and guiding partners in both sectors.

Education sector co-chair usually attends Child Protection sub-sector coordination meetings for the updates and close follow up on the specific topics of concern for both sectors.

#### Shelter and WASH<sup>5</sup>

The two sectors coordinated rehabilitation of latrines and upgrading of sanitation services in the substandard properties benefitting Syrians and Jordanians living in urban settings.

To avoid the risk of duplication of activities, both working groups developed joint technical guidelines on upgrading of sanitation facilities in shelters.

#### Shelter and Health

In order to mitigate the long-term impact of inadequate shelters on physical and mental health, the two sectors worked together to identify over-crowded shelters to detect and address the impact on health of the Syrians living in the host communities.

Also, the sectors coordinate addressing case referrals.

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<sup>5</sup> Also see “WASH and Shelter Inter-Sector Linkages in 2015” document at:  
<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=14640>