

Basic Needs Working Group Amman, Jordan

Meeting Location	EMOPS Room UNHCR Khalda	Meeting Date	07.12.2015
Facilitator	Volker Schimmel UNHCR & Elias Jourdi NRC	Meeting Time	15:00– 16:30
Minutes Prepared by	Olivia Cribb UNHCR		
Purpose of Meeting			

1.) Summary of action points

No.	Action Point	Focal Point / Organization
1.	MEB Taskforce: Discussion complementary modalities of assistance 4 th January.	Zaid Awamreh PU-AMI, Ryan Beech WFP, Jawad Aslam UNICEF & Mohammed Al-Awamreh CARE
2.	Common Cash Facility: for partner organizations interested in a briefing/ longer presentation by Elizabeth Barnhart	barnhart@unhcr.org, cc'ing cribb@unhcr.org
3.	15 December Review of Basic Needs HPF proposals with UNOCHA	UNOCHA
4.	21 December: Winterization Module Training, 9:30am -12:30pm at UNHCR Khalda Office, EMOPS room: 319 Wasfi Al Tal St, Khalda Email cribb@unhcr.org in advance of training if additional staff require system access/login	Olivia Cribb cribb@unhcr.org
5.	12 January 1 st Amman Coordination Referral Meeting	Florent Marty marty@unhcr.org
6.	Central Bank follow up, national implementation of additional requirements for data sharing or local risk management protocols implemented by Jordan-Ahli Bank and Jordan-Kuwait Bank? Able to be mitigated or is this a broader problem that the sector will be faced with nationally post-Paris. Partners experiencing pushback and distribution cycles imminent, delays continue. Conclusion: See AOB	Volker Schimmel schimmel@unhcr.org

2.) Attachments and References

Documents	Location	Contact Person

3.) Session Summaries

Item	Discussion
HPF submissions and expected time line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPF Results to be released to partner organisations submitting proposals on 20th of December.
Operational Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of returnees and immigration increased • Reporting gaps • Inter-sector linkages: inter-sector working group meeting last week
Thematic Presentation PU-AMI “Analysis of basic needs among Syrian refugees in Amman and Zarqa”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on VAF basic needs tree, 95% of refugees interviewed are highly or severely vulnerable. Female headed households show to be just as or less vulnerable than male-headed households. • MEB slop increases drastically with higher number of individuals. • Monthly expenditure increases with higher family size; so does monthly income • Gap Expenditure / income: e.g. HH=4 average expenditure of 310 with an income of 115 JD /month • MEB amount for indicators calculations do not match with PU-AMI data. Reasons are mainly prioritization of expenditures for rent and food, thereby applying negative coping strategies for education, health... • For those who receive UNHCR assistance, these cash grants represent 46% of their total, regular income. • Q&A: How effective is the VAF if 95% are highly or severely vulnerable? → Select percentages/number of most vulnerable...; What are the consequences of these findings? Lower MEB for families with high # of individuals? Further analysis and interpretation needed. • <i>Suggestion Volker:</i> Starting January, do a data analysis using the methodology and layout of this research with data of Basic Needs group organizations. MEB taskforce to convene 4 January to been data analysis of methodology.
The sizing challenge & relation to MEB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “One level of assistance fits all” proved wrong therefore alternative approach of completing the MEB instead • Draft analysis on Gap: high number of cases that get assistance by multiple actors, e.g. UNICEF & UNHCR & WFP while others lack assistance; gap analysis to improve assistance targeting needed! • Working group to bring forward gap analysis: _____ (add names)
Basis Needs Co-chair elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same procedure as last year. Nominate one person from each organisation and advise Olivia by COB 15/12/2015.

“Cash Transfer for Protection” Workshop Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Framework to identify protection risks that might be addressed by Cash assistance as well as (in the future) develop indicators for M&E of Cash transfers for protection issues • Cash and Protection follow-up workshop held on 08/12/2015
“Common Cash Facility - EyeCloud” Elizabeth Bernhardt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current process: Iris scan at UNHCR registration as well as separate Iris registration with Bank in order to receive cash assistance • New process with EyeCloud: shift whole process back to UNHCR by connecting Iris scan at registration and ATM → no need for beneficiaries to register with bank, partners who are interested in receiving a briefing/presentation by Elizabeth Barnhart on the ‘Common Cash Facility’ should contact her directly on barnhart@unhcr.org, cc’ing cribb@unhcr.org
AOB – Central Bank Follow up	<p>After some of you reported recent change in policies by your respective partner banks when it comes to KYC and accepting refugees as beneficiaries, we checked with the Central Bank of Jordan on the latest regulatory framework. After some searching, we were able to get confirmation from two relevant units at the CBJ – notably the Domestic Payments Department – that no new regulation has been issued by the Central Bank since 2014.</p> <p>This means that recent developments are exclusively related to each bank’s internal governance and risk management approach. In turn, this means that you should be able to pressure your partner banks for more facilitation. We also would like to underline that the CBJ is explicitly in favour of facilitating payments to refugees and has successfully facilitated in cases where banks have gone above and beyond in terms of restrictions. If you find it difficult to get results from your partner banks, we may be able to bring this to the attention of the relevant staff at the CBJ to solicit their support. This should only be done once all other measures have been exhausted. Should that be the case, please do not hesitate to get in touch (schimmel@unhcr.org).</p> <p>We hope that this information allows you in a first instance to put your relationship with your partner bank onto a new footing.</p>
Adjournment	The workshop adjourned at 16:30.