

## Health Sector Research and Assessment Committee

### Terms of Reference

**Background:** Coordination is an essential part of the humanitarian response, with the aim of avoiding unnecessary duplication of service delivery and identifying gaps where services are most needed. With the Syrian crisis in its fifth year, the evolving humanitarian context poses new demands on health systems in Jordan and consequently on the Health Sector, and there is a need to strengthen planning and coordination even further to ensure an appropriate response. This includes improve collection and analysis of data and dissemination of information. Thus, the formation of a Health Sector Research and Assessments Committee (HSRAC) was proposed in order to better identify directions for researches and coordinate sector needs assessments.

**Function:** The function of the HSRAC is to provide technical and strategic support to ensure that refugee rights are recognized and the particular vulnerability of refugees is considered in the planning design and conduct of assessments and research and to ensure a coordinated approach.

#### **Objectives:**

- 1- Review planned assessments for justification and indications, methodology, ethical principles, and coordination with existing or planned assessments;
- 2- Review proposed research relating to health amongst refugees and ensure agreed criteria are met.

**Membership:** Membership is voluntary, and the committee will have between 3 to 4 members (in addition to MOH and sector chairs). They should be familiar with the main current health issues facing populations and health systems in Jordan and the ways they are being addressed. The members will not act in the interest of their own organization but rather use their broadly-based experience in the interest of the Health Sector as a whole.

**Members:** To be nominated and selected, with the possibility of rotational membership every 6–12 months. Current members are MoH, UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and USAID.

#### **Method of Work:**

Health Sector Research and Assessments Committee (HSRAC) will be chaired by MOH and Health Sector Leads. The Committee will meet at least once a month and when required to review applications and give timely feedback to the applicants. Members are requested to attend the meetings in person, or send a suitable representative.

The role of the Research and Assessments Committee in reviewing and approving Needs Assessments and Research relating to health and provide recommendation to MOH and does not replace the Governments core function in providing approvals.

#### **Application Process:**

In order to ensure appropriate coordination of assessments, an agency wishing to conduct an assessment should go through the following process:

1. Define the objective for the assessment, and how the information will be used;
2. Upload the proposed assessment data onto the Needs Assessments Registry; <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=107>
3. Inform geographic coordination structures (Camp Management, or urban coordination systems);
4. Inform geographic sector Working Groups, where applicable;