

Food Security Sector Working Group (SYRIA CRISIS)

DATE Tuesday June 25 2013
TIME 12 PM
VENUE ESCWA, WFP Office, Beirut

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AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes from previous meeting
2. VASyR
 - First food security results presentation and comments (Susana Moreno)
 - Food Security Indicators to discuss
3. M&E: food consumption and price monitoring results
4. Lebanese Red Cross/ UAE Red Crescent- Update
5. Notifications
 - IM Working Group
 - Co-Chair
 - 3Ws Matrix
6. AOB
 - Next meeting

1. Approval of the minutes from previous meeting

The meeting was opened by WFP's Head of Programme who reviewed the minutes from the previous FSSWG meeting, which took place on 11 June 2013. The minutes from the fifth FSSWG were endorsed by the group.

2. Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR)- Update

The data collection was completed on 11 June 2013 and the first preliminary results were presented to the stakeholders on 19 June. WFP's Food Security Expert (FSE) provided a brief overview of the preliminary results, focusing on the part of the presentation that related specifically to food security indicators. Given the high food diet diversity consumed by the households, potential food consumption deficits are likely to be related to inadequate quantities of food or specific micronutrient intake. Further, it was pointed out that "expenditure" served as the closest proxy for income. However, other indicators could be considered. The floor was opened to the room for comments and the presentation (attached) provided a basis for discussion.

ICRC requested a clarification on why refugee households, which have been in Lebanon for a longer period of time (>6 months), appeared to be less food insecure. The FSE clarified that, it could be a variety of reasons such as 1) those arrived before have had more time to adapt and know the context better in terms of job opportunities, assistance available, access to services, among others. 2) the rapid increase in refugee population in last months may make more difficult the access to services and assistance or job opportunities 3) temporality, i.e., refugees' perceptions that they may not stay long in Lebanon, affecting the way they interact with the context. In addition, it cannot be ruled out that the situation of those refugees that arrived later could be worse after being more time in Syria, under conflict conditions.

DFID inquired about what might happen if there were important disagreements about the VASyR results. WFP's FSE explained that they could not exclude the possibility of diverging results between the VASyR and other assessments conducted by sectors or organisations but, reassured the group that the VASyR team, with the support of the sectors, would work on providing clarification for such discrepancies.

The VASyR team is hoping to have a first set of criteria ready by 5 July so that they might be presented at the cross-sectoral meeting.

ACTION POINT

Members should consider the indicators they would like to see included into the analysis for the sector and directly email: Susana.moreno@wfp.org before Thursday 27 June.

Members with organisation-related criteria (not sector-specific) should also directly email: Susana.moreno@wfp.org before Thursday 27 June.

3. M&E: food consumption and price monitoring results

WFP completed its first draft M&E report for the period January to March 2013.

ACTION POINT

WFP will circulate this draft report with the members and invite other organisations which produce the same type of reports to circulate them among the group.

4. Lebanese Red Cross/ UAE Red Crescent- Update

WFP held a follow-up meeting with the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) concerning its food assistance in Lebanon last week.

LRC coordinated the distributions of 4,000 parcels in Aarsal, donated in May by the UAE Red Crescent and provided directly to local actors. ICRC confirmed that the mechanisms of this assistance were still not fully understood.

LRC are now planning to distribute 2,500 parcels for 6 months. This initiative comes from different Red Cross/Crescent societies globally and a new LRC sub-relief committee was created to coordinate the distributions. LRC highlighted its concerns over providing food distributions as it intends to fully focus on provision of emergency medical assistance. ICRC will follow closely the discussions and report back to the FSSWG. However, they emphasised that it was unlikely that the group would get consistent and regular information from them.

DRC stressed the importance of coordinating with other organisations because Aarsal is a major point of refugee influx and the recent 4,000 parcels donation posed additional challenges to the situation.

ACTION POINT

WFP will continue to follow-up with LRC to receive the proposed food parcel composition as well as its distribution plans.

ICRC will follow closely the LRC discussions and activities and report back to the FSSWG.

5. Notifications

Information Management Working Group (IMWG)

An IMWG was created by UNHCR with a meeting held on 26 June 2013. The IMWG will take place every last Wednesday of the month from 10am to 12pm at UNHCR.

ACTION POINT

WFP will forward the invitation and encourages all members to attend.

Co-Chair

All NGO actors were encouraged to co-chair the FSSWG whereby WFP would chair with an NGO on a three-month rotation basis.

World Vision volunteered for the second cycle of three months.

Save the Children (STC) stated it would have to confirm interest in co-chairing for the first cycle (July to September). Otherwise, OXFAM agreed to consider chairing if STC was not able to take on the role.

ACTION POINT

STC would confirm interest in co-chairing the FSSWG. Otherwise, OXFAM would consider co-chairing and confirm its interest.

3Ws Matrix

The 3Ws/5Ws matrix was circulated and filled in by four of the FSSWG members before the meeting. Other actors completed the matrix on the day of the meeting.

ACTION POINT

Members who have not done so yet are kindly requested to complete the matrix as soon as possible.

6. AOB

Nutrition

The Nutrition sub-working group is currently hosted under the Health Working Group. The members reiterated their interest in either establishing a separate Nutrition Working Group or placing the sub-working group under FSSWG.

ACTION POINT

WFP will put forward this discussion to the inter-sectoral meeting so that a decision is made on whether a separate Nutrition Working Group is established, it is placed under FSSWG or it remains under the Health Working Group.

Contingency Planning

DRC stressed that the current 1,000 parcels they have will not be enough. It also stressed the need to plan for the same number of households for NFIs and food parcels.

WFP committed to providing a 50% contingency stock replenishable, as soon as the contract with their second food supplier is confirmed.

ACTION POINT

All members were requested to share information on their contingency planning by the next meeting.

FAO-Transit centre plans update

FAO participated in the shelter working group to think about ways of improving food production and catering for all food groups in transit centres when/if these are created.

Internal funds were made available to FAO to start some food production projects as soon as the decision to set up transit camps is confirmed.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on the **9 July 2013**.

FSSWG CONTACTS:

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