

# Food Security Sector Working Group (SYRIA CRISIS)

**DATE** Tuesday 08 October 2013  
**TIME** 12 PM  
**VENUE** ESCWA, WFP Office, Beirut

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## AGENDA

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1. Approval of the minutes from previous meeting
2. Targeting
  - Update and Feedback from the field
  - Appeals/Verification Process
3. RRP6 Process
  - Timeline
  - Humanitarian Overview/Needs Assessment
  - Planning Figures
  - Outcome/Output Options
  - Reporting Template

4. E-Card Update

5. AOB

- Next meeting

**1. Approval of the minutes from previous meeting**

The meeting was opened by WFP's Head of Programme who went through the minutes of the last meeting. The minutes from the 12th Food Security Sector Working Group (FSSWG) meeting, which took place on 24 September 2013, were endorsed by the group.

**2. Targeting Information Campaign**

**Update**

The new NGO co-chair of the group, World Vision, stated that there were no reported security incidents thus far during the targeting of food voucher assistance. 9,000 families were excluded so far in Central and West Bekaa.

DRC confirmed that the mass information campaign was progressing smoothly and that no incidents had taken place as well in North Bekaa and North Lebanon.

WFP stated that there were no reports from across the country on any targeted assistance issues, inclusive of Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon.

**Appeals/Verification Process**

DRC reported that over 2,000 appeals form had been submitted thus far in the Bekaa and about 340 forms in North Lebanon, although the process only started a week ago. There are currently 7 appeals forms sites, close to the distribution sites in North Lebanon. At each appeal from site, one UNHCR and one NGO staff is helping refugees fill in the appeal.

WFP reported that more than 6,000 forms were submitted in the Bekaa, South Lebanon, Beirut and Mount Lebanon.

World Vision inquired whether NGOs leading projects unrelated to targeting were receiving questions from refugees, as some of their staff in the South faced the situation many times in the past few weeks. SHEILD confirmed that refugees were regularly asking questions about targeting and the appeals process.

The verification process will proceed as follows: households who filled in an appeal from and those living above 500 meters will be prioritised for household visits. After demands from various actors in the humanitarian community, the visit time frame was pushed from 3 months to 2 months. NGOs were also asked to present separate budgets to account for the verification exercise.

**3. E-card**

WFP also provided the membership with a short update on the e-cards, which were distributed by one of the voucher partners (ACF) last week for the pilot soft launch in Nabatieh (South Lebanon). A little less than 1,900 cards were distributed and so far the system has proven to be stable. WFP has been following-up with field missions to ensure that the programme was well-understood by beneficiaries and any improvements required carried out.

The roll-out is underway in Beirut, Mount Lebanon and South Lebanon with two distributions this week: one in Babda and one in Tyre (Sour). So far no incidents were reported.

World Vision also informed the group that they had started an e-card project from unregistered refugees for food and NFIs. 750 cards were distributed so far in South Lebanon.

UNWRA also updated the group on the progress of their e-card project. 30,000 cards were distributed since 2 October. This represented 92% of the planned number of cards for the first cycle of distribution. Distribution of the first batch were expected to end on Friday. Refugees that arrived in September would get their card by the end of October. The card is a Visa Electron and can be used for cash withdrawal and payments. Discussions are on-going with management to allow other NGOs to join the card. UNWRA indicated it would have a good overview of how the programme is understood by their beneficiaries by the end of the week.

#### **4. RRP6 Process**

The following briefing was given to the membership on the RRP6 process:

##### **Timeline**

The timeline was revised. On 21 October, sector submissions should be sent to the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator (RRC) in Amman and on 11 November the final plan should be ready. On 15 November, the country chapter will be submitted to the RRC in Amman.

##### **Planning Figures**

The planning figures have been finalized. The expected number of Syrian refugees by the end of 2014 is 1,955,504. 100,074 Palestinian refugees from Syria are expected throughout 2014 and there will be an expected 50,000 Lebanese returnees at the end of 2014.

In line with the current targeting exercise, WFP is planning on assisting 75% of the Syrian refugee caseload and Lebanese Returnees caseload (in collaboration with IOM and HCR). Food parcels will be distributed to refugees who have just arrived in Lebanon. WFP is also looking at including in its submission a contingency stock of 35,000 food parcels as part of its Preparedness Plan.

Save the Children asked what the status of "nutrition" was in the current RRP6 submission. WFP reaffirmed that the nutrition-related submission should be put under the Health Working Group until the results of the Nutrition Survey are published.

##### **Output/Outcomes**

Essentially, the process of prioritization became categorization.

It was agreed that the overall goal of the sector would be "To reach vulnerable populations, especially refugees, in Lebanon whose food security has been adversely affected by shocks." The sector agreed on the two following objectives:

- Objective 1-Improved food consumption for targeted Syrian refugees, Palestinian refugees from Syria, Lebanese returnees and Lebanese affected population
- Objective 2-Agricultural livelihoods of Lebanese returnees and rural affected communities restored.

The FSSWG membership also agreed on the three following outputs:

- Output 1-Food assistance distributed in sufficient quantity and quality to target groups of refugees and Lebanese returnees, host communities and Palestinian refugees (women, men, girls and boys) under secure conditions.
- Output 2-Spread of trans-boundary animal and plant diseases and pests contained, and food safety control established.
- Output 3- Smallholder Agricultural Production Restored.

In terms of Categorization, it was endorsed that all activities falling under Objective 1/Output 1 would be categorized as "Life-saving or preventing imminent risk of harm". Output 2 and 3 would either fall under the categories of "Preventing deterioration of vulnerabilities" or "Capacity Building / Resilience".

##### **Reporting Template**

WFP worked with UNHCR to finalize a first draft of the reporting template. Breakdown by region, by month and by caseload have been included. The template was approved by the group. WFP will fill in the matrix as example and circulate it to partners for submission.

##### **Narrative**

The narrative of the RRP6 submission should include planned activities and RRP5 overview. WFP indicated that it will draft the narrative based on the VASyR rationale and then submit it to members of the group for review and endorsement.

The date for input submission by partners was set to 14 October. The first draft of the narrative should be circulated by 11 October.

#### **ACTION POINT**

WFP will send the population projections to members of the group.

WFP will circulate the draft matrix.

WFP will share the first draft of the RRP6 narrative for the FSS.

#### **5. Any other business (AOB)**

FAO is hosting a celebration for World Food Day on 11 October at 11:30 at UNESCO.

#### **ACTION POINT**

The formal invitation and programme of the event will be circulated to members of the group.

#### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on **22 October 2013**.

#### **FSSWG CONTACTS:**

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