

Food Security Sector Working Group
4th August 2014, WFP Jordan – Amman

Chair: WFP and JHCO

Participation: ACF, ACTED, FAO, HRF, IOCC, IRW, Medair, REACH, SCI, SNAP, UNHCR, WVI.

STATUS	ACTION POINTS
<p>1. Comprehensive Food Security Monitoring Exercise (CFSME)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CFSME is an assessment of food security and vulnerabilities of the Syrian refugee population in Jordan. The exercise covered 7,089 households outside camps, and an additional 745 households in Za'atari camp – total of 7,834 households across the country. The assessment was conducted in collaboration with other sectors to assess possible linkages. • A three-page summary highlighting key findings and recommendations was handed out during the meeting. The key findings and recommendations have also already been presented to donors. The data set is available upon request. Hard copies of the report will be printed in around two weeks' time. <p><i>Presentation by Ed Luce, WFP Programme Officer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objectives of the assessment were to assess the food security situation of refugees in Jordan and to determine levels of vulnerability, including thresholds. The assessment will also feed into the inter-agency Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF). • The assessment covered 48 districts, 7,089 non-camp households, and 745 households in Za'atari camp. • Findings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demographics: About one-third of households are female-headed. The dependency ratio is higher in Jordan than it was in Syria. The highest dependency ratio is 1.57 in Ajloun and Jerash, while the lowest is in Ma'an (0.91). 21% of households had one non-registered refugee living with them. • WASH: 30% of households do not have sufficient water. Open defecation rates were 20% in Karak and 18% in Balqa, but much lower in other governorates. 	<p>Those interested in examining the data set can make a request to WFP.</p>

- Education: School attendance is higher amongst girls (55%) than boys (50%).
- Health: 26% of non-camp households have a member who suffers from a chronic illness, versus 22% of households in Zaatari.
- Child nutrition: 75% of children under two years of age did not meet minimum dietary diversity requirements.
- Wealth, income, expenditure:
 - 74.1% of households used WFP vouchers as their main source of income, while 88% used WFP vouchers as their primary or secondary source of income. This suggests an increase in vulnerability were the voucher programme to stop.
 - 32% of households were able to find work over the past month, but 95% of these only had temporary jobs.
 - A wealth index was created based on household assets. The governorates with the highest percentage of households in the poorest quintile of the wealth index were Tafileh, Mafrqa and Balqa. Households in the richest quintile were more likely to sell WFP vouchers.
 - The average expenditure per non-camp household of five people was 349.8JD – of which rent 145.7JD, food 93.4 JD and other costs 110.6JD).
 - WFP vouchers cover about 65% of food needs. In Za'atari camp the expenditure was much lower, at an average of 120.7JD.
- Three indicators were used: Food Consumption Score (FCS), measuring frequency of consumption and dietary diversity; Coping Strategies Index; and Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies.
 - Given that all refugees receive the WFP voucher, 90% of non-camp refugees, and 94% of refugees in Za'atari have an acceptable FCS.
 - Governorates with highest combined poor/borderline FCS were Madaba (29.1%), Ajloun (24.5%), and Balqa (19%).
 - With regards to short term coping strategies, 53.3% of households rely on less preferred/less expensive food, and 29.8% of households reduce the number of meals eaten.
 - When considering Livelihoods Based Coping Strategies, most households used spending of savings (61.2%), purchasing food on credit (59.6) and selling household assets (44.8%).

- Over time, it was observed that households maintained the same level of food consumption, but were reducing number of meals, or selling assets. Thus we see an increasing level of vulnerability over time.
- The Food Security Index (FSI) combined these three indicators, and refugees were divided into three categories: 1) food secure, 2) vulnerable to food insecurity, and 3) food insecure. Using the FSI, 52% of refugees in communities are food secure, while only 12% in Za'atari were in the same category. In Za'atari, 83% are vulnerable to food insecurity (because of high expenditure on food compared to other services), whereas only 42% in communities are in the same category.
- Characteristics of food insecure households: Main income sources are WFP vouchers, gifts, or informal small commerce; widowed head of household, or head of household with low education level; high dependency ratio; presence of non-registered household members; fewer assets; lack of access to sufficient water; longer duration of stay in Jordan (as vulnerability increases with time).
- **Recommendations:**
 1. Continuation of food assistance: if food assistance were to stop, WFP estimates 85% of households would not have sufficient access to food, and the frequency and severity of coping strategies would increase.
 2. Targeting based on needs in communities, using variables taken from the UNHCR database: some households do not need assistance. There will be multiple stages of targeting, starting with excluding all households headed by those with post-secondary education, but including all widowed heads of HH – estimated reduction: 6%. Following that, exclusion of households headed by those with secondary education, and with a low dependency ratio – estimated reduction: 4%.
 3. Find long term, durable solutions, and reduce dependency on WFP vouchers.
- Why use an adapted index, as it means that the CFSME cannot be compared to similar assessments conducted in other countries at a regional level? The index was adapted as it weighs in favour of FCS, and as FCS is good in Jordan, it might mask other issues with coping strategies and expenditure.

WFP to circulate CFSME presentation and three-page summary of findings.

2. Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF)

- The VAF team is currently developing the appeals process, and there is a working draft available. WFP will be using the same appeals process. Refugees will be notified of their perceived vulnerability level and the process for appeals, including clarifying valid reasons for appealing.
- How does this connect with WFP targeting? WFP intends to begin targeting with the September cycle for households that are food secure without WFP assistance. A communications strategy will be in place prior to targeting.
- WFP have developed a message which encourages Syrian refugees to take their name off the list if they do not require assistance. The success rate is not anticipated to be high, but the intention is more to plant the idea that assistance is not an entitlement, and should be given only to those who need it the most.
- Issues raised regarding the two-stage WFP targeting followed by VAF implementation: as rumours may spread that the VAF is associated with exclusion from food assistance. The risks of making the criteria for targeting public were mentioned, as it is likely that beneficiaries who understand the system might try to maneuver it to their advantage.
 - It was clarified that WFP targeting will be started in areas where e-card distribution has been completed.

FSSWG members are welcome to share ideas regarding how to address refugees to ensure that not everyone will appeal against their VAF score

3. RRP6 Dashboard

- The dashboard is generated and distributed at the beginning of every month. Contributions from FSSWG members are always welcome. Photographs of sector-related activities being implemented, for example, can be included if provided.

FSSWG members to submit contributions (updates/photos) to the monthly dashboard during the first week of each month.

4. 2015 Planning

- A Data Analysis Team (DAT) was established and a workplan and methodology have been drafted. Secondary data review is being carried out, and the plan for 2015 should be completed by early October.

5. Contingency Planning

- Planning assumptions have been shared once more; the draft contingency plan has finished, and is now awaiting IATF approval.

6. AOB

- Mailing list: members are requested to kindly confirm their main contact persons for the FSSWG, in order to have an updated mailing list.

Contact list table to be circulated and completed by organisations