

Note for the Record: First Food Security Sector Working Group Meeting

Date: 26 March 2013
Location: WFP Offices – ESCWA Building – Beirut
Participants: 21 from 14 organisations.

The meeting was opened by WFP's Head of Programme, who will co-lead the Sector on behalf of WFP (*Note: The other co-lead is expected to be the Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA), who are to appoint a focal point shortly*). The need for such a working group was quickly explained and the fact that the Food Security Sector Working Group (FSSWG) is not a cluster was carefully explained. The participants then introduced themselves (list below) before the discussion began.

The following issues were discussed:

1. **Terms of Reference (ToRs):** The first topic was the ToRs for the FSSWG. With the exception of the FAO representatives who had sent amendments via email and GoL's Ministry of Social Affairs (MOSA) verbal contributions to WFP, none of the participants had any outstanding issue with the ToRs.

Action Point:

It was agreed that WFP would incorporate the suggestions and redistribute the final draft which will be adopted at the next meeting.

2. **Livelihoods:** The GoL MOSA representative from DFID immediately suggested including livelihoods within the FSSWG and inviting relevant colleagues to future meetings. The suggestion met with general approval. Later in the meeting there was considerable discussion about exactly how livelihoods would fit under the umbrella of Food Security (what kinds of activities etc) as well as who should be included in the FSSWG. There was some debate about the compatibility of activities promoting long term industrial and agricultural livelihoods with Food Security. By the end of the meeting there was still no consensus beyond the loose agreement that "livelihoods should be merged with Food Security".

Action Point:

FAO and WFP will meet with the Protection Sector focal point to discuss the removal of Livelihoods from the Protection Working Group and inclusion into the FSSWG.

3. **Regional Response Plan 5 (RRP5):** The PU-AMI representative suggested establishing an FSSWG strategy for the sector detailing the plans, activities, capabilities, funding gaps ,etc of each organisation in the FSSWG. The MOSA representative then explained that the RRP5, launched in March 2013, is UNHCR and MOSA's combined attempt to do exactly that. The RRP5 and the government plan are actually one and the same. Confusion had arisen among the FSSWG participants due to the several different formats and names by which the same exercise is known. The RRP5 will have the added benefit of providing the FSSWG with an insight into the needs of the host Government (MOSA and MOA) and not just those of the INGO/UN.

4. **Joint Outputs:** The UNHCR representative explained that the purpose of RRP5 was to identify gaps, prevent overlap and promote cooperation between group members. He therefore encouraged the FSSWG to agree on several joint objectives, outcomes, and outputs for submission to UNHCR for the Food Security component of the RRP5. Once the RRP5 is finalised, it will lay out the capacities and gaps for all activities within the sector. This

will be invaluable in a future targeting exercising. There was a somewhat fractured discussion about the nature of the three outputs which were eventually more or less agreed upon as follows:

- Improved access to food for all vulnerable populations.
- Strengthening of livelihoods for vulnerable populations.
- Some form of agricultural output to be decided upon by FAO.

Action Point:

The final deadline for suggestions for the FSSWG objectives, outcomes and outputs (along with the output/activities template) was set for Thursday, 28 March 2013.

5. **Prioritisation:** The FAO representative suggested that the working group should come up with prioritisation criteria for the activities and beneficiaries of the FSSWG given the vast scope of activities and issues covered by the various members. Some members are engaged in long term development work while others are engaged in emergency relief. WFP insisted that in line with the RRP5's ultimate focus, the FSSWG should primarily be focused on emergency relief and catering to the hundreds of thousands of refugees and other extremely vulnerable groups. Developmental work would be a second priority in the face of the refugee emergency and its impacts on the Lebanese communities.

The following people participated in the meeting:

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| WFP | EkramElhuni | Head of Programme |
| WFP | Elena Bertola | Programme Officer |
| WFP | Salam Saab | Senior Programme Assistant |
| WFP | Cindy Kremer | Reports Officer |
| WFP | Ronan Macnamara | Reports Officer |
| UNHCR | Charlie Higgins | NFI Coordinator |
| FAO | Solange Matta Saade | |
| FAO | Lisbeth Albinus | |
| MoSA | Jeremy Loveless | |
| Caritas | Hellen Sayah | |
| DRC | Valentina Stivanello | Emergency Advisor |
| Save the Children | Jackline Atwi | FSL Coordinator |
| Save the Children | Laura swift | FSL Advisor |
| PU-AMI | Hassan Elsayed | |
| Handicap International | Thiery Balbalisin | Regional Coordinator |
| Handicap International | Magalie Vairetto | |
| ICRC | Aurélie Grangé | |
| AMURT | Karl Andersson | Liaison/Programme Officer |
| OXFAM | Loreto Palmaera | EFSL Advisor |
| Islamic Relief | Maysaa Kurdi | Project Officer |
| GVC | Simona Camova | Project Manager |