

Food Security Sector Working Group (SYRIA CRISIS)

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VENUE ESCWA, WFP Office, Beirut

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AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes from previous meeting
2. Briefing on the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR):
3. Regional Response Plan 5 (RRP5)
4. 3Ws/5Ws
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 from the previous FSSWG meeting, which took place on the 23 April 2013. The minutes from the third FSSWG were endorsed by the group.

2. Briefing on the Vulnerability Assessment for Syrian Refugees in Lebanon (VASyR):

WFP's Food Security Expert and lead on this project, presented the VASyR initiative. The project aims at identifying a set of variables that could be used as key eligibility criteria for targeting beneficiaries. The eligibility criteria will result from a nation-wide assessment's to be carried out between the last week of May and the first week of June 2013. This assessment and will occur

across a sample of 1,400 households stratified according to their registration date, will provide a better understanding of the vulnerability profile of registered refugees through a multi-sectoral questionnaire.

The training of the teams (supervisors and enumerators) is currently in process and will last until the 24 May. At the same time, the analysis plan of the assessment is being technically reviewed so that analysis can be carried out as soon as data collection is done.

WFP engaged in talks with UNHCR to identify the best way to approach the various stakeholders in the transition to targeted food assistance, which is to take place in July/August 2013. World Vision stressed the need for all UN Agencies (especially WFP and UNHCR) to use the same vulnerability criteria in order to avoid additional tensions at the distribution sites.

ACTION POINT

Members of the group should review the analysis plan and send their feedback to WFP's Food Security Expert, Susana Moreno, as soon as possible. A meeting will be scheduled to discuss the final draft.

WFP invites members to contribute with inputs to identify 1) who should be engaged in discussions and 2) what means should be used, to bring about the transition.

3. Regional Response Plan 5 (RRP5):

Update:

WFP's Head of Programme reminded the group that the launch of the RRP5 should take place on 7 June. The plan is currently being reviewed by UNHCR in Geneva. WFP has revised its plans by increasing the caseload from 48% to 80% of the expected 1,000,000 registered Syrian refugees in need of food voucher assistance until the end of December 2013. Furthermore, discussions with other agencies, in addition to several field tests, indicated that the number of refugees being assisted will have to be revised following the profiling exercise.

ACTION POINT

WFP will share the RRP5 latest draft with members of the FSSWG.

4. 3Ws/ 5Ws

WFP presented a possible version of a 3Ws matrix that would summarise each organisation's current operations. Once finalised, each organisation would be responsible for filling in the information relating to their activities. This table is the template from a previous emergency response since prior discussions between WFP, UNHCR and OCHA on how to best reflect information collected on the field yielded in a recommendation that each sector develop its own template.

FAO considers this initiative as a way to better link agriculture and food security activities currently on-going in Lebanon. The FAO representative also suggested segregating the categories into "Host Communities" and "Refugees" to better account for the difference in needs of these two groups. The Food Security Expert also recommended including a column for "Vulnerability Criteria" used by organisations in targeting their food assistance programmes. Solidarite Internationale also suggested using P-codes to identify locations.

WFP will rely on its sub-offices capacity to map this information at the local level.

ACTION POINT

WFP will circulate this matrix for review and comments to members of the FSSWG. When the final version is approved, organisations will be responsible for input relating to their respective organisation.

5. AOB/Next meeting

Food Parcels by the UAE Embassy / Lebanese Red Cross:

Based on reports that food parcels distributions by various Red Cross/ Red Crescent societies were taking place in Lebanon, WFP met with their representatives on the 20 May to discuss potential coordination and inclusion in the FSSWG. As of now, the Lebanese Red Cross is planning on distributing 30,000 parcels over 3 months, assisting about 150,000 people in the North and the South, particularly newcomers. They are currently coordinating their distributions through direct cooperation with the mayors and municipalities.

ACTION POINT

WFP will share with the Lebanese Red Cross the standard food parcel composition and the food assistance geographical distribution breakdown so as to best assist refugee population across Lebanon. Additionally, further discussions will take place to obtain more information on their targeting strategy

Rotating Chair

WFP suggested putting in place a system of “rotating chair” whereby each organisation would alternatively get the opportunity to set the agenda and chair FSSWG meetings. However, World Vision suggested a system of co-chairing by NGOs instead. Solidarite International asked that WFP continues to ensure secretarial support if this were to happen, which WFP confirmed.

ACTION POINT

An online poll will be circulated so as to check preferences among members between a “rotating chair” or co-chair.

E-Voucher update:

WFP is in its final round of negotiations with a selected financial services provider. The proof of concept has been finalised and includes the possibility to support and expand to ATM capabilities in the future. Discussions are on-going with sister UN agencies to ensure that they will be able to build on the card for their own programs once the e-voucher is in place.

The results of the profiling exercise will coincide with the transition to the e-voucher. Additionally, WFP is performing a stakeholder analysis to identify, and adequately respond to, the challenges and risks of transitioning to the e-voucher.

Lumpy Skin:

FAO informed the group that an animal disease, “lumpy skin”, was spreading among cattle in Lebanon. The disease, usually observed in Sub-Saharan Africa, is spreading through mosquitoes and is therefore highly contagious. All border areas a reported to be affected by the disease. It cannot be cured but animals can be effectively vaccinated. Although the government possesses the vaccines, it lacks the infrastructure to undergo a nation-wide vaccination campaign. However, there is no direct risk for humans but it is likely that it will severely affect livelihood in areas already highly vulnerable.

ACTION POINT

FAO will circulate a briefing on the disease to the FSSWG.

Next Meeting

Meeting schedule will resume as usual on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will take place on the **11 June 2013**.

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