

MoM for THE 11THFOOD SECTOR WORKING GROUP MEETING

Chair: Michiel Meerdink (WFP) and Mohammad Kilani (JHCO)

Participants: FAO, Save the Children, CARE, MEDAIR, ADRA, NICCOD, OXFAM, IOCC, and Kitabursuneh.

Prepared by: Ryan Beech Date: 19 February 2013 Venue: CARE/Amman

Introduction

Each agency/organization provided a quick briefing of food related operations in Jordan:

WFP

- WFP continued to provide food assistance to vulnerable Syrian refugees in Jordan through voucher assistance in Jordanian communities and General Food Distribution (GFD) of dry food rations and UNHCR complementary food packages in Al Za'atri camp. WFP reached a total of 145,906 beneficiaries during January and plans to reach 94,000 beneficiaries through vouchers and 94,000 beneficiaries through food assistance during February.

JHCO

- JHCO received complaints from 80 disabled persons in Al Za'atri camp, regarding the difficulties that they experience in visiting the FDP to receive dry food rations. In addition, disabled persons have reported that those who assist them in collecting food rations often take a portion of the rations as a service charge. (WFP will follow-up through monitoring and coordination with UNHCR and partner Save the Children).
- JHCO is concerned about the large number of unregistered Syrians in Jordan communities.
- JHCO feels that it is important to provide assistance to Jordanian host communities along with Syrians.
- JHCO distributed 10,000 water bottles at the border, 6,400 meals and water bottles and 3,500 food parcels in urban areas (new arrivals).

SAVE

- Second GFD cycle started on the 16th of February in Al Za'atri camp. Save is distributing around 2,000mt a month in the camp.
- Save continued with the voucher programme in Jordanian communities.

MEDAIR

- Infant/child feeding programme- holding discussions with WFP to explore the possibility of incorporating programme into voucher assistance. Programme includes 3,500 pregnant/lactating mothers and 1,000 children.

NICCO

- Distributed 450 heaters with kerosene and 1,800 blankets in communities.
- Moving to psycho-social care and food assistance, considering milk.
- Interested in WFP voucher programme.

OXFAM

- Primarily involved in wash activities in Al Za'atri camp.
- Planning a host community assessment for wash.
- Attending food sector meeting to gather information on who is implementing what and where in Jordan.

Kitabursuneh

- Plans to replace 80 percent of the tents in Al Za'atri camp with caravans.
- Partner with JHCO, signed agreement for distributing 4,000 caravans.
- Registering 115 Syrians per day at their office in Amman. Everyone registered gets blankets and food parcels (only new arrivals). Targeting those that are not registered by UNHCR.
- Experiencing a lot of pressure to register more and more Syrians.
- Currently have 85mt of dates and are willing to distribute in Al Za'atri camp through JHCO.

IOCC

- Targeting 1,000 unregistered with food vouchers. Will receive list of those pending registration from UNHCR.

FAO

- No direct intervention in Jordan. Conducting study aimed at reducing the negative impact of refugee influx on countries neighboring Syria.

CARE

- Not currently working in food.
- Multi-functioning centre in east Amman (15,000 registered), 40-50 percent are already registered with UNHCR.

- Monitoring of winter cash assistance with UNHCR shows that some of the money is being spent on food by beneficiaries.
- Opening another reception centre in Madaba.
- Will share results from a base-line assessment conducted in urban communities, although not focused on food.

Joint Assessment Mission (JAM)

- Led by UNHCR and WFP. Currently finalizing TORs and survey questionnaire.
- Will be externally reviewed by an independent consultant.
- Will meet with ministry counterpart, MOPIC, to discuss involvement.
- The assessment will cover everything; shelter, food, etc. in Jordanian communities and camps.
- Will conduct focus groups and interviews with beneficiaries.
- Projected timeline: first draft of the report will be ready in April to share with partners and Government.
- Sample size: to be discussed with UNHCR and MOPIC. Possibility for inclusion of both registered and non-registered Syrians.

Contingency and Preparedness Planning

- Al Za'atri camp, currently host to 111,977 UNHCR-registered persons, has physical capacity for more people. However, due to the increasing numbers of beneficiaries, the camp has become difficult to manage.
- A formal ceremony was held for the opening of the Mrejab Al Fohood (MAF) refugee camp in Zarqa governorate. MAF camp has an initial capacity for 5,500 people with plans for expanding up to 25,000 people. Beneficiaries have not yet begun moving into MAF camp and it is currently unclear as to when they will begin to do so. JHCO confirmed that the intention is still to use MAF for the vulnerable population in Al Za'atri camp (primarily female-headed households).
- WFP with UNHCR, UNICEF, and NRC, explored a potential location for an additional refugee camp in Azraq located one hour east of Amman, 16 km from the entrance to MAF camp, as it becomes increasingly urgent to begin preparing for a continued influx of Syrian refugees into Jordan.
- WFP would like to implement vouchers immediately in the new camps, however this is contingent on there being markets/CBO shops that are ready to operate in the camps when they open. Therefore, WFP is preparing for all possible scenarios.

Other Issues

- General concern over the increasing tension between Jordanian communities and Syrians. In order to relieve tensions, especially as more and more Syrians enter Jordan, it becomes important to begin considering providing assistance to Jordanian communities. WFP suggested that an informal working group could be formed to discuss this further, and request everyone to express their interest in such a group. WFP, while not chairing this group, will gladly participate in its formation.
- Question on the impact on Jordanian markets of the additional demand from the refugee caseload. WFP monitors the prices of food commodities in Jordan and has not yet witnessed significant changes in result of the Syrian crisis.
- Frequency of Food Sector Meeting: It was agreed, due to the current need for contingency planning, to hold Food Sector Meetings every two weeks.