

Food Security Sector Working Group (FSSWG)

21 January 2015, WFP Jordan - Amman

Chair: WFP

Participation: ACTED, FAO, IRC, SCI

ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBILITY
Partners to continue reporting their activities into ActivityInfo and to contribute to monthly dashboard by sending updates and/or photos to Farah El-Zubi	Working group members
Share link to article on "Syrian Refugees in Jordan: Economic Risks and Opportunities" http://governance.arij.net/en/?p=80	Farah El-Zubi
Circulate Za'atri Camp Safety Audit and the ITS documents and presentations	Farah El-Zubi
Open call for nominations on the Food Security Sector Gender Focal Point responsibility	Farah to circulate message Members to send nominations
Members of the sector are invited to share feedback/observations related to the impact of reduced WFP voucher value on Syrian refugees in Jordan	Farah to circulate message Members to provide feedback
Members of the sector are requested to propose suggestions for the improvement of participation in meetings and the overall function of the sector	Working group members
Circulate e-mail invitation to next meeting planned for Wednesday 18 February, 9:00 am – 11:00 am	Farah El-Zubi

DISCUSSION
<p>1. RRP6 Dashboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">RRP6 Dashboards are produced on a monthly basis and should include updates and highlights from as many group members as possible, to reflect the work being done by different organisations within the sector. Dashboards can be downloaded from the FSSWG page on the inter-agency data sharing portal: http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=107&Id=13Partners can send updates by e-mail to be included in the "Highlights" section, as well as photos to be featured on the dashboard.Feedback and suggestions are always welcome and can be sent to Farah (farah.elzubi@wfp.org)The December Dashboard will be the basis for input into the RRP6 closure document
<p>2. Updates</p> <p><u>FAO</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">FAO is in the process of finalizing the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment in Central and Northern JordanIt was agreed that FAO will present the findings of the assessment once approved by MoPIC - tentatively scheduled for next monthFAO is planning to conduct an assessment on the trans-boundary animal disease covering most of the northern areas near the borders and pastoralist areas in Jordan - further information will be communicated upon the launch of the assessment

WFP

- WFP launched the OneCard system in partnership with UNICEF in early January to support their winterization programme reaching a total of 41,000 children under the age of 14 in Azraq and Za'atri camps for a total value of JOD 574,000 (US \$809,000). The UNICEF one-time cash assistance is made available through WFP's e-cards and can be used to buy winter clothes, such as boots, gloves, trousers, coats and scarves at WFP-contracted supermarkets in the camps.

3. JRP/3RP Updates and Sectoral Strategy Documents

- Both the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) and the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) have been launched:
 - On 4 December, the JRP was endorsed by the Jordanian government as a one-year program to consolidate all major national and international efforts to address the impacts of the Syria crisis in Jordan. Document can be found on the JRP website: <http://www.jrpsc.org/new-resources/2014/12/1/jordan-response-plan-2015-final-draft-1-dec-2014>.
 - On 18 December, the 3RP was launched in Berlin. Following negotiations with the Government, it was agreed that the Jordan chapter of the 3RP is the JRP. It was also agreed that there will be no budgetary breakdown in the JRP. Document can be found on the 3RP website: <http://www.3rpsyriacrisis.org/>
- The online database, ActivityInfo, will also be used for the 3RP for refugee projects. All projects are already uploaded into the system for the purpose of reporting achievements and tracking implementation.
- On the National Resilience Plan, it has been confirmed that the plan is approved however currently obsolete in light of the launch of the JRP.
- Regarding the strategy documents, the ISWG is still working on how to publicize the agency appeals under the JRP/3RP – the preparation and dissemination of sectoral strategic documents is one proposed approach. Discussions arrived at the conclusion that such a proposal might risk relations of the sector and task force with the Government, and hence this issue needs to be taken at the task force level. It was agreed that WFP will review both the JRP and 3RP and explore the added value of having strategic documents, following which this will be addressed directly to the ISWG.

4. Za'atri Camp Safety Audit Findings Briefing

- The safety audit is one of the different tools used to identify and address safety risks by group, geographic location and sector of assistance.
- The aim of conducting the audit is to incorporate views and recommendations expressed by different groups and engages persons of concerns in the planning and implementation processes.
- A comprehensive presentation was provided by IRC outlining the audit findings across all sectors, and showing an interesting comparison between the 2013 and 2014 findings.
- **General 2013 Findings:**
 - 64% felt unsafe living in Za'atari: weak social relations, inadequate sector response mechanisms, challenged access to services;
 - Women and girls felt at risk of physical and verbal harassment. Some lived in isolation with limited community representation.
- **Changes between 2013 and 2014:**
 - 75% of female and 87% of men feel safe in Za'atari: Strengthened social structures, increased women engagement;
 - High reliability on community members and, for serious incidents, trust in the police.

Regarding the food sector, below are the main findings, issues/concerns and recommendations:

- **2013 Findings:**
 - Food distributions sites and market areas considered unsafe: crowdedness, long waiting times and limited sex segregation.
- **Changes between 2013 and 2014:**
 - Transition to voucher and opening of supermarkets: improved modalities of assistance and increased refugees control over resources.
- **Current Issues/Concerns:**
 - Selling of e-vouchers for other basic needs;
 - Staff attitudes, stock availability and limited number of staff leads to crowdedness, exacerbates potential for conflict, increases anxiety and concerns physical safety;
 - Women reported anxiety related stress exacerbates potential for domestic violence.
- **Beneficiaries Recommendations:**
 - Increase number of supermarkets and staff and explore cash-for-work opportunities;
 - Increase number of transports to and from sites;
 - Stagger e-voucher loading times to minimize overcrowding and ensure regular re-stock
 - Include bread within e-voucher system.
- The Za'atri camp safety audit report and the PowerPoint presentation will be circulated.

5. Informal Tented Settlements (ITS) Briefing

- A brief update on the ITS situation in Jordan was provided by WFP, based on a presentation prepared by UNHCR.
- Evictions were quite heavy in December 2014, however have been paused and no recent incidents have been reported. It is expected that further evictions may occur at any time.
- Several measures are in place to ensure that in the case of future evictions are more organized.
- The ITS operational guidelines are available and will be circulated to the group along with the PowerPoint presentation.

6. Protection/GBV updates

Sector Gender Focal Points

- The Sector Gender Focal Points Network has reviewed its membership and has requested from current focal points to review within their respective sectors their nominated focal points as well
- The Food Security Sector currently has one focal point and has thus invited members to nominate additional focal points, following which a vote will be casted to select one focal point to join the network
- An e-mail will be circulated to the FSSWG members calling for nominations

7. AOB

Inter-Sector Working Group (ISWG) Mini-Retreat

- A short briefing was provided to the members on the ISWG mini-retreat that was conducted on Thursday 15 January. Main issues discussed were the RRP6 annual report, future of the sectors, training needs and lessons learnt.

Reduced voucher value

- WFP shared that this month the voucher value has been reduced to JOD 13 due to limited funding. This will likely be the same in February, depending on the funding situation.
- WFP hotlines and monitoring are showing the impact of the reduced voucher value, anecdotal stories on how there is now increased house crowding, dramatic decrease in dietary diversity, parents going hungry in order to feed their children.
- Members of the sector are invited to share feedback/observations related to the impact of reduced WFP voucher value on Syrian refugees in Jordan.

Participation

- Members engaged in a general discussion on ways to improve participation at the sector meetings since recently there have been a quite low rate of participation and involvement. Suggestions for topics of interest are welcomed.
- It was also agreed that the sector meetings are now set for every third Wednesday of the month at 9:00 am.
- Next meeting: Wednesday 18 February, 9:00 am – 11:00 am.