

Food Security Working Group (FSWG) Syrian Refugee Response in Egypt Meeting minutes

Date: 12th April 2015

Venue: WFP Egypt EMOP Office, Cairo

Chair: Hans Vikoler, WFP

Participants: Hans Vikoler, Caterina Kireeva – **WFP** / Amr Osman, Jessica Gulhare – **UNHCR** / Ahmed Saada- **Save the Children**.

Agenda:

1. Update on status of ongoing vulnerability targeting and appeals process;
 2. Summary of April distribution cycle and planning for May & beyond cycles;
 3. Food security related 3RP updates;
 4. Information sharing within FSWG;
 5. Key findings and recommendations/actions from the latest M&E activities;
 6. A.o.B
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Summary of the Minutes:

1- Overview & updates by WFP:

• *Update point 1: April distribution*

- April distribution reached a total of 85,251, meeting 99% of the target set.
- The reduced food voucher value continues to be US\$17 per person per month instead of planned US\$24.2, applying 30% reduction.
- April case-load derived from results of the UNHCR biometric verification exercise (IRIS) and removal of closed cases and WFP no-shows. Moreover, 1,843 beneficiaries were removed from WFP list, tentatively classified by UNHCR with low vulnerability (as per initial results of the on-going vulnerability assessment).
- Data of beneficiaries excluded by UNHCR from food assistance have been re-assessed by WFP; people classified as food insecure and will be re-included into the May distribution.

• *Update point 2: status of vulnerability targeting*

- Given available resources and donors' questioning of the sustainability of Syria Emergency Operations, Egypt alongside with other five countries across the Region is defining strategies to scale back regional operations through a tighter targeting approach. The concept of responsible programming and targeted assistance aims to provide food assistance to those most in need.
- The joint WFP/UNHCR Vulnerability Assessment of the Syrian refugees is on-going in Greater Cairo (Save the Children), Alexandria (Caritas) and Damietta (Resala) with close to 70% of household data collection done. Data deriving from nearly 68,000 individuals already assessed are being analysed and will serve for targeted vulnerability-based assistance in May 2015.

- Through targeted approach and applying results of UNHCR verification exercise, as well as on WFP “no-show” tracking lists, the current planned caseload of nearly 90,000 PoC is estimated to be reduced by approximately 30 percent in the second quarter of 2015.
 - To ensure timely distribution and less harm possible to beneficiaries, and acknowledging that a “perfect” methodology with no exclusion/inclusion errors does not exist, WFP and UNHCR found a consensus to use WFP vulnerability scoring methodology for May 2015 distribution cycle;
 - Given high number of PoC found with “low food vulnerability”, it is proposed to start with application of targeting results for Greater Cairo only (considering the fact that this geographic area will be easier to monitor);
 - No cuts in assistance during the Ramadan season should be considered.
- **Update point 3: Appeals Process**
 - All the assessed PoC will have right to appeal;
 - Appeals mechanism pilot will start in May, by using both paper appeal requests to be submitted at UNHCR/WFP help desks at distributing sites and a dedicated mail-box.
 - **Update point 3: M&E finding**
 - Analysis of the M&E findings of the first quarter of 2015 is on-going. Preliminary results show slight deterioration in the food consumption score among assisted refugees. Damietta is the governorate of main concern in terms of food security.

2- Overview & updates by UNHCR:

- 3RP indicators have been approved at the inter-agency level.
- Different Sectors’ M&E tools are proposed to be revised/amended accordingly.
- *Activity Info* – possibility of entering Sector Groups members’ activities through an automated web-hosted system is being implemented, to overcome problems linked to lack of a structured inter-agency/inter-sector data management system.
- A training on the new automated system to record activities and generate reports will be held in Cairo in May (*dates to be confirmed*).
- 3RP Inter-Agency Regional Dashboard and report are being finalized. Activities under Resilience continue to be challenging to report on.

3- Overview & updates by Save the Children:

- In order to enhance Vulnerability Assessment data quality and reliability, an automated tool to clean and cross-check data before their submission to the UNHCR server has been recently introduced.
- Collected data are validated against forty-four pre-set criteria (Food related criteria are included, however more can be provided by WFP). Cases that need to be looked at are highlighted and send to the UNHCR for review/reassessment.
- Moreover, to ensure there are no data losses, all paper filled-in questionnaires are scanned and archived as a back-up.

Summary of Action points:

Action	Responsibility	Deadline
1. Dates and venue of training on IM/Activity Info portal to be confirmed	UNHCR	As applicable
2. Define May food distribution case-load based on results from vulnerability assessment in Greater Cairo	UNHCR, WFP	ASAP
3. Info-sharing on the 3RP portal	UNHCR/WFP/FS members	As applicable
4. M&E 1 st QR 2015 results to be shared	WFP	Once finalized

Agenda items for next meeting:

1. May distribution cycle
2. Egypt Funding status and related planning
3. Targeting plan and progressive reduction of caseload
4. Status of Vulnerability Assessment
5. Key findings and recommendations/actions from the latest M&E activities;
6. A.o.B

A.o.B.:

Next FSWG meeting will convene in June 2015 (date TBC)