



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR WORKING GROUP



MINUTES OF MEETING – 6th September 2016

When: 6th of September 2016

Where: the Chamber of Commerce-Hamara

Who: 28 participants from MoA, MoSA, WFP, FAO, ACF, SHIELD, OXFAM, CCP Japan, LCC, LHIF, CCIABML, AUB, UNHCR, MERCY Corps, IR, UNESCWA, UNRWA, Save the children, AVSI, WV.

Meeting Minutes

Link to the meeting presentation: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=11745>

The meeting was opened by FAO who introduced the agenda:

1. **Coping Strategy Index – LCC proposed update**
2. **Socio-economic situation of Palestine Refugees – UNRWA**
3. **MRR presentation – MoSA**
4. **Communication strategy for excluded caseloads – WFP**
5. **Update from the field - North evictions**
6. **Update on FSS steering committee**
7. **Update on LCRP 2017-2020**
8. **AOB**

1. **Coping Strategy Index – LCC proposed update**

LCC is conducting a survey to provide a comprehensive context specific overview on the various aspects of the refugees.

The presentation covered background on the CSI, development and type of the CSI, Objectives and suggested methodologies.

The objectives of the research is to look into the possibility of revising the CSI due to the following reasons:

- Context-specific CSI has not been updated or reviewed since its original development,
- No clear and detailed documentation of the adaptation process,
- coping strategies might have differed across time,
- as it was previously shown that coping strategies vary according to circumstances,
- No calculation steps and Contradictory findings in previous studies.



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Details on the process are available in the presentation:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=11745>

2. Socio-economic situation of Palestine Refugees – UNRWA

The members were given a brief overview on the socio economic situation update of the Palestine refugees currently depending on UNRWA's services as they are unable to access the public systems in Lebanon.

The PRS Socio-Economic Survey – 2015 objective is to provide comprehensive overview of the various aspects of the socio-economic and living conditions of PRS.

The methodology, the instrument used, data collection and the finding were presented

More details on the PRS Socio-Economic Survey – 2015 are available in the meeting presentation at:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=11745>

Findings on nutrition can be found in the complete report.

Link to the complete report:

<http://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/survey-economic-status-palestine-refugees-lebanon>

3. Maps of Risks and Resources (MRR) RR presentation – MoSA

MoSA introduced the partners to the Lebanon Host Communities Support Project (LHSP), as well as to the Map of Risks and Resources.

The MoSA jointly with the UNDP launched in 2013 the LHSP as a comprehensive, coordinated and durable response towards the Syrian Crisis and its implications on the country.

The LHSP aims at:

1. Increase the livelihoods and economic opportunities mainly in the affected areas;
2. Providing basic services (health, education, infrastructure, etc.);
3. Strengthen the capacity of local and national actors to assess and respond to the needs and risks in a community participatory driven approach and conflict sensitive approach;
4. Improve the local level dispute resolution and community security

Maps of Risks and Resources (MRR) is a participatory approach method and a Project Identification tool that the LHSP uses as its primary tool to identify projects.

The FSS members were briefed on how the local communities are engaged in the process and how they perceived the MRR. Phase 3 covered 101 municipalities of which 93 are published online

Database of the MRR is developed and can be used for new projects. All the Information can be found on MoSA web portal (accessible in English and Arabic). Partners were briefed on how to register and use the website.



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A question was raised on how NGOs can help in providing solutions to the problems identified. MoSA suggested to contact the Ministry of Social Affairs or to directly contact the municipality.

More details on MRR are available on the meeting presentation

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=11745>

Link to MoSA MRR web portal

<http://4wslebanon.net:8080/lhsp/portal/>

4. Communication tools – WFP

The FSS members were briefly updated on the WFP Communication tools

WFP has been using a number of mechanism to communicate to the Syrian refugees about their eligibility for food assistance.

Some of the Mechanisms used by WFP are but not limited to:

- Posters on all WFP shops
- Text messages(SMS) are used to communicate with HHs receiving assistance , HHs excluded from assistance and the shop owners
- Hotlines
- Q&A on food assistance are also disseminated to hotline staff members and shared with partners in the field to convey the right message.
- One of the new mechanism used recently in September is a 2 month notice to notify HHs that will be no longer eligible for assistance by the month of November.

5. Update from the field - North evictions

The FSS coordinator gave some updates on the eviction of households from 7 ITSs in the North (Minieh) from the inter-agency coordination in the field.

239 HH were evicted and were relocated in Mhammara, Bebnine and Bhanine scattered in different sites (around 13)

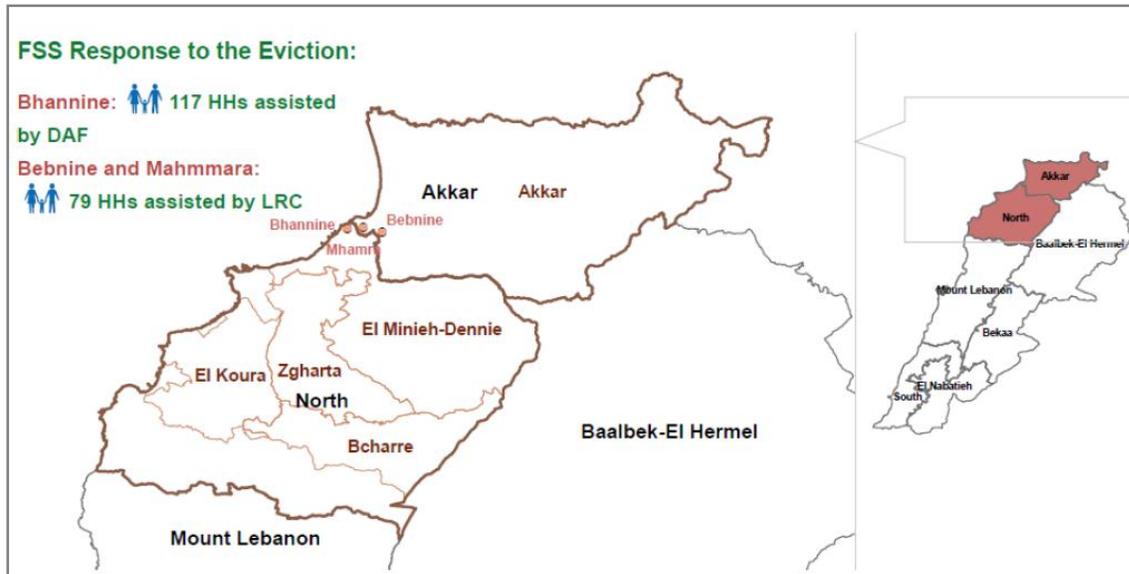
There was a coordination with BAWG/UNHCR on information regarding needs. The majority of evicted families had reported food as one of their priority needs. The FSS partners were called to provide assistance to the evicted HHs. DAF and LRC distributed food parcels to the HHs that needed assistance.

The coordination with FS partners was done both at national and field level.



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6. Update on FSS steering committee

The MoA FSS coordinator updated partners on the process for the establishment of the sector steering committee. Upon receipt of confirmation of the 2 donors that will be part of the committee, the first meeting will be called. To date confirmed members are: MOA, MoSA, WFP, FAO, IOCC, SHIELD.

7. Update on the LCCRP 2017-2020

The results of the discussion between the UN and NGOs on the progress and setback of the LCRP were presented to the meeting audience as per below:



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STRENGTHS:	WEAKNESSES:
Opportunity to introduce the full concept of Food Security (from just food assistance to food security interventions)	The stabilisation activities need more information and evidence based data.
Increased the number of partners within the sector	Lack of looking at the aspect of actual capacity of implementation to reach targets even if it is a needs based
Increase Government leadership and commitment	Lack of assessment study to evaluate the expected impact of agriculture livelihood activities
Closer alignment with national priorities – e.g. new MoA strategy	Coordination across sectors: agriculture livelihood activities duplicated in several sectors.
Lebanon specific plan is integrated as part of the 3RP which is not a specific plan	Issue on humanitarian vs development: lack of defined beneficiaries per type of activities and have all activities benefiting the most vulnerable population (Lebanese and refugees)
Fund raising facilitated	Lack of multi sector joint analysis to define a commonly agreed mechanism to respond to the needs across different cohorts
Needs based approach introduced for the 2016 LCRP	Lack of participation of local organizations
Identification of information gaps and solutions to that enhanced	Lack of policy component: production of policy brief, guidelines, recommendation to influence decision maker.
Expansion of activities to cover for all vulnerable groups affected by the crisis (stabilization focus)	Lack of synergy between the different strategies of the different sectors to support the overall achievement of the LCRP
Reinforce collaboration between agencies working in the same sector(e.g. FAO and WFP)	Agency driven strategy more than sector driven
Referral systems work at field level	Inter sector referral system needs to be improved (works well at the field level but not well known at national level) Referral system awareness could be improved What happens when a case is referred? How do you know if actions are taken?
	Some activities included in the LCRP do not have a link with the Syrian crisis but respond to pre-crisis development needs.

On the LCRP – scope and nature, it was highlighted that for the FSS two perspectives should be considered when looking at the stabilization concept:

- at sector level (FS stabilization)
- at National level on how LCRP contributes to the overall aim of supporting social stability within Lebanon.



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More details can be found on the presentation meeting:

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MoA called on all the implementing partners who have any on-going agricultural or livelihood activities to inform MoA, the central office or the regional offices in order to be able to track the financing strategies. The sector lead also stressed the importance of reporting all the activities in Activity Info.

An ad hoc meeting is scheduled for WEDNESDAY 14th from 09.00 to 11.00 for partners to discuss on the next steps of the LCRP process. Focus of the meeting discussion will be:

- Scope of the LCRP especially related to the stabilization concept
- Presentation of strategic objectives
- Population figures
- Budget and costing methodology
- Delivering the LCRP
- Time line

AOB

1. IM: funds geographical concentration

The FSS conducted an exercise in July 2016 to collect information on funds received by priority Interventions as per the LCRP 2016. The sector consolidated and analyzed the Information. The infographics were shared with the FSS partners.

Infographics is available at <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=11754>

2. Survey – FSS Outcome 4 Monitoring

The FSS is conducting an online survey to collect baseline information on the LCRP OUTCOME 4(Food Stabilization). The survey was sent out on 19th July to sector's partners the response volumes is very low. Only 16 out of 100 responded. Partners who didn't participate yet are kindly requested to take the survey. The results will be presented during the preparation work for the LCRP 2017-2020.

Highlights

Ad hoc FSS meeting on LCRP process and concept: 14th September form 09.00 to 11.00

Micro-Garden technical WG meeting: September 14th September from 11.00 to 12.00

FSSWG meeting Field Level – North / Akkar: September 20