



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR WORKING GROUP



MINUTES OF MEETING – 08th August 2017

When: 08th of August 2017

Where: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Bir Hassan

Who: 33 participants from AUB, CCP Japan, Ciheam Bari, DAF, DRC, FAO, IRL, LSESD, MoA, Oxfam, PARCIC, PARD, SIF, UNRWA, WFP, WVI, UNHCR

Meeting Minutes

Link to the meeting presentation: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=13886>

The MoA sector focal points opened the meeting by welcoming all the participants and mentioning the willingness of MoA to improve engagement and coordination with all partners working within the food security sector.

The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1. Food Assistance under NPTP (National Poverty Targeting Programme)
2. VaSyr 2017 preliminary results
3. Joint UNHCR/WFP targeting implementation presentation
4. Ramadan distributions overview

1. Food Assistance under NPTP (National Poverty Targeting Programme)

WFP presented the development and the methodology used for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the food assistance provided under the NPTP:

- In September 2007 the Government of Lebanon (GoL) has initiated work on NPTP to be used in the delivery of social assistance and social services to improve living standards of the vulnerable population and building a national database for the poorest Lebanese
- End of 2014 the impact of the Syrian conflict is projected to double the level of poverty in Lebanon and the tensions between Syrian refugees and Lebanese host communities increased due to the perceived advantages provided only to the refugees by humanitarian actors. Therefore, emergency support by WFP through the provision of food vouchers using electronic cards (e-cards) was proposed as a safety net and part of a broader supplement to the NPTP package
- In 2016 and 2017, the food voucher component of NPTP is funded by the World Bank and WFP (Germany) to cover around 53,000 beneficiaries with 27\$ for individual per month capped at 6 persons per household
- WFP provides technical assistance and capacity building for NPTP staff
- Monitoring of NPTP programme is done by WFP through Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) surveys includes main food security indicators and questions related to other basic needs



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2. VaSyr 2017 preliminary results

The 2017 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) surveyed a representative sample of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon to identify changes and trends in their vulnerability. The assessment continues to provide valuable insight into refugees' living conditions, from the size of their families to the shelter they live in, to their economic vulnerability and food insecurity.

Between 9th to 24th May, 2017, the survey team visited refugee households randomly selected from 26 districts, 2 districts in Beirut and 2 districts in Akkar across Lebanon.

WFP presented the food security preliminary results for VaSyr 2017:

- Food insecurity remain relatively stable but still a concern with the slight increase in the worse off categories from 35 to 38%
- Increase in the percentage of households with unacceptable food consumption
- Dietary diversity is almost the same from 2016
- Increase in the Households spending more than 75% in Food

More results are available in details on presentation link above

Steps Forward:

Further analysis to be done and Identifying where and who are the food insecure and why they are food insecure with correlation to different underlying causes of food insecurity including economic vulnerability.

3. Joint UNHCR/WFP targeting implementation presentation

WFP gave a presentation about the joint UNHCR/WFP implementation plan for both food and basic assistance targeting:

- Both UNHCR and WFP are using a desk formula as primary targeting tool for food and basic assistance
- The formula scores and ranks HHs based on predefined cut-offs (S/MEB)
- Programmatically adapted for cash and food assistance targeting
- Introduced in 2016 to replace the households visits model, and recalibrated in 2017 following one year of implementation

Steps Forward:

- ***For Reactions from excluded beneficiaries should be closely monitored at field level, especially for partners running multi-sectoral programmes who have staff in areas with dense refugee concentration***
- ***Operational briefs will be taking place in different interagency meetings during August***



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4. Ramadan distributions overview

WFP Food Security Sector coordinator gave a quick view of Ramadan food distributions figures:

- Seven organizations reported (CCP JAPAN, DAF, IOCC, IR, ISWA, Mercy-USA, SIF)
- Seven governorates covered
- Eight governorates covered
- 154,522 Individuals received assistance
- Assistance provided to DisSyr, LEB, PRL, PRS
- Attached a map for reference

Steps Forward:

For next year Ramadan, all organizations to put more realistic plan for food distribution preparation exercise