

## Food Security Working Group Meeting

### Draft Minutes

7 June 2017

UN House, Gaziantep

Meeting Chair(s)	Participating Agencies	Agenda Items
WFP - FAO	WHH; UNDP; Shafak; Ertugrul Ocaklari; RET International; Ministry of Food Agriculture and Livestock	1. Introduction and Welcome
		2. Partner updates
		3. Review of 5Y sector vision and strategy;
		4. Review of the FSAWG 2017 work plan;
		5. Review and revision of the 3RP FSA results matrix;
		6. Overview of findings of WFP PDM related to food security.
		7. A.O.B.

#### 1. Introduction and welcome

- WFP and FAO welcomed participants and introduced the new FAO co-coordinator a.i.

#### 1. Partner updates

- Partners were invited to provide updates on their sector activities;
- **FAO** noted that the organization is exploring opportunities to expand greenhouse-related activities to other camps and, to this end, would be interested in receiving suggestions/proposals from partners. With UNHCR's support, FAO is also implementing a vocational training project in Adana, Sanliurfa, and Mersin, with a view to increasing employment opportunities in the agricultural sector. The project targets both Syrians (70%) and host communities (30%). FAO is also planning to undertake a labour market assessment focused on the agricultural sector, and agreed to share their concept note, assessment tools, and timeline with the working group once finalized. In order to ensure that FAO and other partners are building upon past efforts, UNDP agreed to circulate their earlier labour market assessment from Sanliurfa.
- **UNDP** noted that their current vocational training project in Gaziantep, which has reached 7,719 people, will be closing in mid-July. The project was implemented in close collaboration with the Gaziantep Chamber of Commerce and Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality. Further information on the project's achievements is available in the attached infographic. UNDP continues to provide vocational training in Sanliurfa, expecting to reach 750 people in total. The courses, delivered in cooperation with GAP Regional Development Administration (GAP RDA), tend to be 5 days, with the exception of one 10-day course.
- **Shafak** and their implementing partner, **Ertugrul Ocaklari**, were welcomed to their first meeting. Shafak and Ertugrul Ocaklari explained that, in collaboration with Save the Children (StC), they are planning to provide skills training to Syrians in Gaziantep, Hatay, and, potentially, Kayseri. They are also planning to carry out a needs assessment among Syrian refugees living in Nizip.
- **WHH** provided an update on their e-voucher programme in Kahramanmaras, which aims to reach 900 households in total. WHH explained that they have been in close communication with WFP and TRC to design the second phase of the project and ensure that it complements the ESSN. It was suggested that, to support such programming, it would be useful to undertake local level stakeholder mapping; WFP agreed to circulate a suggested template, which WHH will then use to map stakeholders in Kahramanmaras – with possible

expansion to other areas at a later stage. WHH also highlighted their plans to develop nutrition-related awareness raising material

- **WFP** noted that it continues to provide e-voucher assistance to approx. 140,000 in-camp refugees each month under the FSA sector. The voucher value is TL 50 / person / month, which AFAD supplements with assistance valued at a further TL 50 / person / month.

Action points:

- ✓ WFP to circulate a proposed template for local level stakeholder mapping, with WHH to carry to exercise forward in Kahramanmaras. Deadline: ASAP.

## 2. Review of 5Y sector vision and strategy

- WFP and FAO presented the zero draft 5Y sector strategy papers. By way of a brief background, WFP noted that these papers are not to replace the 3RP, but rather inform forthcoming discussion on longer-term (5Y), inter-sectoral strategic planning. The external document will be shared with partners, donors and, potentially, the GoT, while the internal document is intended to be shared among the humanitarian community only.
- Given strategic and programmatic overlap between the FSA sector and the Basic Needs and Livelihoods Sectors, WFP emphasized that the draft papers sought to define technical areas of work necessary to ensure the FSA sector is fulfilling its responsibilities and bringing added value. Efforts would also be made to strengthen linkages with the BN and LH working groups going forward.
- MoFAL highlighted some important changes to the language in the strategy paper, clarifying that the agriculture is not 'unregulated' per se, but that Syrians working in the sector in Turkey have an exemption from obtaining a work permit. WFP agreed to make the changes before recirculating the strategy;
- Partners also highlighted the need to identify the specific areas in which humanitarian (3RP) actors have added value in the agricultural sector, integrating these points into the strategy to support programming and fundraising.

Action points:

- ✓ WFP to review the sector strategy papers, amending the language (as per the point above) and incorporating further information on the added value of FSA actors. Deadline: CoB 12 June.
- ✓ FSAWG members to review the sector strategy papers and share their comments and inputs with WFP and FAO. Deadline: CoB Friday 23 June.

## 3. Review of 2017 FSAWG work plan

- WFP briefly outlined the first draft FSAWG work plan, noting that the plan is supposed to identify priority activities to be carried out over Q3 and Q4 2017. In addition to reviewing general coordination-related activities outlined in the work plan, agencies were requested to provide input on their actual and planned programme activities under the related 3RP sector output.

Action points:

- ✓ FSAWG members to review the work plan and share their comments and inputs with WFP and FAO. Deadline: CoB Friday 23 June.

## 4. Review and revision of the 3RP FSA results matrix

- WFP noted that the 3RP FSA results matrix contains 21 output-level indicators, but that FSA actors are only actually reporting against a very small number. The resulting gaps in reporting tend to detract from the excellent work that the sector is doing. Recognizing that partner plans and priorities may have shifted

somewhat from Oct/Nov 2016, when the results matrix was first compiled, WFP is proposing a “light” review. Specifically, over the coming two weeks, partners will review their inputs to the 3RP and revert to WFP with changes to their activities where needed. Alongside these changes, partners should provide a very brief (one para) justification as to why their anticipated activities now differ from those originally planned (e.g. funding shortfall, constricted humanitarian space, etc.).

Action points:

- ✓ FSAWG members to review their original inputs to the 3RP in the attached excel sheet and highlight any changes required based on current planning for Q3/4 2017. Partners also to provide, via email, a brief (one para) justification for these changes. Partners not included in the original 3RP submission to provide a brief (one para) outline of their proposed activities over the coming six months. Deadline: 23 June.
- ✓ Based upon this review, WFP to review and recirculate the 3RP results matrix. Deadline: 7 July.

**5. Overview of findings of WFP PDM related to food security.**

- WFP presented on the findings of its e-voucher PDM, based on 268 interviews with in-camp beneficiaries (across 11 camps) and 329 phone surveys with off-camp beneficiaries in Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Hatay, and Kilis. The following points were considered particularly relevant to FSA actors:

**In-Camp:**

- Food consumption has stabilized and improvements have been maintained; in Q1 2017, **94% of households had acceptable food consumption**;
- In Q1 2017, 96% of FHHs had acceptable food consumption, a 9% decrease from Q4 2016;
- The **average rCSI showed an increase from Q4 2016** (from 8.7 to 11.2). Reliance on less preferred or less expensive food was most commonly used strategy, followed by reducing the number of meals per day (employed 1.5-2 days per week).

**Off-Camp:**

- In Q1 2017, **acceptable food consumption dropped to 81%**, a 13% decrease from Q4 2016 (94%);
- In Q1 2017, 77% of FHHs had acceptable food consumption, a significant decrease from Q4 2016. The **decrease in food consumption scores appears to have disproportionately affected off-camp FHHs**.
- FGDs indicate that the decrease in food consumption scores is due to the shift to unrestricted cash, which has enabled families to address other priorities, together with high inflation rates;
- The **average rCSI showed an increase from Q4 2016** (from 8.7 to 11.2). Common strategies mirrored those utilized in-camp (relying on less preferred foods, reducing number of meals per day, etc.).
- Q1 2017 PDM showed an **overall decrease in livelihood coping strategies**; 34% of off-camp HHs did not report utilizing livelihood coping strategies, compared to 28% in Q4 2016.
- However, PDM did show an **increase in strategies used to obtain food, such as buying food on credit and reducing food expenditure**. Analysis indicates that the switch to unrestricted cash has helped to alleviate more serious coping strategies, but left households adapting behavior to obtain food.
- Off-camp households were forced to utilize more negative coping strategies than on-camp households. Nearly 80% of off-camp household expenditure continues to go toward rent and food, while in-camp families do not pay rent.
- Further information is available in the attached report. WFP agreed to periodically update the FSA working group on trends identified through its PDM and PAB surveys.

**6. A.O.B.**

- WFP confirmed that the FSAWG meeting will take place every six weeks going forward. The next meeting will take place on 19 July (tbc).
- In order to encourage broader NGO participation, it was suggested that the invitation be circulated to the LH working group mailing list (UNDP to provide);
- WFP noted that it was planning a mission to Sanliurfa on 8 June and would be discussing issues related to seasonal workers. It was agreed to present back the findings at the next meeting.