

MOM
Syria Emergency Operation – 12th Food Sector Working Group Meeting
Wednesday 13 March 2013

Attendees: Save the Children, JHCO, ACTED, UNHCR, IRW, NICCOD, FAO Iraq, HRF, WFP

Agenda

- 1) Partner Updates (round table)
- 2) Contingency planning including best/worst case scenarios
- 3) Preparation for RRP5
- 4) Nutrition Expression of Interest
- 5) AOB

STATUS	ACTION POINTS
<p>1. Partners updated on their respective organizations' work in response to the Syrian emergency and its impact on Syrian refugees in Jordan and Jordanians in local communities. Funding was voiced as an overarching concern by most food sector partners.</p> <p>UNRWA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides food assistance that is distributed on a quarterly basis and particularly targeting Palestinian refugees from Syria (about 4,600 beneficiaries in the urban areas) - Provides cash subsidies for food - Mobile clinics and dental support to refugees <p>NICCOD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food distributed to Jordanians in local communities includes wheat, rice, bread, homos, etc - Provision of psychosocial care for women and children - NFI for Syrians and Jordanians in local communities 	

IRW:

- The March cycle secured 16,000 beneficiaries with WFP Voucher distribution
- Distributed NFI's targeting 6,000 Jordanian and Syrian Families
- Will be receiving around 400,000 Euros from UK and Spain financial support
- Partnered with JHCO in distributing 5 containers with in-kind NFI donations (which come in containers including items such as school kits, hygiene kits, etc ...)

UNHCR:

- Provides complimentary food Al Za'atari Camp through partner Save the Children
- 2nd distribution cycle in March has been procured
- Funding is an increasing problem, and UNHCR strongly calls for the transition of food assistance to vouchers in Za'atri camp.
- UNHCR has introduced an expedited registration process and thereby increased the number of registered Syrian refugees which are promptly enrolled in the WFP voucher programme.
- The success of the expedited registration has encouraged additional refugees to register with UNHCR
- UNHCR will distribute specialised nutritious porridge (SAHHA) for young children 6-23months

ACTED:

- Provision of cash for, mainly used for rent in local communities.

JHCO:

- Coordinates the food assistance to non-registered refugees living in the communities including distribution of 6 containers with in-kind donations. Collaborates with Save the Children to work on the WFP voucher distribution programme in Amman and Zarqa.

<p>Save the Children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provides in-kind food assistance in partnership with WFP to 110,000 refugees in Za’atri Camp as well as WFP Voucher programme in local communities and psychosocial support and education in partnership with UNICEF - Provision of cash assistance for unregistered refugees <p>HRF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implements WFP voucher programme in 7 Governorates and 2 Camps (Cyber City and King Abdullah Park) - For the March distribution cycle, 12,000 beneficiaries were reached and still receiving additions from UNHCR newly registered refugees - Provides psychosocial therapy assistance for camp residents <p>FAO Iraq:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainly provision of logistic support to the FAO Syria Emergency team operating from Amman <p>WFP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During March, WFP plans to reach 130,000 UNHCR registered refugees living in Jordan communities, Cyber City and King Abdullah Park. WFP’s value-based food voucher assistance programme offers beneficiaries choice and dignity, in addition to supporting local markets. The food vouchers valued at 24JOD cover eighteen different items covering staple foods, fresh fruit and vegetables, dairy products and meat, thereby providing for dietary diversity. - In Za’atri Camp WFP is prepared to assist 160,000 refugees as per the current UNHCR manifest. - Transition from food assistance in Al Za’atri Camp to voucher programme is underway. - School feeding programme is planned to commence in Za’atri in partnership with MoE and UNICEF 	
<p>2. Contingency Planning and Regional Response Plan 5 (RRP5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the recent Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meeting held 11 March 2013, all sectors were given the task of responding to the “<i>most likely</i>” scenario for Syrian refugees entering Jordan until the end of 2013” and “<i>worst case</i>” scenario”(deadline: 18 March 2013) 	

- Step 1 is to obtain/endorse an estimation of Syrian refugee influx to Jordan until end of 2013
- Step 2, reflect on the humanitarian consequences of the influx of Syrian refugees – for both Jordanians and Syrians
- Different scenarios have been articulated on the average influx of refugees expected to receive in Jordan (NRC, IATF and other/conservative estimates)
- It should be noted that the estimates refer to both legal and illegal refugees
- It was agreed by all that a total of 3,000 daily entries into Jordan is a reasonable/realistic number (resulting in a total of 1.2 million Syrian Refugees in Jordan by the end of 2013)
- Funding issue was raised again, pointing to the fact that financial support requested is often much less than amounts needed
- ACTED mentioned a REACH survey it is currently conducting where one survey in Mafraq reminded to consider both legal and illegal entries to Jordan.
- Save the Children started to notice slight tensions due to dissatisfaction from Jordanians when Syrian refugees are receiving voucher assistance while Jordanians are not
- This situation calls for revising the criteria upon which people are perceived to qualify for such a form of assistance
- UNRWA raised the point of Jordan's capacity to cope with increasing numbers of Syrian refugees, alluding to the political aspect of the situation.
- There was broad acknowledgement of the immense support provided from the GoJ including maintaining open borders.
- After rich discussion, it was agreed that the Food Sector partners endorse the under the "most likely scenario" of 1.2 million Syrians in Jordan by 31 December 2013 as well as the 'worst case' scenario of 3 million Syrians by end of December 2013, with a note that there may be a strategic shift in the refugee response.
- In relation to the contingency planning numbers the food sector was asked to reflect on the humanitarian consequences and the draft (below) was endorsed from the food sector members.

- Receive input from all partners on the draft response of WFP on the Food sector component under the "most likely scenario"
- Follow-up with ACTED on the survey/factsheet
- Marta

FOOD

- The increase in demand is not only with the arrival of refugees into Jordan, but with the increase of food for Southern Syria given the interruption of the regular supply chains. Similarly, many food products were imported from / through Syria and these supply chains have been cut, impacting particularly the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables. Agricultural dynamics in the region have been disrupted. Smuggling agricultural commodities from Syria to Jordan increases risk of crop disease and pest movement, particularly wheat Rust (fungal disease), Tomato leaf miner (moth) and fruit flies, posing a threat on the local crop production.*
- The local market economy and supply structure could be impacted by greater demands from the refugee community, resulting in potential price increases, especially during the adjustment period. Prices of fresh food, mainly vegetables (tomatoes, cucumber in particular), where there is not infinite expansion capacity due to land and water shortages, have already increased.**
- WFP large scale commodity procurement is looking into regional procurement as an alternative to the current strategy of procuring locally available commodities.
- The removal of fuel subsidies in November 2012 has resulted in increases in food and cooking fuel prices as well as the cost of most services. The Government of Jordan has also mentioned plans to lift subsidies on electricity and water which will further increase the prices of food commodities, food utilisation and other services.
- Syrian refugees moving from poor governorates (Daraa, Al Suwayda, Al Hasaka, Aleppo) are extensively settling in the poverty-hit and highly populated areas in rural Jordan where they compete with local people for the rent of low cost properties, place additional demand on the often insufficient utilities and hit the local welfare budgets. This results in higher market prices forcing people to spend less on their food / welfare needs (for both Syrians and Jordanians).
- The socioeconomic impact of sustained refugee influx and consequential tensions between Jordanian nationals and Syrians refugees is likely to escalate due to competition imposed by the skilled Syrian labour who are often willing to work for less than Jordanians, thereby impacting local Jordanian livelihoods.
- Sustained excess water consumption in the context of Jordan (currently the world's fourth most water scarce country) will result in water depletion which will negatively impact the Jordanian agriculture (a source

- Haitham

- UNRWA to send their opinion and WFP will share with IATF

<p>of income for more than 15% of the Jordanian population) and in turn threaten food security in the country which is currently only producing between 8-10% of its cereal requirements (over 90% of Jordan's cereal needs are met via imports).*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of adequate water supply and in some instances the poor quality of water available for cooking affects the hygiene of Jordanians and Syrians, increasing the likelihood of waterborne disease and related health problems. <p>*FAO Agricultural Livelihoods and Food Security Impact Assessment and Response Plan for the Syria Crisis in the Neighbouring Countries, February 2013. **WFP Food Insecure and Vulnerable People in Jordan, December 2012.</p> <p>-</p>	
<p>3. Regional Response Plan (RRP) 5 Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Previously submitted RRP4 Report with food sector partners so as to provide them with an overview of what is expected in preparation for the RRP5 report. The Food sector working group will conduct RRP5 workshops 10am 25 March 2013 in order to compose the Food Sector update. 	<p>Food Sector partners to review and provide inputs before RRP5 workshop 10am 25.3.2013</p>
<p>4. Nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announcement made that nutrition sector at WFP will be launching a programme targeting malnourished children and is currently looking for partners An Expression of Interest (Eoi) form was circulated (attached) 	<p>Interested organisations to return the EOI form to WFP by 28 March 2013</p> <p>-</p>
<p>5. AOB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated contact details for Food Sector Partners were collected and shared with OCHA. Utilisation of RAIS Database: IRW: is it acceptable to use the RAIS database for the purpose of obtaining contacts of beneficiaries for other distributions? UNHCR: does not support such practice as it may entail a breach of the Syrian Refugees' confidentiality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR will circulate policies related to the use of RAIS database