



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR WORKING GROUP



MINUTES OF MEETING – 10th May 2016

When: 10th May 2016

Where: ENA- Baabda

Who: 28 participants from MoA, MoSA, WFP, FAO, IOCC, Mercy Corps, OCHA, Mercy –USA, AVSI, CCP JAPAN, UNHCR, NRC, UNRWA, Near East Foundation, Solidarité', IMC, Mercy-USA, LRC, NPA.

Meeting Minutes

Link to the meeting presentation: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/admin/download.php?id=10932>

Introduction

- The meeting was opened by MoA that introduced the agenda:
 1. VaSyr 2016
 2. Collective Site Management and Coordination (CSMC) Activities Updates
 3. Discussion on Food Security Sector referral system
 4. New Contingency Stock Database on Activity Info
 5. AOB

1. VaSyr 2016

- WFP presented the plans for the 2016 VaSyr. The presentation covered methodology, timeline and training preparation for the assessment. Details of the plan are available in the presentation as per the above link.
- Partners were informed about the possibility to suggest additional analysis that they would like to be conducted by the analysis team of the VaSyr. A meeting with all sector coordinators will be called within the next weeks to prepare for the analysis plan. Partners are kindly invited to suggest additional analysis to be done for the coordinator to pass the message along to the analysis team. Suggestions to be kindly sent to Elena Rovaris at Elena.rovaris@wfp.org

2. Collective Site Management and Coordination (CSMC) Activities Updates

- NRC presented the role and responsibilities of the CSMC and how they operate to date. Emphasis was put on the links with the different sectors as per below:
 1. Agencies conducting any work in Collective Sites should coordinate with CSMC agencies if they are new to the site, and always to work with CSMC committees where they exist.
 2. These groups are representative of different demographic groups and have been (or will be) trained to liaise with service providers.



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3. Committees can assist in coordination and implementation of distribution activities, as well as providing feedback on the processes involved.
4. CSMC agencies/committees, can conduct awareness raising and training on the purpose of assessments and targeting criteria
5. Committees can be consulted on selection criteria and processes, and could assist in identification and referral of vulnerable beneficiaries
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More details on the presentation are available through the above reported link.

- The CSMC agencies are currently working with the IM unit to provide a list of all the focal points for the CSMC agency (as they cover specific areas) and they can provide information on specific sites, to those that need it.
- Partners asked if the CSMC agencies have access to food security specific data. Currently no specific information on food security is collected but the committees are there as a resource and could be used for this if needed.
- Recent evaluations suggest a big improvement in the type of infrastructure and vulnerability levels in the CSMC sites compared to those where no CSMC are not present.
- Questions were also raised regarding the role of the “Shawish” in the CSMC as well as on how women/men power dynamics within the committee are managed. This issue was reported to varying from site to site, in some sites women are more involved in the committees and in other less.
- Partners asked if SOPs exist on how to form these committees. Generic guidelines for CSMC exists but they are under revision based on the evaluation just conducted and others organizations lessons learned. This will help in the update of the guidelines to clearly define roles and responsibility of the committees’ members.
- Currently the “committees” are not officially recognized as committees but as groups. They work in coordination with the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Social Affairs and local authorities.

3. Sector Referral System

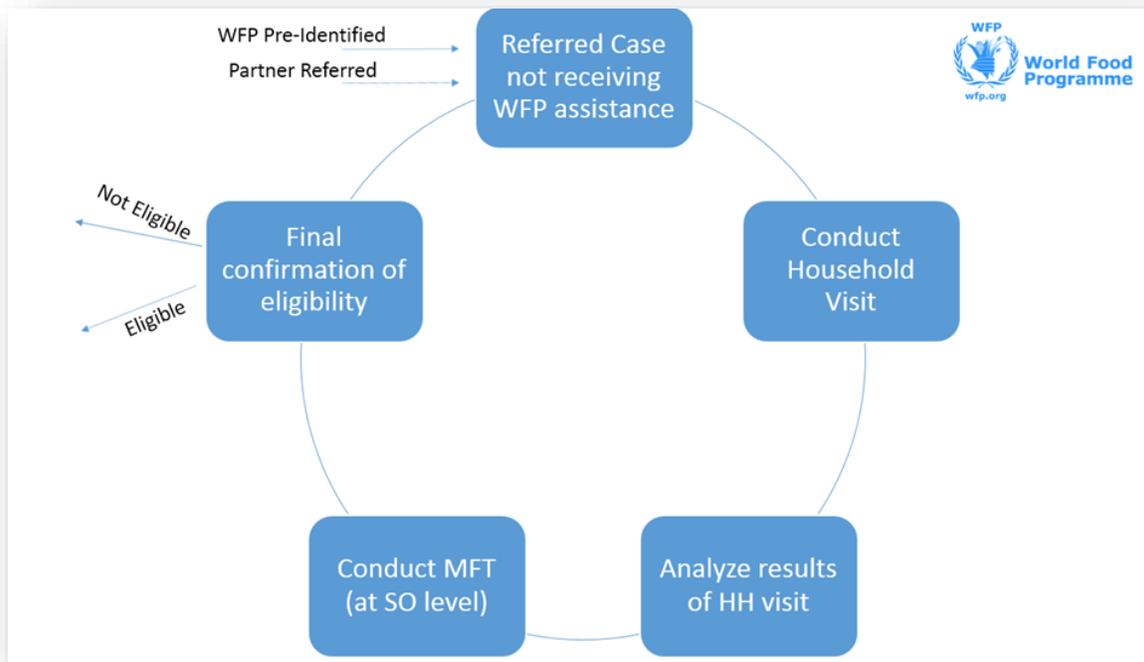
- The Sector is looking at harmonizing the referral system among partners. This will also help in defining what is needed to be done and what the role of the sector will be.
- As a first Step WFP presented an initial lay out of what the system they are working on is looking at as per the below illustration:



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- The discussion that followed touched upon 2 main points: how partners can refer directly to WFP and what to do with those considered not eligible for the WFP or other assistance where the sector will play a role.
- As sector, we will be working on SOPs on how to initiate the above presented process with reference to the WFP assistance but also other type of assistance under the food security portfolio. It was agreed that the referral system will be most likely managed at a field level. These SOPs will include contacts of the different focal points as well as how the system needs to be designed to ensure the tracking of the referrals and to ensure that the information is shared among the sector partners to ensure follow up actions.
- The sector will proceed in drafting of the document to be shared for comments to partners. Specific reference will be also made regarding the use of the existing Inter agency referral form that could be suggested as the standard form to initialize the process.

4. New Contingency Stock Database on Activity Info

- UNHCR gave a quick presentation on how to upload information on contingency stocks in ActivityInfo. Details on how the system works are available in the meeting presentation as per the above link.

5. AOB

- The FAO Country Programming Framework will be launched on the 16th of May.



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- The ECSWA Food Security and Nutrition Strategic review conducted on behalf of WFP will be presented to the Food security and other sectors partners on 23rd May. Invitation to follow shortly.
- The final questionnaire to collect baseline info for the LCRP Outcome 4 will be shared with partners for final comment prior to the launch of the online survey end of May /June.
- A follow up meeting on the Micro-gardening WG will be called shortly.
- MoSA is conducting an exercise to collect information regarding the private sector engagement in the sector activities. The food security sector will be shortly sharing the form to be filled by partners to provide information regarding how they interact with the private sector in their programmes. The sector will consolidate the information and share it with MoSA.
- **H5N1:** MoA briefly updated partners on the current situation regarding the reported case of H5N1 in Bekaa (Nabi Chit). The Ministry of Agriculture has already taken all necessary actions to limit the expansion of the virus. Adopting the contingency plan developed with the technical support of FAO, all birds within a 3 KM radius of the initial outbreak point have been killed. MoA continues to apply the contingency plan but in the meantime all activities related to poultry in the contaminated area are suspended. Partners implementing or looking at implementing activities in the poultry sector in this region are requested to liaise with MoA for approval and guidelines.