



Micro garden Technical Working group & Community kitchens Technical Working group

MINUTES OF MEETING – 24 February, 2016

MEETING

When	24 February 2016
Where	FAO Baabda
Who	26 Representatives from the following organizations: ACTED, AUB (ESDU & Food Heritage Foundation), CARE, CCP Japan, DCA, DRC, FAO, Intersos, LOST, Mercy Corps USA, MoA, MoSA, Near East Foundation, NPA, OCHA, Solidarites, URDA, WVI & WFP
Minutes taken by	Samer Weber from WVI

AGENDA

- 1. Micro garden technical WG 10:00-11:15**
 - a) Questions and issues for discussion
 - b) Presentation from FAO on current micro garden project
 - c) AOB
- 2. Community kitchen technical WG 11:15-12:00**
 - a) Questions and issues for discussion
 - b) Presentation from IOCC on current micro garden project
 - c) AOB

The presentation can be found on the following link: <ftp://ext-ftp.fao.org/DOs/Data/Upload/Lebanon/FSStechnicalmeeting24-2-2016 compressed.ppt>

1. Micro garden technical WG

The first meeting of the MICRO GARDENING WG was organized as a brain storming session to tackle the most urgent issues partners felt important to get clarification and guidance.

An exercise will have to be conducted by the sector to map which actors are currently implementing micro-gardening projects and where.

The specific topics discussed and the discussions related to each theme are available as per below:

- Standard Operational Procedures (SoP) in MG: no SOP are existing, but guidelines can be developed based on best practices.
- Types of Micro Gardening (MG): for MG it is defined as representing Off-soil (not in the ground) gardening



Micro garden Technical Working group & Community kitchens Technical Working group

- Aim of MG: Production of fresh nutritious food and Boost psychological well-being
- Legal Limitations: MG activities should aim at targeting 50:50 between Lebanese/Syrians
- Link of MG with sustainability: still open (garbage crisis to be considered)
- Feasibility & Extension of Activities (seasonality, duration & value for money): options will be defined after the FAO pilot project is finalized, but timing is crucial.
- Urban vs. Rural Context: Both possible as long as space is available.
- Perspective of Ministry of Agriculture (MoA): Nadine from MoA highlighted key issues to be considered when implementing MG such as :
 - Target at least 50:50 Lebanese/Syrians.
 - The Way forward will discussed depending on outcomes of pilot project.
 - Small-scale selling should not be a problem, but project is generally not income-focused.
 - Prior to proposals, connect with MoA for pre-approval.
- Implementation in limited space (e.g. ITS, Palestinian camps): Piloted through FAO – will be evaluated accordingly.
- Partnership with FAO: FAO always open for project partnerships and providing technical knowledge, as well as linking with relevant entities.
- **FAO Presentation:** FAO is currently implementing a MG project in the North (Tripoli & Akar) for both Lebanese and Syrians with the objective to improving nutrition of Syrian refugees and vulnerable people with Garden Walls (vertical gardening)
 - Beneficiary Target Group: 50:50 Lebanese/Syrians.
 - Target Area: eight sites in the North, targeting ITS and houses.
 - Costs will be able to be estimated after FAO piloted and finalized the project; goal is to provide cost per method per family after project's finalization.
 - Timeframe: Pilot will end by the end of June.
 - Success to be evaluated by AUB.

Methodology:

- Garden walls were tested through AUB successfully. Consequently, FAO and AUB will implement this in the upcoming weeks;



Micro garden Technical Working group & Community kitchens Technical Working group

- Trolleys to be used to hold plant boxes;
- “Agro-trolleys” to be used to plant in boxes;
- “Standing Wall” composed of metal and wood where food is grown through holes;
- “Barrel” with holes;
- Available area for plantation per site = 15 sqm growing tomato, sweet pepper, zaatar, spinach, hindbeh, Rocca, parsley, etc.;
- Site selection criteria: adequate number of women; income should not come from agriculture; water availability; availability of space; willingness of people; people not benefitting from WFP food assistance;
- Identification of vulnerable beneficiaries through coordination with NGO focal points (refugees) and NPTP (Lebanese).

Status of project:

- Units are being manufactured;
- Equipment ready to be distributed.

Future Steps:

- Follow-up and monitor;
- Identify further sites;
- Analyze efficiency of each site;
- Improve design to scale-up.

2. Community Kitchen (CK) Technical Working Group

The first meeting of the COMMUNITY KITCHENS WG was organized as a brain storming session to tackle the most urgent issues partners felt important to get clarification and guidance.

An exercise will have to be conducted by the sector to map which actors are currently implementing community kitchens and where.

The specific topics discussed and the discussions related to each theme are available as per below:



Micro garden Technical Working group & Community kitchens Technical Working group

- Who are beneficiaries and what their interests are: IOCC distributed food parcels before. Experience: food re-sold or no means to cook. Also, cooked meal provides people with sense of “being human” – social humanitarian aspect.
- Legal Framework: Mandate should fall under Ministry of Health with limited support by MoA and MoSA; Guidelines with minimum standards to be developed.
- Pending issues to be discussed:
 - Sustainability?
 - Food Safety & Disposal?
 - Source of food/linkage to markets?
 - Linkage to other assistance?
 - Reliance on community/MoSA?
- Presentation of IOCC on current CK Project”
 - IOCC is currently implementing 4 CKs (1 in Akar since 2013, 1 in West Bekaa, 1 in Zahle, 1 in Tripoli → Beneficiaries: 690HHs both Syrian [not registered – not receiving assistance form WFP] and Lebanese, every day, 6 days a week – each HHs three times per week. Vulnerability outreach through various methods such as PDMs);
 - Income-generating activity that promotes social cohesion and serves the most vulnerable;
 - Women-led initiatives in Lebanon in both rural and urban areas;
 - Given Syria Crisis, establishment of CKs according to context. Technical Assistance by Food Heritage Foundation (FHF);
 - Food produced directed to most vulnerable;
 - Challenge in CK projects: sustainability (e.g. with ministries, exit strategies);
 - Local food providers can be chosen by community members, but IOCC is controlling food safety.

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS: The sector to develop a matrix to collect information on partners impending MG and Community kitchen across the country.