

## National Food Security WG Meeting

<b>Date:</b>	1 June 2016 Samaritan's Purse Office, Athens 13:00-15:00
<b>Participants:</b>	IOCC/ Apostole (co-chair), Inter-Ministerial Council/ Dept. of Defense, Save the Children, Samaritan's Purse, , Salvation Army, UNICEF, Oxfam, IRC, UNHCR
<b>Chair:</b>	Maureen McBrien, UNHCR ( <a href="mailto:mcbrienm@unhcr.org">mcbrienm@unhcr.org</a> ): 695 180 3200 Antonios Bofilios, IOCC/Apostoli, <a href="mailto:a.bofilios@mkoapostoli.gr">a.bofilios@mkoapostoli.gr</a> 697 587 6505
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introductions</li> <li>2. Action Points:</li> <li>3. Briefing from Colonel Dimitrios Pantelatos, Inter-Ministerial Body for Migration;</li> <li>4. Discussion on Critical gaps in Food Security;</li> </ol>
<b>Web Portal</b>	Meeting minutes, 4 W's and all finalized assessment and reference documents will be posted to the UNHCR sponsored Mediterranean initiative web portal: UNHCR Data portal: <a href="http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php">http://data.unhcr.org/mediterranean/regional.php</a> (click on link)
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>The next NFSWG meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15 June at 13:00 at Samaritan's Purse Office:</b> address:  <b>15 Kleisthenous, Athens 10552</b> , 1st floor conference room
<b>Review of pending action points</b>	<p><b>Final Comments/inputs required for the document on Ramadan overview and practices:</b> (English and Greek): Save the Children will finalize the guidance/information circular on Ramadan which includes a short description of the importance of this religious period for Muslims, examples of possible impacts of Ramadan on people living in Sites and Camps, key practices of Ramadan. All final inputs should be submitted to Claire Bader (<a href="mailto:Claire.bader@savethechildren.org">Claire.bader@savethechildren.org</a>) by COB Friday 3 June 2016. The documents will be shared with all agencies and Sites. To be posted on information portal under Food Security. <b>Finalized and sent out: posted to data portal</b></p> <p><b>Final inputs and comments required by COB 3 June for guidance paper: Food and Nutrition Operational Considerations for Refugee and Migrant Settings Greece:</b> The two part guidance document aims to provide guidance for support of food assistance programs in refugee settings in Greece. The documents have both key recommendations for persons living in different housing settings as well as recommendations on rations and examples of complementary feeding recipes for children 6-8 months of age: please provide inputs to Claire Bader (<a href="mailto:Claire.bader@savethechildren.org">Claire.bader@savethechildren.org</a>) by COB Friday 3 June 2016. To be posted on information portal under Food Security. <b>Finalized and sent out: posted to data portal</b></p> <p><b>4 W's for Food related programs including Cash/Voucher and in-kind:</b> for all regions: each agency is requested to provide a June-December 2016 planning for all Food related programs including cash/voucher based programs on a Site by Site basis: matrix/questionnaire to be circulated to all FWG members for completion. Final inputs COB Wednesday 8 June to Maureen McBrien</p>

	(mcbrienm@unhcr.org): to be posted on information portal under Food Security. <b>Ongoing:</b> Follow up: each UNHCR regional office is collecting Site Manager and catering company contacts;
Discussions	Action points
<p>The NFSWG meeting was joined by <b>Colonel Dimitrios Pantelatos</b>, from Department of Defence and Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Body for Migration. Col. Pantelatos is the key focal point for Department of Defence Food Assistance programs for the majority of accommodation sites throughout Greece. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food/ meal distribution is an obligation for armed forces either through direct implementation or establishing catering contracts. As this activity is outside the normal scope of Ministry of Defence and not sustainable in the long-run, the Inter-Ministerial Body and Ministry of Defence supports the establishing of cooking areas/ communal kitchens in Accommodation sites; two pilot sites have been chosen.</li> <li>• Ministry of Migration Policy will take over responsibility for food provision in July however MoD may extend their management of food provision should additional funds be available;</li> <li>• Catering Contracts: The MoD commercial catering contracts were established after and official tender process and signed at Athens level. Responsibility for monitoring implementation and quality of food/ meals provided is the responsibility of regional and local Site managers and catering companies.</li> <li>• Partners raised the issue of poor quality food with very limited nutritional value and low acceptance by the PoCs. This results in significant wastage of food and money.</li> <li>• Colonel Pantelatos informed that all partners should work with regional and local Commanders to identify where food quality is poor and make suggestions for improvement to Catering companies. Agencies are requested to provide in writing complaints about food quality/quantity/ monotony along with suggestions on how to improve the meals;</li> <li>• National and Local actors are welcomed to make proposals for improvements to menus and share recipes and food recommendations with Colonel Pantelatos (Apostoli is currently doing this in some areas); the working group will review recommendations for submission (action point).</li> <li>• Government’s main objective is to reduce the current refugee sites’ size creating smaller more controllable sites.</li> <li>• Col. Pantelatos stated that government is currently examining of hiring professional cooks that they will be responsible of procuring raw food commodities and coordinating the whole food aid.</li> </ul>	<p>The WG requested that the list of regional and local MoD/government Food/Meal focal points and catering company contacts be provided to facilitate follow-up and monitoring;</p> <p><b>UNHCR</b> to requested regional offices to compile Site by Site assessment/ review of food issues and share with NFSWG and MoD by mid June; Food assessment teams will review and monitor/ meet with Catering companies and Site Managers</p> <p><b>NRC</b> will submit a Communal Kitchen proposal to be forwarded to MoD</p> <p><b>Site Assessments tool:</b> the Site Assessment tool to be amended to include assessment of transportation services and</p>

- **Transition from catering to Cash/Voucher systems:** this transition is welcomed as it will alleviate pressure having to provide cooked meals and management of catering companies. The National Cash/ Voucher Working Group should share the draft Cash/ Voucher plan of action with MoD.
- **Communal Kitchens:** two Sites (Doliana, Schisto) were agreed as Communal kitchen pilot sites. Colonel Pantelatos informed that any agency with funding to construct communal kitchens, should prepare a proposal and design documents and submit to MoD for review.

Communal kitchen proposals should include whether residents will be cooking for themselves, whether group cooking/ community cooking would be done or a combination. Proposals should also include how the kitchens will be managed and whether there are plans to hire/fund a cook or manager of Kitchens that would oversee the Kitchens and receive any food rations.

IRC requested clear guidance on legal processes and procedures on requirements for obtaining Communal kitchen permissions including local by-laws: Colonel Pantelatos informed that permissions may depend on which agency is owner of the Site (State, Ministry of Migration, Municipality or private land owners). The Shelter/NFI working group should include this in their discussions on establishing Communal Kitchens, community cooking areas as there are strict health/ hygiene and licensing requirements for different categories of Kitchens;

- **Bus services from remote Sites to commercial centres:** the Ministry is in discussions with bus companies to extend their bus services as soon as possible to all remote Accommodation Sites to ensure people have access to shops and markets. MoD is planning to help finance in the short term, the extension of bus services. It was suggested that a transport Voucher system be implemented to facilitate transportation. Members of the Cash Working group indicated that transportation monies may be included in the Cash allocation;

whether there are communal or NGO kitchens at each Site;

**Menus, recipes and food Lists:**

members of the Food WG to provide recipes and lists of foods for Ramadan and communal kitchens to Colonel Pantelatos via Chair

**Bus Service Assessments:**

Agencies are asked to help identify Sites that still require improved bus services; clarity on cost of bus services is still needed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ramadan Meal distribution schedule:</b> the Ministry of Migration requested that the distribution schedule be changed to accommodate persons following Ramadan meals schedule but also providing for persons not following the Ramadan schedule. Agencies will monitor and work with Catering companies to verify needs of the community and schedule requirements. The Ramadan schedule is for 2 meals to be distributed with dinner and breakfast (7-9pm) served in the evening and lunch meal in afternoon. Recommendations are for lunch to include foods that are easily preserved such as eggs, fruit);</li> </ul> <p>Save the Children finalized the Ramadan document in English and Greek: the document explains the tradition of Ramada and the focus of food and meal planning as an important part of the traditions.</p> <p>Some agencies are providing some traditional Ramadan foods such as dates, yogurt, nuts however there is yet to be a large scale mobilization: to discuss in the next meeting whether mobilization for Eid can be done.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Menus, recipes and food Lists:</b> members of the Food WG are again requested to provide recipes and lists of foods for Ramadan and communal kitchens and for planning for ration distributions should Kitchens be constructed; it was noted that the Save the Children and Ramadan documents shared widely last week contains some examples of recipes and ingredients that can be used to improve food quality;</li> <li>• <b>Cash/Voucher Programs:</b></li> <li>• <b>Education:</b> the need for Education programs in the next two years for all PoC's irrespective of the length of stay is urgent: language skills, mathematics and (re)introducing children to classrooms and learning is a key gap and priority;</li> </ul>	
<p><b>UNICEF:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms Isabelle Rivolet</b>, interim Country Coordinator for <b>UNICEF</b> informed on discussion with Ministry of Health and organizations on possible UNICEF support; initiatives include promotion of best practices for baby and infant feeding (including a joint statement by key Agencies and Ministry of Health on Breastfeeding and infant recommendations), support on Immunization programs, child protection initiatives and working with Ministry of Education on access for persons of concern.</li> <li>• UNICEF is also adding a Nutrition specialist to the staff.</li> </ul>	<p>Review test of the joint Statement on infant feeding and provide comments: forward final copy to agencies for endorsement including UNHCR: COB Wednesday 8 June.</p>

**General Discussions and urgent Issues:**

- **Chios:** *Since 2015, three Volunteer groups provided food to Souda and Dipethe Sites on Chios: as of 16 June, they will discontinue food assistance. This leaves 1,600 PoC in the Sites with no source of food assistance. Urgent action from Military providing food to Vial hotspot is required.*
- **Larissa Site:** a food assessment is required for Larissa as concerns on coverage were raised.
- **Salvation Army** raised the concern of growing numbers of PoC moving to **Victoria Square** and other urban areas and requiring food and other assistance; there are more than 1000 in need of assistance; There is need to discuss the urban food/feeding programs and other assistance.
- **Ramadan Bucket distributions:** Sealed buckets will be distributed to all households to facilitate food preservation; distribution to start 7 June.
- **Pre-registration** will start this week and expected to last for two months;

Send to Colonel Pantelatos an email on the situation in Chios with a request to provide feedback on which agency will provide food assistance to the 1,600 PoC in Souda and Dipethe post 16 June. (Done)

Inter-Sector Meeting: raise issue of the growing urban population and humanitarian support needs;

PoC= person of concern: refugees and migrants and other categories of persons falling within the UNHCR and Government of Greece Protection and assistance mandate.