

# Food Security and Agriculture Working Group

## FSA WG Monthly Meeting Minutes



26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019

**Chaired by:** Ahmed Ekzayez (FAO)

**Hosted by:** FAO

**Participants:** Arij Shaaban (Al-Resala Foundation), Maan Alsheikh Muree (WATAN), Merve Agcabay (WATAN), Omar Atik (Shafak), Deema Hitalani (Jana Watan), Onur Özdemir (TRC), Figen Kelemer (Concern Worldwide), Sura Ermistekin (WFP), Aysenur Özcan (WFP), Rukas Ibrahim (Welthungerhilfe), Mohamed Ameen Anise (Welthungerhilfe), Arij shaaban (Resala Foundation), Osama Alkhalaf (Ihsan RD), Abdulrahim ALLUS (IOM), Safwan Alhaiek (Women Support Association), Yasemin Rodriguez (Maram Foundation), Yusuf Elrakkad (Syria Relief), Tarek Alihwan (IYD Relief), Yousef Abdullah (ACU).

### **Agenda:**

- **Welcome and review of Previous minutes and action points.**
- **Review of FSA sector Indicator guidance notes.**
- **Presentation of the lessons learned and challenges for agriculture livelihoods programming /WHH organization.**
- **Presentation of the planned activities of the food security and agriculture livelihood program of Shafak organization.**
- **AOB**
  - **Update of available FSA interventions from services advisor platform as of Feb 2019.**
  - **Training survey results.**
  - **The date of next FSA meeting.**

### **Summary of Action Points FAS meeting 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019**

- ✓ SWG coordinator to share the draft of FSA sector indicators guidance.
  - ✓ SWG coordinator to share the Terms of reference of Food Security and Agriculture working group.
  - ✓ To prepare introductory presentation about work permit exemption in agriculture sector
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## 1. Welcome and review of the action points from the previous meeting

Following the welcoming and a short tour de table the agenda of the meeting was endorsed. Chair reviewed the action points from the last meeting as per below:

- ✓ SWG coordinator to share the draft of FSA sector indicators guidance.
- ✓ SWG coordinator to share the Terms of reference of Food Security and Agriculture working group.
- ✓ To prepare introductory presentation about work permit exemption in agriculture sector

## 2. Review of FSA sector Indicator guidance notes.

- This note is intended to provide guidance to FSA sector members in Turkey on how to report their achievements on the activities specified during the 3RP 2019-2020.;
- Information will be analysed regularly to examine whether sufficient progress is being made in reaching the sector strategic objective;
- FSA's indicators have been structured on this note based on the FSA sector strategy and framework under 3RP 2019-2020;
- This guidance aims also at improving the response monitoring and standardizing the data collection and reporting process in Activity Info by providing info on definitions, disaggregation, calculations, targets, etc...
- The Guidance Notes have tried to answer questions that were received by the sector IM Officer throughout 2018 from partners;
- The Guidance Notes are structured as follows:
  - Definitions of the terms of the 3RP FSA Indicator
  - Numerator: the value of the indicator (to report on)
  - Data Source and Collection Methods: this section is aimed at identifying your means of verification. It also has a section to clarify when the indicator should be reported (based upon the definitions).
  - Disaggregation: The Guidance Notes provide an overview of the disaggregation that needs to be collected for the indicator. This is aligned with activity.info.
  - Further Guidance: This is a section where additional information is being provided to facilitate either M&E or programming around the indicator. This section also highlights whether data captured for the indicator can/should be reported under other indicators (in activity.info) as well.

**Action point:** SWG coordinator to share the draft of FSA sector Indicator guidance notes.

## 3. Presentation of the lessons learned and challenges for agriculture livelihoods programming /WHH organization

The challenges in implementing agricultural projects have been divided to four sections/areas:

### A. Land:

- Small fields with many landlords: As there are scattered small field in the related area its essential to communicate with many different landlords.

**Recommendation to overcome this challenge:** Assigning one focal point from landlord's side to have a power of attorney for all of the fields could facilitate the leasing and the communication process.

- Some locals' lack of trust towards humanitarian aid organisations: In some rural communities, it could be hard to find and lease lands because locals don't understand or trust what Humanitarian Aid Organisations do, and they have some concerns that they could be victims of fraud or their fields could be stolen or taken from them.

Recommendation to overcome this challenge: Follow and Act in accordance with rules in local authorities. Coordinate with the local authorities in targeted area. Provide information about humanitarian aid and funds, raise awareness.

- Mismatch between some fields and their official locations: When the farmers cultivate their fields, they don't accurately go back to the cadastral specific measures, and with the passage of time, the measures defer, and fields could be intersected with the adjacent ones.

Recommendation to overcome this challenge: Starting with the cadastral service before the fields are cultivated so that it's possible to re-adjust any mismatch.

- Absence of property documents: Some landlords live abroad, and they had assigned the cultivation of their fields to a family member without a power of attorney or official papers, which makes the leasing process complicated and time consuming. Likewise, some landlords lease their lands without having an official agreement.

Recommendation to overcome this challenge: To have deep analysis of the lands' ownership. To minimize the risks by having strong coordination and co-operation with the local authorities such as "muhtars".

- Limited size of irrigated land and high rental prices: Irrigated fields make good profit to owners so they either cultivate it themselves or lease it for high prices.

Recommendation to overcome this challenge: To change the type of the product or to change location so as to have more effective result. To do the marketing research in planning stage of the project.

#### B. Beneficiaries:

- In some cases, beneficiaries are not interested in agriculture project: Despite the information provided to the beneficiaries there are limited number of applicants due to their rapid profit preferences.

Recommendation to overcome this challenge: To explain the importance of practicing in such program as a sustainable source of income.

#### C. Markets:

- Language barrier in the marketing process: The beneficiaries have difficulties in expressing themselves due to the language barrier. This results in miscommunication which is extremely challenging in the marketing process.

Recommendation to overcome this challenge: To provide comprehensive marketing plans to the beneficiaries to enable them to sell their products to the markets. Creating a complaint and feedback mechanism to prevent the exploitation or fraud

- Negative effect on the local markets: It is important to select the right products for the project which shouldn't affect the market negatively.

- Recommendation to overcome this challenge: To have market analysis during the planning process of the project. To select the right products at the right time and put the products on the market. Permanent price monitoring.

#### D. Policies

- Common understanding for some regulations/policies: various interpretations of some regulations from different stakeholders to prolonged the project cycle and makes it harder to start the project activities on time.

Recommendation to overcome this challenge: To have effective and right communication with the related stakeholders or authorities in accordance with the liaison activities. To strengthen the coordination between the governmental bodies in the targeted area.

**Point of discussion:**

- Some beneficiaries are reluctant to participate in such program due to the fear of losing ESSN support;
- The importance of conducting regular market assessment during project life cycle; to avoid any negative consequences on the local market;
- Language is one of the primary challenge facing refugees in integrating with the surrounding society, therefore, more effort should be places in order to overcome this challenge.
- Considering other cross-cutting elements in our interventions, like: environment, child labour.

**4. Presentation of the planned activities of the food security and agriculture livelihood program of Shafak organization.**

- Shafak organization work to rebuild lives and support resilience of affected communities in Syria crisis by providing transformative programs in reliefs, education, food security and livelihood, health, WASH, and protection;
- Shafak is registered as a non-profit organization in Turkey in 2013;
- Shafak currently working inside Syria (cross border) to address emergency response and sustainable community revival;
- Since its foundation, Shafak has reached more than 2.18 million beneficiaries through its six programs (Education, FSL, Health, WASH, Emergency, Protection);
- Shafak has extensive experience in implementing agriculture project inside Syria such as: Olive value chain project, Training and Extension Services, Farmer initiatives, Fodder distribution, Vaccination campaigns and Solar irrigation system.
- Shafak has a comprehensive strategy to support Syrian refugees in Turkey, through agriculture livelihood program including: vocational training in agriculture, CFW, distribution of agriculture inputs, agriculture food processing, and mushroom cultivation.

- **AOB**

- **Update of available FSA interventions from services advisor platform as of Feb 2019.**

<b>Name of organization</b>	<b>Type of service</b>	<b>Location</b>
FAO	Benefit from agriculture training opportunities	Sanliurfa, Kilis.
ASAM	(awareness raising) Training on good nutritional practices and hygiene related issues	Gaziantep, Adana

- **The date of next FSA meeting is 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019.**