

Note for the Record: Third Food Security Sector Working Group Meeting

Date: 23 April 2013
Location: WFP Offices – ESCWA Building – Beirut

The meeting was opened by WFP's Head of Programme, who stressed **the importance of confirming attendance at the meetings to avoid complications with ESCWA security staff.**

The following issues were discussed:

1. **The RRP:** The Food Security Sector presented its submissions to the RRP which were well received. All of the FSSWG inputs were incorporated and Food Security will remain a priority in the RRP. UNHCR provided positive feedback on the contributions and requested only that the narrative was reduced before they would be incorporated wholesale.

The RRP envisages huge increases in arriving refugees number which are expected to reach as high as 1.15 million by the end of the year. The Food Security Sector in Lebanon alone is expected to need US\$ 190m. WFP is aiming to reach 46 % of registered refugees and Lebanese Returnees.

2. **Profiling:** WFP Lebanon will commence a comprehensive profiling exercise in May. The exercise is currently in the planning phase. A presentation will be given by the WFP Food Security Analyst on Thursday 25 April to which FSSWG members are invited. All partners will be afforded the opportunity to contribute to the questionnaire which is being finalised. The final report of the exercise will be issued in June.

The representative of **IOCC** drew the groups attention to DRC's upcoming profiling of New Comers and highlighted the opportunity to cooperate. WFP confirmed that they would consult all partners to guarantee the best results possible from the exercise.

Action Point:

Many FSSWG members requested invitations to the presentation to be made on Thursday 25 April.

3. **Sub-National FSSWG:** The first Sub-National FSSWG meeting took place in the UNHCR offices in Tyre last week. In a previous meeting the National FSSWG recommended that similar regular working groups be established at a field level throughout the country. The first such meeting in Tyre was a simple initial meeting where participants agreed to cooperate and inform each other about activities.

Other Sub-National level working groups will also hopefully be established in the near future. The sub-national groups will meet several days before the scheduled national FSSWG so that any issues that arise on a local level can then be discussed at the national level by all partners in the FSSWG.

4. **3/4 W Mapping:** WFP has the capability to create geographical maps detailing which partner is doing what activity, where, and why? This would be an extremely beneficial tool for all FSSWG members to increase collaboration and eliminate duplication and overlap.

OCHA raised the point that the Child Protection Sector was a similar 5 W mapping exercise and suggested that the FSSWG cooperate for cross-sector activities.

FAO also suggested that FSSWG members should also keep track of the activities of their own partners who are not represented in the FSSWG to maximise the coverage of the mapping exercise.

Action Point:

All FSSWG members will contribute to the mapping exercise by regularly updating the group on what activities it is carrying out where etc. WFP will establish a template to ease reporting of 3/4 Ws.

5. **E-Vouchers:** WFP e-vouchers Programme Officer provided a short briefing on its plans to switch from the traditional paper vouchers to more user-friendly and efficient electronic vouchers. It is envisaged that the e-vouchers will significantly improve the delivery of assistance to beneficiaries who will be afforded the opportunity to spend their vouchers in many different shops increasing their access to fresh fruit, vegetables, bread etc. Currently only 10 percent of WFP partner shops have the required POS technology to charge the cards but the partner bank (with whom WFO are in final negotiations) will provide both the technology and training in its use. Shops require only a landline, permanent electricity and official registration.

The e-vouchers will also make distribution much easier meaning that WFP and its partners in the field can now spend their time monitoring and investigating incidence of fraud and misuse. While it is not possible to eliminate the black market in vouchers, WFP envisages that the e-vouchers will significantly decrease the trade in vouchers.

1,000 cards will be issued in June as part of a pilot project. Full roll-out will begin in July

IOCC inquired as to when the paper vouchers would be phased out. WFP informed the group that every WFP beneficiary will receive an e-voucher in July and paper vouchers will thereby be eliminated automatically.

CIDA expressed concern that the introduction of the e-vouchers would coincide with the upcoming profiling exercise and the impression this might make on beneficiaries. CIDA advised that WFP make sure it's message to beneficiaries is very clear over the course of the upcoming changes. WFP took the advice on board.

6. **AOB:** ACF informed the FSSWG about their upcoming nutrition survey (a follow on from a similar exercise last year) which will finish in June.

IOCC offered to use its network of field staff to assist in price monitoring exercises in the future.

FAO informed the FSSWG about its plans to start a small agricultural project where Syrian refugee will be moved onto rented agricultural land in Lebanon and offered the opportunity to work the land to generate income and sustenance.