



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR WORKING GROUP



MINUTES OF MEETING – 10th February 2016

When 10 February 2016

Where MOA –Bir Hassma

Who 31 Representatives (20 women 11 men) from the following organizations: MoA, WFP, FAO, IOCC, ACF, UNRWA, UNDP, UNHCR, Near East Foundation, Netherland Red Cross, ANERA, Solidarite', SHIELD, Mercy Corps, Intersos, Caritas, NPA

AGENDA

1. Food Security Sector 2016 strategy
2. HCT Contingency Plan
3. Survival-Minimum Expenditure Basket (S-MEB)review
4. WFP future strategy
5. Presentation on Quinoa
6. Assessment registry
7. Activity info reporting
8. Sub -working groups re- activation
9. Core group and Co-chair NGO focal point election
10. AOB

1. Food Security Sector 2016 strategy

Following the presentation on the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)'s 2015-2019 strategy, the sector's 2016 strategy was presented. Details on the Sector strategy can be found in the presentation used in the meeting and available at this link:

http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=122&Id=48

[Click here to access the MoA Strategy for 215-2019](#)

Questions were raised regarding linking Syrian refugee assistance to agricultural assistance. It was clarified that the sector strategy still addresses the refugee assistance as per of the humanitarian strategy component but it also looks at comprehensive and innovative/development focused interventions in support of farming activities that will benefits both host communities and Syrian refugees. As an example many sector actors are implementing/planning pilot's projects to link humanitarian assistance to developmental assistance benefiting refugees as well as host communities.



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2. Humanitarian Country Team Contingency Plan

As a result of the work done in preparation of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) contingency plan, two scenarios were presented for 1) sudden influx of Syrians into Lebanese territory and; 2) internal displacement of refugees and Lebanese due to intercommunal violence escalation. This plans are the result of the consultative process done among the sector partners. Details of the plan and preparedness actions are included in the presentation used in the meeting and available at this link:

http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=122&Id=48

It should be noted that the contingency plans of some international NGOs were not included in the presented scenarios as funding will be confirmed only when the unforeseen emergencies occur. The contingency plan is to be considered as a work in progress as meeting with relevant stakeholders are still being conducted.

3. Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (S-MEB) Review in 2016

Solidarite', as a member of the Lebanese Cash Consortium (LCC) presented the Survival- Minimum Expenditure Basket (S-MEB) review plan in 2016. The objectives of this exercise is to review and reinforce the S-MEB as well as to provide insights on future cash programming. An inter-agency advisory committee has been established and the final results of the review exercise will be presented to inter-agency groups once the process is finalized tentatively around March –April. Details of the process are included in the presentation used in the meeting and available at this link:

http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=122&Id=48

A need to extend the analysis being conducted for the S-MEB of the Syrian refugees to Lebanese host communities was raised during the discussion.

4. WFP future strategy

In 2016, WFP will develop its 2017-2020 Country Strategic Plan. As an initial step, a Strategic Review of the food and nutrition security in Lebanon will take place in the coming weeks to look at how Lebanon can achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2 – End hunger. The Strategic Review will inform WFP's strategic plan and could also advise priority actions that the UNCT will determine as it develops an integrated UN Strategic Framework for Lebanon. The review will consist of a desk review and a consultation with a wide range of partners in Lebanon. The FSSWG members will be consulted during the process.

5. Presentation on Quinoa

FAO launched a quinoa cultivation project in Lebanon in partnership with the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute and MoA. The project aims at making locally produced high quality quinoa available at market with a reasonable price. Click [here](#) to see a video clip on the advantages related to the cultivation of Quinoa that could benefit farmers in Lebanon.

For further information related to the option of Quinoa planting please contact Marie Louise Hayek at FAO: marielouise.hayek@fao.org



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6. Assessment registry

Sector members are requested to register their planned/on-going/completed assessments on UNCHR data portal <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/country.php?id=122>

And click on “Register your assessment –HERE!” under links (to the right):

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1iHQ4efiS0ZphniRvg551I7ly9MvT9fP2N6pQRs6NMhA/viewform?c=0&w=1>

7. Activity Info reporting

Guidelines and deadlines for Activity Info (AI) of the Food Security Sector reporting were shared with members. Guidelines and AI reporting calendar are available at this link:

http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=122&Id=48

or please contact Pardie Karamanoukian at Pardie.karamanoukian@fao.org

8. Sub -working groups re- activation

A discussion was held with partners regarding the re-activation of exiting technical sub-working groups or activation of new thematic ones based on members’ needs. Upon consultation with members it was decided to establish two new sub-working groups: one looking at micro-gardening and the second one looking at community kitchen. Sub-working groups meetings will be called for in the near future.

9. Core group and Co-chair NGO focal point election

ACF has been the NGO member in the sector core group and NGO sector co-chair over a year. As per the sector TORs the NGO co-chair position is to be renewed every 6 month. During the election of the new NGO co-chair has been conducted. IOCC candidate got the position and it was approved by all members. IOCC it is now the member of the FSSWG core group as well as the NGO sector co-chair. The focal point is Joyce Barakat and can be contacted at jbarakat@iocc.org. If another NGO will put forward its candidature, the sector working groups will decide about the possibility of extending the NGO representation in the core group to two organizations.

10. AOB

Field level coordination: the FSSWG intends to establish a coordination system at field level. A first regional meeting is being scheduled for the 23rd of February in Tyre. All partners working in South Lebanon are invited to attend: schedule –agenda and venue will be shortly shared. Other ad-hoc regional meetings will follow to ensure better coordination of activity implementation at regional level.