



Distribution of Food Assistance in Camps

FSL and CCCM Clusters

This paper has been drafted based on FSL and CCCM Clusters in consultation with the relevant members and stakeholders, i.e. members providing food assistance in IDP Sites in northern Syria. The below recommendations are meant to provide guidance to all FSL and CCCM Cluster members that distribute food in camps using different activities and modalities. This guidance addresses only Turkey Cross-Border food security/cccm actors in IDP camps and no other actors or other contexts.

Food assistance in camps: blanket or targeted distribution?

Regular Food Baskets and regular distribution of hot meals: Many FSL/CCCM members are distributing food in *camps*¹ through blanket distribution approach². While vulnerability based assistance remains the best recommended exercise, as these camps receive the most vulnerable IDPs it appears to be very challenging to adapt any “selection criteria” in the current situation taking into consideration also the risks and sensitivity of food aid in such context (e.g. security problems, do no harm principle, etc.). Needs of people residing in camps are generally very high, in considering also nutritional status and seasonal challenges (winterization), social/environmental situation, multi-displacements, precarious conditions, etc. However, members are strongly advised to continue assessing the needs and gaps and ensure that the vast majority of the IDPs in the camps are in need of food assistance³.

Emergency Rations: RTERs, Cooked meals, free bread: In case of emergency distribution for new displacements (RTERs, Cooked meals, bread) selection criteria may be applied for targeting the new arrivals (in any case blanket for new arrivals). That appears to have more general acceptance and the duration of those activities is normally limited to max 4-6 weeks;

Cash assistance: Few FSL members report cash assistance in Camps – in this case the Cash disbursement should take into consideration the market facilities out of camps and factoring additional costs such as transportation if needed; For *targeting* the same ration would be used as per regular distribution VS emergency as mentioned above;

All above activities must take the FSL and CCCM other guidance and response strategies into consideration⁴. Camps are the last resort and pull factor: that is an essential element to consider. All members must strive to avoid aid dependency and empower the population as part of CCCM cluster camp exit-strategy.

¹ CCCM is using the broad definition of camp which includes formal camps, spontaneous/self-established informal camps and settlements, transit and reception centers and collective centers.

² That may be different for those FSL Cluster activities in camps such as Livelihoods support - agriculture or income generating - where criteria are applied (e.g. land ownership, water access, agricultural skills, vocational training, etc.);

³ For regular interventions in camps do not encourage people to stay in unsafe location, all camps and informal settlements should be reported to the CCCM and verified with the membership before starting long term support;

⁴ FSL response package (including Kcal support, regular VS emergency, duration, etc.) and other recommendations and guidance;



Following are outlined some of the key ways in which distributions can be put into practice in camps:

- Inform FSL Focal points/ accountable⁵ Camp Management committees about the location and time of distribution, the type of assistance they will receive, for how long the assistance should last and their rights and entitlements with respect to the assistance they receive;
- Like any other assistance, food assistance must be provided directly to the IDPs. Informal camp leaders must not have the authorities to direct the assistance;
- Ensure that FSL Focal points and IDPs are aware that they don't have to pay or exchange anything for the assistance;
- Inform the community that they are invited to provide feedback on, or complain about, the assistance received to field monitors, staff members of the organizations and/or call the helpline number where existent;
- The distribution site should have a clear entrance and exit, barriers to allow for crowd control so that only people receiving assistance are able to enter safely;
- At the distribution sites must be dignified and protected, there must be shade, and whenever possible, water and toilets provided in coordination with other organizations;
- Arrange for community support and/or mobile distributions for those people who cannot carry their rations, and ensure that people without the means do not have to pay to collect humanitarian aid. *This is especially important for more vulnerable households and those not headed by able bodied, adult men;*
- Distribution should be in daylight hours. People should not be required to wait for more than an hour. If, for unforeseen circumstances, the wait will be longer, people should be respectfully informed of the delay and anticipated waiting time. People busy with surviving this conflict generally have many important things to do during the day rather than wait long hours for assistance;
- Ensure there is a separate line or waiting area for women and men;
- In the distribution line give priority to those who cannot stand in line for long periods such as elderly persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant and lactating women;
- Each food actor has to take IDP empowerment into consideration through other possible activities where IDPs will be less dependent on aid;
- Ensure that your activities are reported to and coordinated with FSL and CCCM Clusters;

⁵ Accountable camp committees are these committees established by humanitarian members and they are representative and not appointed by informal camp managers.