

Food Security and Agriculture Working Group

FSA WG Monthly Meeting Minutes



24th Jan 2019

Chaired by: Ahmed Ekzayez (FAO)

Hosted by: FAO

Participants: Serhat Burak GÜRESİNLİ (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry), Zakarya Al Motair (Qatar Charity), Hazal Erman (3 million syrian 3 million trees), Firas Amani (Al-Resala Foundation), Aybike Ceylanlar (3 Million Syrian 3 Million Trees), Hussein Barish (WATAN), Merve Agcabay (WATAN), Omar Atik (Shafak), Deema Hitalani (Jana Watan), Hope Oyo Oyo (Jana Watan), Hanifi Kinaci (TRC), Figen Kelemer (Concern Worldwide), Sura Ermistekin (WFP), Adile Sahin (UNDP), Rukas Ibrahim (Welthungerhilfe), Arij shaaban (Resala Foundation), Osama Alkhalaf (Ihsan RD). Jamil Awan (IOM).

Agenda:

- **Welcome and review action points from the last meeting.**
- **Review of FSA sector Indicator guidance notes.**
- **Presentation of the planned activities of the food security and agriculture livelihood program of WATAN Foundation.**
- **Presentation of the planned activities of the food security and agriculture livelihood program of Jana Watan organization.**
- **Presentation of World Bank's Turkey economic monitor report Dec 2018.**
- **AOB**
 - **The date of next FSA meeting**
 - **Training on Food Security Outcome Indicators**
 - **Q4 FSA Dashboard**

Summary of Action Points FSA meeting 24th Jan 2019

- ✓ SWG coordinator to share the draft of FSA sector indicators guidance. **Deadline: Next FSA meeting.**
 - ✓ WHH organization to prepare presentation about challenges and lessons learned of Agriculture interventions in Turkey context. **Deadline: Next FSA meeting.**
 - ✓ Partners to share their inputs to the Q4 FSA Dashboard. **Deadline: 30th Jan.**
 - ✓ Partners to share their challenges in implementing food and agriculture project. **Deadline: Next FSA meeting.**
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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. **Deadline: Next FSA meeting. status (Pending)**
- ✓ WHH organization to prepare presentation about challenges and lessons learned of Agriculture interventions in Turkey context. **Deadline: Next FSA meeting. Status: (Done)**
- ✓ Partners to share their inputs to the Q4 FSA Dashboard. **Deadline: 30th Jan. Status: (Done)**
- ✓ Partners to share their challenges/questions regarding the implementation of food and agriculture project. **Deadline: Next FSA meeting. status (Pending).**

2. Review of FSA sector Indicator guidance notes.

- FSA Sector has 3 objectives and 13 outputs (indicators) within the framework of 3RP 2019-2020
- 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 planned activities of the food security and agriculture livelihood program of WATAN Foundation.

- WATAN organization works to rebuild lives and maintain community social cohesion by providing transformative programs in reliefs, post-conflict-peace-building, education, economic empowerment, advocacy and development of strong Civil Society;
- WATAN is registered as a non-profit organization in the United Kingdom, United States and Turkey;
- WATAN is currently working in Syria and Turkey to address emergency response and sustainable community revival. WATAN is bringing about a real and positive change to millions of people.
 - Turkey: Gaziantep, Ankara, Mersin, Istanbul, Hatay, Sanliurfa.
 - Syria: Rural of Aleppo Rural, Idleb and it's Rural, Hama's Rural.
- Since its foundation, WATAN has reached more than 7 million beneficiaries through its eight programs (Education, FSL, Health, WASH, Economic empowerment, Shelter & NFI, Protection, Civil society support);
- The number of WATAN network members of civil society organizations is 77 Organizations;
- Economic Empowerment Program: The program aims to further enhance support in contributing towards the resilience of IDPs and refugees and building coherence between host and guest communities. As well as employability opportunities and support economic stability of individuals by supporting their resilience. The focus is also placed on enhancing psycho-social health and wellbeing along with cohesion with the community by moving to productivity and providing a good example of positive coping;
- Turkish Labor Market Access for Syrians: The project seeks to support high-level Syrian professionals, together with unqualified workers both Turks and Syrians, to benefit the economic development of Turkey by offering their services to the Turkish Labor Market. The activities of this project are Turkish language classes, specialized workshops, vocational training, job placement, apprenticeship support; outreach activities;
- WATAN has extensive experience in implementing agriculture project inside Syria such as: Olive value chain project, Wheat value chain, and livestock project.

4. Presentation of the planned activities of the food security and agriculture livelihood program of Jana Watan organization.

- Jana Watan organization started its work inside Syria in Rural Damascus, North of Syria and South of Syria in 2014 and still active in addressing the need to most vulnerable people in Syria. (women, people with special needs, children, orphans)
- Jana Watan organization is active in eight sectors (Education, FSL, Health, WASH, CCCM, Shelter, NFI, Protection);
- Jana Watan organization implemented several FSL /agriculture projects (weahrt and livestock projects) in rural Damascus and Idleb to help vulnerable people. In total 16, 450 beneficiaries' inclusive women and households headed by the elderly have been benefited from these projects.
- Jana Watan organization implemented Mushroom project in besieged areas. 1100 families have been benefited of this project.
- Jana Watan organization implemented CFW project to harvest the cherry crop. In addition, the project focused on the value chain of this crop. The total number of beneficiary was 1602 farmers (representative of both women and men).
- Jana Watan has extensive experience in implementing various agricultural project including the collaboration with the research center to improve the quality of implementation.
- Jana Watan organization has a promising plan to work in Turkey in order to support the refugees and empower them economically.

5. Presentation of World Bank's Turkey economic monitor report Dec 2018.

- Mid-2018 was a period of intense market volatility and rising economic stress. However, market volatility in Turkey has subsided since in August;
- The gap between consumer and producer price inflation widened significantly since July, reflecting suppliers' inability to pass on price increases to consumers due to declining demand;
- High production costs together with slowing demand have prompted supply-side adjustments;

- Food inflation, at close to 30 percent compared to a year ago, has a far greater negative incidence for the poor than the non-poor. The poverty rate is very sensitive to such price increases, although the net effect may be offset by nominal wage or income growth;
 - Minimum wage adjustment in early 2019 and government employment support programs may help to stem the decline in real wages, as well as the support agriculture activities will help in decrease the food prices, especially fresh food;
 - Market volatility in Turkey has subsided since August. The Lira has recovered and stabilized for now (Figure 14), averaging TRY 5.4/ USD in November, after bottoming out in August at TRY 7.2/USD;
 - In 2019, it's expected to observe an increase in employment in both sector Agriculture and services.
- **AOB**
 - **Training on Food Security Outcome Indicators**
 - WFP is arranging capacity building workshop on food security outcome indicators in Gaziantep, Turkey. This will be half day training and will take place on Tuesday **February 26, 2019**;
 - This training aims to build the capacity of FSA sector members to better understand food security outcome indicators (how to collect/analyse/interpret them) with a focus on these 3 outcome indicators:
 - Food Consumption Score
 - Reduced Coping Strategy Index
 - Livelihood Coping Strategies
 - The training targets members of the FSAWG, who regularly works with collection and/or analysis of food security outcome indicators or who generally would benefit from an improved understanding of these indicators.
 - **Q4 FSA Dashboard**
 - It was announced that FSA team is working on the preparation of the sectoral dashboard for the fourth quarter of 2018. Dashboard is one of the main tools of reporting sectoral activities to the wide audience;
 - Partners have been encouraged to share a few lines (1-2 sentences max) about their FSA related activities to be reflected on the dashboard narrative.
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 - **The date of next FSA meeting is 26th Feb 2019.**