



**Inter-Agency
Coordination
Turkey**

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE 

FSA SECTOR 3RP PLANNING PROCESS 2021/22 CONSULTATION

Virtual Meeting Report

01 October 2020/ Zoom

Introduction:

Welcome remarks

Ms. Ayşegül Selşik Assistant FAO Representative welcomed the participants from and thanked Ms. Özge İmamoğlu, Head of Department for International Organizations, Directorate General for EU and Foreign Relations, MoAF.

She explained that the 3RP strategic objectives focuses on social protection, social cohesion and self-reliance of refugees and host communities. Ensure food security through self-reliance by increasing employment and income generation in the food and agriculture sector is FSA sector priority. All partners are trying to contribute to it through vocational trainings and other interventions, whereby equipping the vulnerable communities with the right skillsets and through awareness-raising sessions to help improve the food security status of the refugees and host communities.

Under the recent 3RP Planning Process, the main important change is in the scope i.e. inclusion of all refugees “under one refugee approach”. Rural development through targeting most vulnerable groups such as seasonal agricultural workers, smallholder farmers etc. is important to strengthen the food security systems. Increasing the private sector engagement into the 3RP 2021/22 process is also important for increasing employment and employability. Gender mainstreaming throughout FSA sector strategy is something that needs to be given due attention during the planning process. FSA sector planning will be done considering the impact of COVID-19 on all its activities.

Opening Remarks

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) Directorate General for EU and Foreign Relations (DGEUFR) Head of Department for International Organizations, Ms. Özge İmamoğlu gave the opening remarks. She expressed her appreciation for FAO active role in leading the FSA sector and for arranging this consultation meeting whereby giving the stakeholders an opportunity to have a productive and useful discussion around FSA sector strategy for 2021-2022.

Ms. İmamoğlu explained that the 3RP and FSA sector has an important role in contributing to the livelihoods of the refugees under temporary protection and vulnerable host communities. Turkish Government has an open policy-disregarding race, language and religion since the beginning of the conflict. Turkey continues to host the largest number of Syrian refugees globally and till now USD 40 billion is spent on refugees response. The agriculture sector is very important in Turkey as it provides many opportunities for refugees. Sector partners are providing vocational skills and language trainings to refugees to provide them with sustainable income opportunities.

Syrian refugees are coming from a similar agricultural context as Turkey and FSA sector needs to qualify a workforce that can provide sustainable outputs and income-generating opportunities without a large capital investment. Engagement in the agriculture sector in Turkey will benefit Syrians immensely on their return to their Country of origin. In Turkey, Syrian refugees can work in seasonal jobs without a work permit; this is an advantage for them to gain income without any legal formalities. So far, seventy projects have been implemented for supporting self-reliance of the refugees and host communities in collaboration with public institutions, FAO, NGOs, private

sector and international donors by providing right skillsets though theoretical, practical and on-the-job trainings. Efforts are made at national, regional and international level to coordinate a consistent and transparent response to help protect these refugees. The ministry recognizes the importance of taking appropriate measures to help eliminate the effects of COVID-19 pandemic through increasing the livelihoods of the vulnerable communities.

The Turkish government is ready to give all support to refugees and host communities to reduce their vulnerability and to improve their lives. Cooperation of all sector stakeholders is very important.

FSA sector presentation

FSA sector coordinator presented FSA sector strategy and priorities for 2021-2022 along with the planning process and methodology.

- **Planning process 2021-22 timeline and parameters:**

The process started in early September through SRG endorsement and STF meeting, followed by a regional planning workshop. The process includes a series of in sector and inter-sectoral consultations, private sector and relevant government counterpart consultations. 3RP will be launched by end of February and the rollout of the 3RP through sub-national presentations will start in March 2021.

3RP 2021/22 aims at multi-year vision and strategy, and it aims to develop two-year plans with funding needs. 3RP advocates for a “one refugee” approach, in order for all refugees, regardless of their nationality, to have access to equitable protection, assistance and services.

- **3RP FSA sector achievements in 2020:**

FSA sector partners are working in 11 provinces where most of the refugees populations are concentrated and needs are high, these locations are Gaziantep, Şanlıurfa, Mardin, Kilis, Hatay, Istanbul, Izmir, Manisa, Bursa, Mersin and Adana. Due to COVID-19, the achievements for this year is lower compared to the previous year as it took some time for the sector to come up with changed modalities of implementation under the pandemic. FSA 3RP Appeal Budget was 53m USD that was revised to 55m USD under the new requirements of COVID-19. So far, 7m USD has been received.

- **Sector strategic objectives, needs and priority areas for 2021-2022:**

FSA Sector has three main Objectives: 1) improving the food security through good food and nutrition programmes in agriculture practices 2) strengthening the resilience of Syrians under temporary protection and vulnerable host communities through employment increased income and financial assets in the food and agriculture sectors, and 3) Improving the local and community-level public and private sector and civil society capacities to respond to the food and agriculture needs of impacted communities. FSA sector strategy can be summed up in three main priority area, self-reliant food security; support to subsistence farmers and small agricultural enterprises; and social cohesion and resilience.

- **Common approaches:** gender, protection, environmental protection, localization, harmonization and COVID-19 mainstreaming:

During the mid-year review process 2020/2021, FSA sector changed its strategy to mainstream COVID-19 response in its ongoing and forthcoming activities, the sector plans to continue its activities during 2021/22 under these changed modalities such as digitalization, cash based assistance and home based agri-food businesses.

3RP 2021/22 is a two-year planning process with long term strategic approach encouraging “one refugee approach” to promote inclusiveness and social cohesion. The sector will promote evidence-based programming for improved response and it will focus on private sector engagement, in this regard, a private sector consultation will take place in October.

Discussion and Q&A session: 3RP FSA sector Planning Process for 2021-2022

- EU Expert Mr. Burak S. Güresinli from MoAF expressed that the targeted beneficiaries and the budget should meet in the next phase of 3RP. He also underlined that the market chain is important in COVID-19 process and should be evaluated in the next chapters of 3RP.
- **Gender mainstreaming:** The need for gender balanced programming was once again stresses. Improving self-confidence of women beneficiaries and providing them enabling environment for having a role in the decision-making process is important. FSA sector targeted 49% women in 2020, giving priority to women, opening the women cooperatives and enterprises, engaging them in activities on skills development while improving self-reliance. MoAF representative emphasized that the current FSA sector activities such as livestock management, plant production, harvesting and processing, greenhouse cultivation etc. should remain part of the FSA sector strategy for 2021-2022. For the sustainability of the actions under FSA sector activities, it is crucial to encourage private sector engagement; to address the COVID-19 impact, digitalization and improvement of value chain support should be considered as part of the sector strategy.
- **Policy reforms:** on policy reform ATAA association stressed the need for more coordination with local authorities on Syrians’ access to land to implement agriculture projects for Syrian refugees and host communities. . MOAF explained that according to current regulations, Turkish citizens could easily have access to the land for agricultural activities; however, any reformative actions, policy changes or discussions in this regard would need engagement with the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- **Evidence-based programming and needs analyses:** on a concern around reflecting the population needs in programming, raised by WATAN Foundation, FSA sector coordinator informed that private sector consultations, relevant assessments and studies provide an insight in the needs of the targeted populations for developing FSA sector strategy for 2021-2022.
- **Protection mainstreaming:** On a concern around child labor and social protection schemes in agriculture, Child labor Task Force coordinator (UNICEF) expressed that the taskforce is well aware of this issue, but there is lack of sufficient evidence to develop a programme to address this issue. More coordinated efforts are needed in future between FSA sector and CL TF. Role of agricultural intermediaries is critical and supporting agricultural intermediaries to bring available services to the agriculture workers can help solve many issues.
- **Environmental protection:** ACTED stressed on need for the environmental protection and natural resource management. FSA sector gives importance to protection of the environment and natural resource management through use of smart agriculture. Awareness raising should be increased in the protection of the environment.

- **Sustainability and long term strategy:** Qatar Charity emphasized that agricultural intervention should be long-term and sustainability should be considered even after the end of the projects. In light of this, QC suggested not only seasonal projects but also long-term projects as part of FSA sector strategy.
- **3RP strategic Objectives:** On behalf of FAO, Ms. Ayşegül Selşik explained that FAO as FSA sector lead has a proposal for more enhanced employability and reconsidering amending 3RP Strategic Objective 3 to reflect on importance of income generation and employment of refugees and host communities. Proposed revision to 3RP Strategic Objective #3: Enhance livelihoods and employability of the refugees and host communities to support self-reliance”. The 3RP strategic objectives SO1 and SO2 cannot be fully achieved without having a strategic objective that voices the need for decent work and livelihood opportunities. Moreover the graduation from ESSN support and the rights of the refugees to live in a dignified way requires that they have access to employment opportunities. On behalf of MoAF, Ms. Özge İmamoğlu confirmed support of MoAF to FSA sector on the 3RP Planning Process 2021/22 while Ms. Özge İmamoğlu suggested to including PDoAFs of MoAF in this consultation process.

Agreed recommendations:

- Need for sustainability and long term strategic action for food security and rural development.
- Strong engagement of private sector for sustainability and effectiveness of actions.
- Enhanced advocacy with donors and IFIs on FSA sector needs and activities.
- One refugee approach should be considered during the planning process.
- Generating more evidence for improved programming to address the needs.
- Need of policy/legal reforms in land acquisition laws.
- More focus on mainstreaming actions such as protection, gender, CL, COVID-19, environment in FSA sector Plan.
- COVID-19 mainstreaming should be considered in all sector activities such as use of new technologies and digitalization, distance learning and home-based agri-food initiatives, protective gears and awareness raising.
- More inter sector coordination and inclusion of relevant sectors and ministries.
- 3RP Strategic Objective 3 to reflect more on employment and employability of refugees and host communities.

Follow up Actions:

- Due to the 3RP planning process timeline limitation it was agreed that MOAF will carry on an internal Consultation with Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry (PDoAFs) on FSA sector strategic direction for informing the FSA sector on any further recommendations for educated planning process for 2021-2022. FSA sector coordinator to share the consultation report and presentation with MoAF (Ms. Özge İmamoğlu) for further internal consultative process/action.