# 3RP-Turkey Food Security and Agriculture Sector WG Meeting Minutes

**Thursday August 20, 2020 at 14:00hrs**

**Chair:** Lubna Siddique (FAO)
**Minutes taker:** Orhan Afşin (FAO)

**Participants:** Arij Shaaban (Alresala Foundation), Safwan Alhaiek (ATAA), Figen Kelemer (Concern), Ceren Gökçe (GIZ), Evren Aydogan (IDEMA), Ivan Lwanga (IOM), Pelin Turkalp (IOM), Burak Guresinli (MoAF), Mohammad Alobaidy (The Establishment for Human Care and Development), Ayman Sallawy Alhalb (TRC), Gozde Binguler (UN Women), Philippe Clerc (UNDP), Bora Ozbek (UNFPA), Haruko Kudo (UNHCR), Levent Eksi (UNHCR), Lara Ozugergin (UNHCR), Zehra Kara (UNIDO), Saban Gultekin (WHH), Efsan Naz Ozen (World Bank), Sarah Coll-Black (World Bank)

**FAO Participants:** Sheikh Ahaduzzaman (FAO), Neşe Çakır (FAO), Ege Akturk (FAO)

## Agenda

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Briefing by MoAF on COVID-19 impact on Food Security and Agriculture</th>
<th>Discussion</th>
<th>Action Points</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>- MoAF representative gave an overview on COVID-19 measures taken by MoAF since March 2020, the key highlights are as follows:</td>
<td>- <strong>Coordination</strong> MoAF is closely monitoring the food security situation as well as regularly participating in FSA sector meetings to update the sector partners. The Ministry established provincial pandemic boards and close contact with the food security partners during the process. The Ministry conveyed 220 TCP project proposals to FAO with the aim of enhancing collaboration and coordination.</td>
<td>- Agriculture Forest Academic portal link (<a href="https://akademi.tarimorman.gov.tr/">https://akademi.tarimorman.gov.tr/</a>)</td>
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<td>- <strong>Stock Management for Food Security:</strong> Turkey’s strength in agriculture based on making projections and take actions according to the station. Working on possible scenarios and managing the consumer psychology.</td>
<td>- Broadcasting portal: Webtarim TV</td>
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<td>- <strong>General Measures for Agriculture Sector:</strong> In collaboration of the related ministries, the local bazaars are rearranged, all food items are sold in packets, price changes and stock levels of products which are suitable for storage are strictly controlled, postponed the tax payments of April to June for food enterprises, MoAF started agricultural support payments in advance (instead of installments over the year) to provide farmers with safety nets.</td>
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- **Measures for Seasonal Agriculture Workers**: In coordination with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Interior, MoAF issued a Circular for provincial Directorates to regulate movements of farmers and seasonal workers.
- **Measures for Agriculture Lands**: In order to guarantee production in the field, in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and Urban Planning, MoAF started to allocate state lands to farmers for strategic plantations such as cereals, pulses, oilseeds and forage crops.
- **Measures for Plant Production**: Monthly products bulletins of the Ministry which are prepared by the related desks are published in order to give information and evaluation on agricultural markets.
- **Measures for Meat and Milk Sector**: The Ministry took precautions for hygiene and social distance rules in purchasing, productions, sales and logistics.
- **Measures for Fisheries**: A promotion campaign called “Life at Home, Fish on the Plate” where fish was sold at subsidized prices to the consumers.
- **COVID-19 Anti-Serum Studies**: Studies are carried out to develop anti-serum against COVID-19
- **SARS-CoV-2 Detection**: MoAF has carried out waste water studies in different provinces for the detection of Corona virus in wastewater. Study results show traces of the virus but no infection transmissions reported till now.
- **Measures Regarding Digital Agriculture**: The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has accelerated its activities especially in COVID-19 process.
- **Digital Agricultural Market (DİTAP)**: As a digital market will cover the entire food supply chain from food production to consumption.
- **Agriculture Forest Academic portal**: Ministry developed a new interactive training and informative portal during COVID-19 to provide farmers and producers with sustainable knowledge, information and training videos. Farmers can receive trainings on more than 200 topics (such as vegetables, animal production, fertilization and food nutrition). Currently the platform is only available in Turkish language.

### Gender-specific approach in Food Security and Agriculture Sector Initiatives Globally
Two-thirds of the world’s poor live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and the food sector as their main source of livelihood. Women play an indispensable role in on-farm and off-farm activities, particularly in rural areas, which contribute to economic welfare and food security of their households. Current data indicate that about 45 percent of the world’s population depends on agriculture in general for its livelihood and women constitute 43 percent of the agricultural labour force, producing a large portion of the world’s food crops. Almost 80 percent of women who are employed in agriculture are unpaid workers on family farms; less than a quarter of men provide this type of unpaid work.

### Agriculture Sector in Gender Perspective in Turkey
Turkish agriculture is pre-dominantly based on family production, which is characterized by small-scale producers or subsistence production that relies heavily on women’s unpaid family labour and seasonal work. In agriculture 2,3 million women and 588,000 men are unpaid...
family workers. Generally, rural women have insufficient educational opportunities, do not own land and have very limited access to paid labour. Women’s work outside the home is seen as an extension of housework, and is therefore not considered as an economic activity. Women’s work as unpaid family labourers places them at risk of significant levels of poverty. In Turkey, estimates indicate that women spend four times more hours per day on unpaid work than men.

- **COVID-19 and Impacts on Women in Agriculture and Food Sector** Because of the COVID-19 pandemic new challenges appear for rural women with regard to their roles in maintaining household food security, as agricultural producers. COVID-19 is increasing women’s work burden due to school closures and the additional care needs of sick household members. To mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on rural women and girls, a gender-sensitive approach can help address key policy issues related to the functioning of food and agricultural systems and the special circumstances of rural women. Rural women face greater constraints than men in accessing productive resources, services, technologies, markets, financial assets and local institutions, which makes them more vulnerable to the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to contain it.

- FAO supports the design of gender-responsive policy measures in the COVID-19 response that address the needs of rural women and men.
- FAO works with relevant national institutions in Turkey to support both women and men from rural areas, so they can empower themselves as active agents of development. Women experience stronger barriers in the access to services, economic opportunities, land and other productive resources. Therefore, gender mainstreaming as a methodology is central for FAO’s work to proactively ensure that both rural women and men benefit from its interventions.

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<th>Presentation by UNFPA Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Efforts in Turkey</th>
<th>GBV General Trends: Various assessments on issues of women, men, girls and boys reflect that a considerable number of GBV incidents are experienced by all age/gender groups. The most prevalent forms of GBV in Turkey are reported as domestic violence, sexual, emotional and physical violence (including intimate partner violence) and child, early and forced marriages.</th>
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<td>Coordination Mechanisms on GBV in Turkey: In order to mitigate the risks related to GBV, multi-sector approach and multi-sector coordination is needed to address GBV.</td>
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<td>SGBV Sub-Sector is addressing the needs of most vulnerable refugees and host communities through community based increased access to safe, confidential and quality multi-sectoral GBV services and support programmes. Capacity of government and non-government actors and services in all sectors are strengthened to effectively respond to GBV and PSEA.</td>
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<td>UNFPA’s Programming on Improving access of Rural Refugees to Health and Protection Services in Turkey: UNFPA through its programming is ensuring the physical, mental and social well-being of the people living in the rural areas (refugee and host community). In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, UNFPA aims to increase</td>
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<td>Presentation to be shared with the FSA partners along with the minutes</td>
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availability, accessibility and demand for primary healthcare and protection services in the rural areas of 5 provinces (Mobile Service Units): Sanliurfa, Adana, Mersin, Izmir, Bursa.

| Presentation by UM WOMEN My Safety Plan | During the Covid-19 crisis, violence against women and girls has seen an increase globally. They are more vulnerable to domestic and sexual violence as a result of quarantine and isolation policies, along with other socio-economic factors. “My Safety Plan” provides information to women and girls about the available services and support mechanisms.  
- According to Turkish Federation of Women’s Association there is an 80 % increase in physical violence cases in March 2020 compared to March 2019.  
- UN Women Turkey has been disseminating the “My Safety Plan” by mobilizing its broad partnership network, with an objective to provide information to women and girls about the available services and support mechanisms and encourage them to break the silence and seek support against all kind of violence. It also informs women on how to protect themselves navigate the system of service provision and exercise their rights, to develop a plan for themselves and their children in case of violence.  
- This plan is prepared for the safety of women and girls; and therefore, attention must be paid to disseminating it among these groups only and not to the violators/aggressors. |
| Presentation to be shared with the FSA partners along with the minutes. |

| Presentation by World Bank Agricultural Emoloyment Support for Refugees and Turkish Citizens Through Enhanced Market Linkages | World Bank gave a short presentation on their forthcoming project under FRIT II on improving the conditions for formal agricultural employment opportunities among host communities and refugees, agricultural employment support with right skillsets will enable refugees and host communities to have sustainable and dignified livelihood opportunities.  
- **Component 1: Employment Support through Contract Farming**: Building on established market linkages in agriculture; the role of Agricultural Credit Cooperatives (ACCs) and contract farming. Aim of the component is improving the employability of and creating formal employment opportunities for Turkish citizens and refugees working in rural host communities in selected provinces.  
- **Component 2: Employment Creation through Strengthening the Value Chain for Contract Farming**: Enhancing the use of and demand for contract farming schemes in projects areas by increasing the capacity of cooperatives to process the agricultural products in order to increase the value added of the agricultural products.  
- **Component 3: Implementation Support and Institution Capacity Building**: Strengthening the capacity of ACC (central, raigonal, and primary ACCs) to effectively implement the proposed project management and its monitoring and evaluation as well as communications both to potential beneficiaries and to the public.  
- **Proposed Development Objective and Indicators**: Improving the conditions to create formal employment opportunities in rural areas of selected host communities. |
| Presentation to be shared with the FSA partners along with the minutes. |
**Briefing by UNHCR on Protection Mainstreaming and Inter-agency Referral Form**

- The Protection sector coordinator updated the FSA partners on Protection Mainstreaming Plan and Inter-agency Referral Form. UNHCR carried out a Protection Working Group Survey and the results showed a need for Protection Mainstreaming across different sectors, especially on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) and Child Protection (CP).
- The UNHCR initiated a tentative plan about Protection Mainstreaming Package with the protection coordinators, and an National Working Group Meeting will be conducted on Tuesday to discuss and improve the prepared Protection Mainstreaming Plan. Further consultations with sector coordinators will also take place.
- Under the frame of the plan; short refresher trainings will be provided to the sectors about the Protection and the Protection Mainstreaming.
- Inter-agency referral form was developed in 2018 and currently the Protection sector is working on a complementary guiding document on use of the Inter-agency referral form (IRF) by other sectors in order to strengthen the cross-sectoral coordination.
- UNHCR shared information about the standardized consent form which was prepared in line with National Data protection Regulations and Principles, and emphasized that the Risk Assessment and the guidance on “How to Incorporate Protection Principles in a Project” are part of the Protection Mainstreaming Plan.

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- **3RP 2021/22 Planning Process** will start in September and continue till November 2020. Discussion on the scope of the 3RP is most likely to include issues such as gender, child marriage, child labour, post-COVID resilience/self-reliance, social protection/livelihoods, agriculture and rural communities. Sectors will explore their priority areas during the sub-national consultations. The impact of COVID-19, and its influence on vulnerabilities and 3RP activities would also be discussed, to validate planning assumptions for 2021.

The final version of the plan to be shared with the sector partners.

*Next Meeting: FSA Sector Working Group: 3rd Thursday of September i.e. 24th September*