

## Food Security Working Group Meeting

### Draft Minutes

28 March 2017

UN House, Gaziantep

Meeting Chair(s)	Participating Agencies	Agenda Items
WFP - FAO		1. Introduction and Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tour de table, incl. introduction of representatives of the German Foreign Ministry</li> <li>Recap on revised WG ToRs</li> <li>Review of the action points of the previous meeting</li> </ul>
		2. Presentations of agriculture activities by WG partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHH: Agricultural livelihoods for Syrian small scale farmers through pepper production in Elbeyli</li> <li>Khayr and Parci: Micro-gardening</li> <li>Updates on other actual or planned agriculture projects?</li> </ul>
		3. A.O.B <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recap on reporting to ActivityInfo</li> <li>Update on assessment registry</li> <li>Other</li> </ul>

### 1. Introduction and welcome

- The co-chairs, WFP and FAO, initiated a quick tour de table and welcomed representatives of the German Foreign Ministry who were undertaking a scoping mission to Turkey. The new WFP FSAWG coordinator, Siobhan Simojoki, who had been deployed to Gaziantep one week earlier, was also introduced.
- WFP and FAO referenced the latest terms of reference (ToRs) which saw the Food Security WG expanded include to Agriculture and FAO brought on board as the group's co-coordinator. It was noted that, building upon prior discussion, there was still an interest in identifying an INGO or NNGO Technical Advisor to the group, and it was suggested that partners express their interest to WFP and FAO by CoB Friday 7 April. In the event that more than one expression of interest is received, a rotational model may be explored.
- Members agreed to continue to meet every six weeks. It was proposed that, at the next meeting, the FSAWG workplan be reviewed and that the group's thematic priorities, and associated outputs, be set.
- The action points from the last meeting, held on 24 January, were reviewed. A summary can be found below.

Action	Status
All partners to submit their data to ActivityInfo	Ongoing. Data should be shared by the 10th of each month. Currently, few FSA partners are sharing data and greater reporting was encouraged.
The revised FSAWG ToRs to be circulated to partners for feedback and finalized	Complete. Following the meeting, due to programmatic developments, it was agreed to merge Food Security and Agriculture into one working group, rather than establish a separate Agriculture Task Force. The final FSAWG ToRs are attached.

<p>FAO to draw upon 4Ws data to map agriculture interventions in Turkey</p>	<p>Not complete. It was noted that the 4Ws data is not currently being reported via ActivityInfo and it was therefore agreed to invite active partners to present on their activities as an initial step toward a more comprehensive mapping exercise.</p>
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**Action Points:**

- WFP to re-circulate the latest FSAWG workplan for review and to inform discussion and prioritization at the next WG meeting.
- INGO and NNGO partners interested in acting as the group’s Technical Advisor to share their nominations with the WG coordinators by 7 April 2017.

**3. Presentations of agricultural activities by WG partners**

- As above, as an initial step toward a more comprehensive mapping exercise, it had been agreed to invite partners active in the agriculture sector to present to the WG on their activities to date and lessons learned.
- WHH presented on its small pilot programme to promote food and income security in Elbeyli. It was noted that, under the programme, which was funded through individual donations, WHH had assisted some 21 families with agricultural expertise to grow peppers, okra, and eggplants on land leased from Turkish landowners. The project commenced in February 2016, with distribution and cultivation commencing in March, and harvest taking place from August to October. WHH leased the land, and provided beneficiaries with pepper seeds, irrigation systems, agricultural tools, pesticides, and (rented) tractors. The programme generated a total income of EUR 38,890 (or some EUR 2,000 per HH) compared to an estimated cost of EUR 50,000 – it was therefore close to being economically viable. Lessons learned included (i) there is a need to ensure clear agreements and a clear delineation of responsibilities between all parties involved (e.g. who will cover electricity and water costs?) at the project onset; and (ii) that staff with agricultural expertise should be present on the ground at all times and/or that more intense training on agricultural practices should be delivered. In the future, WHH will also look at closer collaboration with the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock.
- PARCIC presented on their recent microgardening project, implemented in collaboration with Khayr, and targeting refugees living in rural areas skirting Sanliurfa to improved their access to food. The project had divided beneficiaries into two categories – those with agricultural experience and those without agricultural experience – and provided them with seeds appropriate to their level of experience. PARCIC and Khayr distributed e-vouchers alongside the seeds, helping to build rapport with families and encourage them to accept other assistance. Lessons learned included the need to distribute seeds appropriate to weather conditions in SET (hot summers, cold winters) and to consider different types of seeds to reflect Syrian preferences (e.g. mulakhiyyeh). In the future, PARCIC and Khayr may also look at providing seeds which respond to specific health concerns/complaints. Overall, the project was considered a success, with growing interest among beneficiaries, with some requesting additional seeds from the project team to continue/expand their microgardens.
- The representatives of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs (GFMR) briefly introduced themselves, noting that, according to their division of responsibilities, GFMR leads in responding to emergencies while the Ministry for Economic Cooperation (BMZ) supports development programming. GFMR has supporting the response to the Syria Crisis since 2011, with significant scale up in 2012. Their primary focus is on needs inside Syria, but they are also working in refugee hosting countries. In Turkey, GFMR is engaged in cash programming with WHH and WFP, via the ESSN.

**4. A.O.B**

- Megan Walden, UNHCR IMO, provided a brief update on 3RP reporting requirements, noting that WG members response data should be submitted via ActivityInfo by the 10th of each month. It was suggested that there is currently underreporting in the sector, with only IOM, WFP, and UNHCR reporting activities in Jan/Feb. Participants asked how the data will be used and shared, and it was confirmed that the aggregated sector response data will be made available to WG members and other partners through monthly dashboards. In addition, once the FSAWG IMO is on board (April, TBC), further products can be tailored to operational partners needs/interests.

To support regular reporting, each partner was asked to identify an AI focal point. According to UNHCR's records, PARCIC and Sosyal Suriye Toplulugu are still to identify their focal point. Several other organizations reportedly missed the first round of training (CARE International, GOAL, Khayr, PARCIC, Sosyal Suriye Toplulugu, WHH), and anyone requiring an orientation to AI should contact the WG coordinators and/or UNHCR.

**Action Points:**

- All partners to ensure their response data is submitted via AI by the 10th of each month (with March response data to be reported to AI by 10 April 2017).
- Organizations which have not identified an IA Focal Point to nominate a FP to the WG coordinators, cc UNHCR ([walden@unhcr.org](mailto:walden@unhcr.org)), by 7 April 2017.
- Organizations/FP who require training on AI to contact the WG coordinators, cc UNHCR ([walden@unhcr.org](mailto:walden@unhcr.org)), by 7 April 2017.

*The next meeting FSAWG meeting will take place on 09 May, 3PM @ UN House (TBC)*