

Food Security and Agriculture Working Group

FSA WG Monthly Meeting Minutes



05 June 2018

Gaziantep

Chaired by: Ahmed Ekzayez (FAO) and Bahodur Umarov (WFP)

Hosted by: WFP and FAO

Participants: Abdulkarim Lakmes (ISWA), Dina Morad (WFP), Halil Ibrahim Okur (FAO), Hanifi Kinaci (TRC), Isaac Macha (WFP), Mehtap Akgun (UNIDO), Raed Al-Refai (Tekamul), Rukas Ibrahim (WHH), Safwan Alhaiek (ISWA), Sheikh Ahaduzzaman (FAO)

Agenda:

1. Welcome and review of action points from the previous meeting
2. Review of the results of Agricultural Livelihoods and Labour Market Assessment
3. Discussion of the changes at FSA WG scope and review of the new ToR
4. Revision of the FSA WG indicators and outputs, considering the transition of the FS component to the BN WG
5. AOB

Summary of Action Points

- ✓ SWG Coordinators to share the latest version of the FSA Indicators guidance with members for their feedback. **Deadline: Mid of July.**
- ✓ Chairs to initiate the formulation of the sectoral message (two-pager) to donors. **Deadline: Mid of July.**
- ✓ SWG chairs to consider the results of the Coordination Performance Survey and develop actions focusing on the possible areas for the improvement. **Deadline: Mid of July.**
- ✓ Chairs to share the presentation of Results of Agricultural Livelihoods and Labour Market Assessment with members. **Deadline: 14 June.**
- ✓ FAO to share the final report of the Agricultural Livelihoods and Labour Market Assessment with WG members. **Deadline: Mid of July.**
- ✓ Chairs to initiate discussion of the transition process with STF members. **Deadline: 7 June.**
- ✓ Chairs, technical advisor and sector IMO to prepare a mid-year report for FSA activities. **Deadline: 15 July.**
- ✓ Once endorsed by the STF, chairs, technical advisor and sector IMO to follow-up and arrange reporting and other relevant changes effective from July 2018. **Deadline: July, 2018.**
- ✓ Sector IMO to arrange reporting orientation sessions for members in case if the transition is endorsed by STF. **Deadline: TBC.**

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.
 - Chairs reviewed the action points from the last meeting as per below:
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- SWG Coordinators to share the latest version of the FSA Indicators guidance with members for their feedback. **Status: Pending.** The work to be finalized considering possible changes in the scope of the sectoral coverage.
- Chairs to initiate the formulation of the sectoral message (two-pager) to donors. **Status: Pending, as per previous item.**
- SWG chairs to consider the results of the Coordination Performance Survey and develop actions focusing on the possible areas for the improvement. **Status: Pending.**
- SWG chairs to share the 3RP Orientation Presentation with partners. **Status: Completed**
- Partners to reach out to sector IM to request additional support in reporting to AI. **Status: Ongoing**
- SWG chairs to invite the senior management from partner organizations to the ad hoc meeting in April. **Status: Completed.** The meeting was conducted on 9th April, to discuss the Food Security and Agriculture sector activities in the region and share existing experiences with Mr. Dominique Burgeon, Director, Emergency and Rehabilitation Division, FAO (Rome), who was on a mission in Gaziantep.

2. Review of the results of Agricultural Livelihoods and Labour Market Assessment

- FAO presented main findings of the assessment on Agricultural Livelihoods and Labour Market for Syrian Refugees Vulnerable Host Communities in Six Provinces in Turkey, conducted by FAO in collaboration with Ankara University on the last quarter of 2017. The main objective of the study was to analyse and understand how Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) and host community members take part in the agricultural labour market, what types of work they do, their working conditions, challenges and opportunities. It was carried out by conducting 78 focus group discussions (FGDs) with local and Syrian agricultural workers and key informant interviews (KII) with representatives of NGOs, municipalities, and other public institutions in six provinces located in SE Turkey.
- Findings of the assessment were categorized under six thematic groups, namely LH opportunities, assets, seasonality and economic shocks, labour market, coping strategies, and the role of women. Results of the study shows that the seasonal agricultural work is the main and often the only source of income of the interviewed groups. However, restrictions on movements to other provinces remains as a main challenges, limiting their mobility. The target population also keeps to be highly dependent on humanitarian assistance, which is usually the second source of income for majority of them.
- LH assets were found to be low in human, financial and natural resources. On the other hand job availability significantly varies according to the season. Recent price increases and job security are among the main economic concerns. Thus alternative solutions in terms of support and assistance needs to be provided for beneficiaries within November-February period.
- Results also illustrate that SuTPs are in general less skilled. Opportunities for both SuTPs and local workers to learn relevant skills are limited. It was also observed that a part of the host community members shifted to non-agricultural activities due to decrease of wages after significant influx of Syrian labour force. Reducing dietary quality and relying on intermediaries are the main coping strategies adopted by responders. Women are performing essential roles in both domestic work and income generation, though the child care facilities and lack of transportation means result on decrease of their employability.
- The main recommendations, among others, include continuing efforts to support capacity of beneficiaries to manage seasonal/economic shocks; more focusing on trainings and awareness raising activities during the winter season and avoiding such activities at the labour peak period; enhancing skills and knowledge on agricultural work, and considering provision of vocational training on advanced skills for experienced workers to avoid competition over low-paid works. The final report of the assessment is expected to be published by the mid of July.

- Partners were interested on whether the wages are provided equally to men and women. FAO explained that except some hard works normally done by men, wages are given according to the volume of implemented work, disregarding the gender difference. Partners also proposed that in-house agricultural activities (e.g. mushroom production) may also be considered as an opportunity for income-generation. It was also highlighted that selection of respondents was mainly based considering their involvement in agricultural activities, covering both in-camp and non-camp Syrians.
- WHH informed that they have recently conducted an assessment regarding the current situation and opportunities for livestock activities in Konya. The final report to be producing in coming months.

Action points:

- Chairs to share the presentation of Results of Agricultural Livelihoods and Labour Market Assessment with members. **Deadline: 14 June.**
- FAO to share the final report of the Agricultural Livelihoods and Labour Market Assessment with WG members. **Deadline: Mid of July.**

3. Discussion of the changes at FSA WG scope and review of the new ToR

- Chairs announced that due to significant decrease of food assistance activities (with only one on-going programme remaining starting from the second half of the year), and considering the need for focusing on resilience based approaches, as well as to mainstream coordination efforts, leading agencies agreed upon transitioning the food security component under the BN sector; and streamline the agricultural component under its own working group.
- The relevant changes were reflected by chairs in the TOR of both FSA and BN WGs and shared with partners a week prior the meeting for possible feedback and inputs. The main changes were highlighted as follows: (i) the food security component is moved to BN WG; (ii) chairing of the WG will be done by FAO; (iii) the name of the WG proposed to be changed (tentatively to Agriculture Sector WG). After reflection of feedback from partners the new draft of ToRs will be now reviewed and discussed by Syria Task Force (STF) members. Once endorsed by the STF, chairs, technical advisor and sector IMO will follow-up to produce the mid-year report for the FSA sector, and complete relevant reporting changes effective from July 2018.

Action points:

- Chairs to initiate discussion of the transition process with STF members. **Deadline: 7 June.**
- Chairs, technical advisor and sector IMO to prepare a mid-year report for FSA activities. **Deadline: 15 July.**
- Once endorsed by the STF, chairs, technical advisor and sector IMO to follow-up and arrange reporting and other relevant changes effective from July 2018. **Deadline: July, 2018.**

4. Revision of the FSA WG indicators and outputs, considering the transition of the FS component to the BN WG

- Sector IMO highlighted that changes in reporting will be looked at in details considering the transition of the working group. This will be taken forward and discussed once agreed upon at the STF. In general, there are three indicators falling under FS component. Sector IMO and chairs will plan to arrange special orientation meetings to ensure proper explanation of changes for members. Partners were interested on how to report activities that fit under the food assistance coverage, but are a part of a broader

agriculture-related programme. It was explained that in order to avoid double-reporting activities should be reported taking into account the main objectives and deliverable of the programme.

Action point:

- Sector IMO to arrange reporting orientation sessions for members in case if the transition is endorsed by STF. **Deadline: TBC.**

5. AOB

- It was announced that Bahodur Umarov will soon start his new assignment with WFP Tajikistan, hence will be leaving his current role of co-chair of the FSA WG. Members expressed their thanks and acknowledgment for his efforts on scaling-up FSA activities and wished him success in his new position.
- **Date of the next meeting: TBC**