Food Security and Agriculture Sector Working Group
FSA WG Monthly Meeting Minutes

26th April 2019

Chair: Ahmed Ekzayez (FAO)
Information Management Associate: Adile Sahin (FAO)

Hosted by: FAO

Participants: Yasser Almustafa (WATAN), Merve Agcabay (WATAN), Omar Atik (Shafak), Deema Hitalani (Jana Watan), Abdulkadir Suveyd (Jana Watan), Gizem Kalkan (TRC), Abdulsemet Tekin (TRC) Bekir Halhalli (Concern Worldwide), Sura Ermistekin (WFP), Çağlar Yetişkin (Welthungerhilfe), Büşra Boğazlıyan (Welthungerhilfe), Abeersbaee (Ihsan RD), Osama Alkhalaf (Ihsan RD) Shadi Dakel (MWL), Yusuf Elrakkad (Syria Relief), Yousef Abdullah (ACU), Mohamed Waleed Hayani (Beyaz eller), Mulham Hammadeh (Beyaz eller), Abdulhakim Almoustafa (Shafak), Shady Haj Hasan (Spark), Nour Akkad (CIPE), Azzam Alhmaid (AAR Japan), Chris Bender (UNHCR), Ezzat Hafeze (UNHCR), Safwan Alhaiek (WSA), Mazen Arja (Alwafa)

Agenda:

• Introduction of ActivityInfo Database Programme and objective/use.
• Update on FSA Indicators for 2019.
• Introduction of Services Advisor Platform and objective/use.
• Present cases/lessons learnt (CIPE organization).
• Q&A session.

Summary of Action Points FAS meeting 26th April 2019

✓ SWG and IM to ensure that all FSA sector partners have access/account in both service advisor and activity info database.
✓ To conduct workshop for FSA sector partners about existing opportunities and good practices in food enterprises.
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 workshop was endorsed. Chair reviewed the action points from the last meeting as per below:

- SWG coordinator to share the results of capacity building activities. Status: (Done)
- To conduct workshop/training session about the FSA indicators (guidance note), serves advisor, and activity info database. Status: (Done)

2. Introduction of Activity Info Database Programme and objective/use

- Information Management tools of FSA Sector was introduced, including an explanation of IM (information management) responsibilities, Activity info database, dashboards, and maps.
- The primary purpose of Activity Info Database is to facilitate day-to-day operational coordination in support of all coordination structures, including Food Security and Agriculture sector.
- It was illustrated that Activity info is an online database that allows all actors under the 3RP to store data on defined indicators. In addition, it allows humanitarian and development actors to access, manage, map and analyze indicators, which eventually help them for better coordination and avoiding dedication in their response. Comparatively, Participants were informed that information reported on Activity.Info will be analysed regularly to examine whether sufficient progress is being made in reaching the sector strategic objectives.
- It was indicated that Activity info has been successfully used for monitoring and reporting against the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) and for planning the inter-agency component of the 3RP.
- FSA sector IM did a practical session on interface of Activity info through the relevant URL.

**Action point:** SWG coordinator and IM to ensure that all FSA sector partners have access/account in activity info database.

3. Update on FSA sector Indicators for 2019

- The guidance note of FSA indicator was introduced in a comprehensive manner. In addition, it was explained that this note is intended to provide guidance to FSA sector members in Turkey on how to report their achievements on the activities specified in the 3RP. 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.
- FSA sector indicators have been structured in this note based on the 3RP 2019-2020 FSA Sector framework.
- This introduction from SWG coordinator was followed by a practical session, in which participants actively engaged in the discussion. This session was a good opportunity for FSA sector partners to be exposed to the scope of work of other FSA sector partners, and to practice how they can report their activity under FSA indicators.
- Additionally, in the end of this session, SWG coordinator inquired of participants about the expected support needed from FSA sector. The answers were as follow:
  - Knowledge Management: Processes, Techniques, methodologies and Tools
  - Sharing best practices in agriculture and food sector regarding refugee response in
Turkey.

- Providing support in conducting assessments.
- Advocacy for more financial support to FSA sector innervations.
- Collaboration with other sectors.
- Conducting workshops and capacity building sessions in relation to the policy strategy and local regulations of food and agriculture interventions in Turkey.

4. **Introduction of Services Advisor Platform and objective/use**

- UNHCR information management officer shared a briefing about Services Advisor Platform. It was explained that this platform will help all stakeholders to find information, including contact details and opening times of service providers for refugees response in Turkey. In turn will lead to enhance the collaboration and coordination between all actors.

- It was stressed that the administrator of the platform (UNHCR’s IM) has the authority of creating account by requesting the organization to send their logo (in png format under 20 KB), full and alias name of organization and focal point contact information. The administrator creates the user and organization and sends the invitation E-mail. Once the account is created by one the administrators of the platform, the organization will receive a confirmation email at the registered email address.

- The platform is available in 6 languages, English, Turkish, Kurdish, Pashtu, Arabic and Farsi. The user can select any of these languages through this language selector.

- FSA sector partners were encouraged to have an account in this platform, and fill in the required sections with available services in each organization. This will help FSA sector partners to enhance the referral mechanism between themselves and other actors as well.

  **Action point:** SWG coordinator and IM to ensure that all FSA sector partners have access/account in Services Advisor Platform.

5. **Present cases/lessons learnt (CIPE organization).**

- Project coordinator of CIPE organization introduced LIFE Programme (Livelihoods Innovation through Food Entrepreneurship) to FSA sector partners.

- The main objective of the LIFE project is to support and encourage entrepreneurship, job creation and cross-cultural engagement between refugees and locals in the food sector.

- It was mentioned that LIFE project brings together refugees, host communities and other stakeholders through gastro diplomacy programming. Participants bring their own unique cultures and cuisines to their communities, while also contributing to the local economy.

- It was indicated that Over 300 food sector workers certified through workforce development programmes.

- The LIFE project is a consortium of partners who bring a depth and breadth of expertise to the table: The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), IDEMA, Union Kitchen, the Stimson Center, and the William Davidson Institute at the University of Michigan.

  - The date of next FSA meeting is 13th Jun 2019.