



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR WORKING GROUP



MINUTES OF MEETING – 13th April 2016

When: 13th April 2016

Where: ENA- Baabda

Who: 27 participants from MoA, MoSA, WFP, FAO, IOCC, ACF, INTERSOS, OXFAM, Mercy Corps, Lebanese University, SAFADI Foundation, World Vision, OCHA, AVSI, CCP JAPAN, UNRWA, UNHCR

AGENDA

1. Sector performance: FS sector planned vs targets –financial situation
2. Presentation on the school meal programme
3. Briefing on the M&E sub working group meeting
4. Presentation on the new WFP M&E tool
5. Updates on the targeting formula
6. Protection mainstreaming
7. AOB

Link to the meeting presentation: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=10716>

1. Introduction

- MoA informed partners that they have been attending a couple of consultations on strategy developed in Lebanon such as the Strategic Review of Food Security & Nutrition in Lebanon organized by WFP and the Multi-stakeholders workshop on the United Nations Strategic Framework.
- MoA also thanked all partners within the FS sector for the work done last year and for the first quarter of this year to achieve the targets established under the LCRP framework.

2. Sector Performance-Quarterly Update

- A presentation on the progress regarding the sector targets, budget and partners appeals and funding level was given during the sector meeting. Specific emphasis was placed on the need for partners to start looking at implementation of activities in support of Outcome 3 Food Utilization and Outcome 4 Food Stability. Details on the data provided are available in the meeting presentation as per the above link.
- Thanks to the donors support, the Food Security Sector assisted up to 690,000 vulnerable individuals with food assistance and agricultural support to date in 2016. Partners have appealed for USD 314 million against the overall sector appeal of USD 473 million. To date 17% of the funds appealed required by sector for the 2016 LCRP have been received, leaving a gap of USD 394 million.



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR WORKING GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING – 13th April 2016

3. WFP School Meals Programme

- WFP gave a brief presentation on the pilot project that is being currently implemented. Details on the project are available in the meeting presentation in the above mentioned link.
- During the discussion partners asked about what other incentives could be provided to the parents for them not to take kids out of school. UNICEF and UNHCR are already covering the school tuition fees and school supplies. In some areas UNICEF is also covering transport. There is a great opportunity of joint programming here that will be explored as the programme goes to scale.
- Partners asked about the suppliers of food for this programme: it was mentioned that snacks are locally produced in a central kitchen and the other products (milk, juice and fruit) are all locally produced too. In fact that was set from the outset/design with the aim of supporting the Lebanese producers and economy.
- It was also mentioned by some partners if an additional outcome of the project can be considered, such as the impact on the reduction of child labor. It was mentioned that this can be taken into consideration once the programme goes to scale and WFP is able to set up, in collaboration with the MEHE, a detailed monitoring system that looks at the reason for drop-out with proper follow-up to the households.
- The closed/sealed baked snack was chosen over sandwiches -what the students are used to- in order to allow for laboratory testing ensuring quality control and safety of the product.
- It was also asked why the focus of the project is on this specific group's age and not on others. It was clarified that the objectives of the programme are mainly educational in order to cope with the No Lost Generation imperative.
- UNRWA has a school meal project in 3 schools that serves hot meals similar to what the kids have at home as well. The programme is also known to have an impact of the parent's awareness on food safety.

4. M&E Sub working group meeting updates

- The meeting participants were updated on the discussion held during the FSS M&E sub-working group held on 30th March. During the meeting a mapping exercise of the different monitoring tools among the sector partners have been conducted. As a result the sector will advocate among partners to reach a harmonized way to collect the monitoring information to report against the LCRP established outcomes. Minutes of the meetings are available at:

<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=10678>

5. WFP new M&E Tool: Food Security Outcome Monitoring

- During the meeting WFP presented the new tool utilized for monitoring named: Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM). The specificity of this new tool is that it measures the outcomes of food assistance between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries over time and the impacts of changes in assistance levels. It also includes a qualitative component of Focus Group Discussions.



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR WORKING GROUP



MINUTES OF MEETING – 13th April 2016

- In addition to what the PDM offered, FSOM includes livelihood coping strategies, it monitors HH expenditure patterns, it looks into other non-food needs as well as Safety and Intra-household dynamics.
- Some preliminary results were presented during the meeting however a full report is being compiled and will be shared with the Sector partners upon completion
- During the meeting partners asked if the tool could be used to monitor other level of assistance. It was explained to them that there is a section in the FSOM about other levels of assistance nevertheless, for the time being, this remains outside the scope of WFP
- WFP will kick-start conversations with the M&E partners to see if they are interested in shifting towards the FSOM.

6. Targeting Formula Updates

- Responding to the need to develop a quicker, more cost efficient process of targeting households with food assistance, WFP contracted the AUB to study the possibility of a targeting mechanism that would be based on observable variables. The AUB study utilizes VASyR data to determine a ranking of household vulnerability in the ProGres database, highlighting the strong correlations between poverty and vulnerability to food insecurity, as well as determining that it is possible to conduct accurate targeting not solely based on the results of HH visits. Eligibility for food assistance within the updated targeting will be based on a ranking of household vulnerability in the ProGres database, as well as it will take into consideration the results of HH visits conducted in 2015.
- The presentation gave an update on AUB findings, the WFP updated caseload, implementation timeline and referral system (WFP pre-identification and partners' referral). Details are available in the presentation in the above mentioned link.
- During the discussion it was asked what the difference between ProGres and RAIS database is. It was specified that information on ProGres includes those data collected by UNHCR for the purpose of registration, while RAIS database contains the results of household visits, with a broad range of information on HH vulnerability based on joint inter-agency questionnaire covering different sectors.
- Another question was asked on how validation is related to targeting. It was mentioned that the validation exercise might affect some of the HHs prioritized for exclusion – that might not be validated.

7. Protection mainstreaming: Gender Based Violence

- Colleagues from the Protection GBV Sector attended the FSS meeting to give a presentation regarding the updated 2015 IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action. The aim was to start thinking about the possible relevance for the Food Security Sector. Details are available in the presentation in the above mentioned link.
- During the meeting it was agreed to hold a half day workshop for the FSS partners and their respective protection focal point to work on the contextualization of the Guidelines for the Food Security sector/Lebanon. Schedule and procedures will be soon shared.



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR WORKING GROUP



MINUTES OF MEETING – 13th April 2016

8. AOB

- OCHA updated the sector on the status of the first 2016 Pooled Funds Allocation. As a result of the decision taken by the Advisory Board, INTERSOS was selected as the NGOs receiving funds under the FS sector. Official communication will soon be shared with the sector coordinators.
- The FSS WG will be conducting a Referral System mapping exercise among all the sector partners. The aim of the exercise is to see what options are available to ensure a coordinated and harmonized approach among all partners.