

Food Security Sector Working Group (FSSWG)

17 June 2015, WFP Jordan - Amman

Chair: WFP, JHCO

Participation: SCI, IMMAP, Caritas, WVI, LWF, IOCC, FAO

DISCUSSION

1. VAF

All participants familiar with the VAF. Links shared for reference:

Powerpoint: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=9006>

Key Findings: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=9005>

2. JRP planning and updates (presentation attached)

- From 2016, JRP will be a 3 year rolling plan; with minor amendments every year. The Jordan 2025 Vision has been released and can be found at MOPIC will finalise the Executive Development Programme (EDP) 2016-2018 in August.
- The Livelihoods and Food Security Taskforce will continue under the Ministry of Labour with WFP as secretariat and EU as the donor lead.
- INGOs working on Food Security will be kept informed through the FSSWG.
- JRP is planned to be finalized end of October for a JRP pledging conference in November. 2015.
- The first step is the Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) which updates the NAR produced in 2014. This will be finalized in mid-July. This will include a situation analysis, current interventions, remaining gaps and recommendations. Details in attached powerpoint and template. It has a restricted word count which will mean a two page document as the end result.
- The CVA is the basis for the next three years so needs to capture any future planning and major challenges or constraints.

Action required from FSSWG:

- Each organization is requested to share relevant information (ongoing activities, planned future activities, update activityinfo) as summarized in the action points below.

Questions and comments:

- Following query from IOCC, it was confirmed that the CVA should reflect actual needs and will be shared with MOPIC and taskforce working on the JRP
- Two chapters: one on refugees, another on resilience
Refugee projects need to cover both Refugees and the Vulnerable Jordanians in the communities.
- It was agreed to confirm whether to not specify the refugee nationality, as it is a 3 years plan where changes will occur. WVI raised an issue that there are Sudanese and Somalis as well as Iraqis families living in the local communities with no donor support or at least UNHCR.

3. Food security gaps following the WFP reductions

- Situation for 2015 thus far:
 - January–March, 30% reduction in voucher value (JOD13 per month, not JOD20)
 - April, vulnerable JOD10 and extremely vulnerable, JOD20 – revised plan
 - In May, June and July, further reductions; extremely vulnerable only received JOD15
 - August: camps will be priority.
- Based on preliminary findings CFSME 2015, 76% of households reporting acceptable food consumption, down from 90% in 2014. Percentage of Syrian refugee households food insecure / vulnerable to food insecurity increased from 48% in 2014 to 85% in 2015.
- Households with a poor dietary diversity score more than doubled (5% to 11%), with monitoring showing some have completely cut meat, fish, chicken from their diet; not eating vegetables, etc.
- According to rapid assessment, regular monitoring and focus groups, school aged children drop out of school, or go to beg as coping strategy.
- Assets Depletion: Beneficiaries have nothing left to sell and spent all their savings
- Livelihoods coping strategy: reducing essential non-food expenditure, accepting illegal work
- Twice as many households with over JOD500 of debt

Action required:

- WFP to check with UNHCR about the number of refugees crossing border back to Syria after the reduction.

4. Updates

- **JHCO** will provide food assistance during Ramadan
- **NICCO** will support 800 families during Ramadan, 40% Jordanians and 60% Syrians, in Zarqa.
- **WVI** will support 900 Families during April – December 2015, through unconditional cash assistance to Syrians in communities, provide rice to vulnerable Jordanian in communities, and provide school feeding in Azraq.
- **IOCC** in cooperation with Ministry of Agriculture has a program of in-house agriculture, water nets and livestock for vulnerable Jordanian farmers.
- **Caritas** will provide support to 4800 beneficiaries, 70% Syrian and 30% Jordanians, through food and NFI Vouchers.
- **Caritas** will support mothers with special nutritional/fresh food and based on medical need for around 500 families, could possibly cover all areas but it depends on the budget revisions and reduction.
- **Caritas** will support livelihoods through in-house agriculture for 70% Syrians and 30% Jordanians, approved by EU.
- **FAO** is planning to start a similar project on household farming in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture for Jordanians, targeting 500 families at the first phase.

Action Required:

- Share numbers of beneficiaries, type of assistance and location per organization for more clarity.

5. AOB

Challenges in funds and economic crisis

- A general discussion took place in relation to impact of Syrian refugees on the economic situation in Jordan and whether it is a structural poverty or an impact of the refugees, moreover the Syrian crisis is considered the longest operation in the humanitarian work and the longer it is taking the more it is overwhelming the donors, and it is anticipated to receive more refugees to neighbouring countries as well.

- It was highlighted that the main issue for the Syrian refugees is the economic access to food; there remains a need to monitor markets and prices. It was also acknowledged that the donor support has been good but with the prolonged nature of the crisis, more sustainable alternatives need to be identified.
- It was also raised that there is potential for increase in refugee populations from other countries (such as Iraq or Yemen).

Action required:

- WFP to share price monitoring with FSSWG members

Possibility to include Jordanian in VAF

- Not at the time yet could potentially adapt tools according to the need; would also require separate funding and government involvement.

Action required

- WFP to consult with VAF team

ERF - OCHA

- Any concerns or queries can be asked via WFP.

RFSAN one-day Partners Consultation on Thu 25 June

- Reminder to participate in the upcoming meeting. The focus is regional however, still relevant for national.

ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBILITY
Partners to continue reporting their activities into ActivityInfo and to contribute to monthly dashboard by sending updates and/or photos to Ban Al-Rashdan	Working group members
JRP Share updates on ongoing activities and update activityinfo. Share with WFP any funded for future relevant activities that are not in the activityinfo. JRP Comprehensive vulnerability Assessment will be drafted and circulated to members. Please ensure that any food security needs identified by individual organisations are captured.	Working group members
Food security gaps following the reduction WFP to check with UNHCR about the number of refugees crossing border back to Syria after the reduction.	Nicole Carn
Updates Share numbers of beneficiaries, type of assistance and location per organization for more clarity	Working group members
Challenges in funds and economic crisis WFP to share price monitoring with FSSWG members	Nicole Carn
ERF - OCHA Details have been circulated to all on the mailing list by UNHCR. While priority sectors are WASH and Health, all can apply. Contact FSSWG Coordinator with any questions.	Working group members
<u>RFSAN one-day Partners Consultation on Thu 25 June</u> Share invite with new members	Ban Al-Rashdan

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