



## Minutes of Meeting

4/8/2015

MEETING		OBJECTIVES
<b>When</b>	4 August 2015	1. <b>Mid-year review report</b>
<b>Where</b>	ENA - Baabda	2. <b>WFP updates</b>
<b>Who</b>	<b>38 representatives from 31 organizations:</b> ACF, ACTED, Canadian embassy, CARE, Caritas, CCP, DORCAS/MSD, IOCC, JAPAN, CONCERN worldwide, DFID, DRC, ECHO, IOM, LRC, MoA, MoSA, NPA, OCHA, PU-AMI, RFSAN, SCI, SHEILD, SIF, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNRWA, WHO, WVI <b>WFP &amp; FAO experts from Lebanon country Offices</b>	3. <b>VaSyR 2015 presentation</b>
<b>Minutes Prepared by</b>	FAO and WFP (Pardie Karamanoukian and Edward Johnson)	4. <b>Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) presentation</b>
		5. <b>Brainstorming session by population cohort</b>
		6. <b>AOB</b>
		<b>ADDITIONAL SESSION ON: Reduction in Food Assistance / Impact</b>

### 1. Mid-year review report

**Line Rindebaek – WFP (line.rindebaek@wfp.org):** As part of the Mid-Year Review (MYR) of the LCRP, all sectors were asked to participate in an urgent appeal for additional funding within the framework of the LCRP to meet critical needs for the coming six months as a means to support Lebanon maintain its stability. All sectors were asked to identify a number of critical activities to be prioritized from July-December to mitigate the impact of under-funding.

Within the short timeline, LCRP appealing partners shared inputs on the prioritization of critical needs and submitted revised appeals for review by the core group. Given the severe funding crisis in the sector, the core group including Government co-leads MOA and MoSA, identified all activities within the following areas as critical:

- Provide monthly food assistance to vulnerable Syrian displaced, Palestinian and Lebanese beneficiaries through different modalities and supporting national capacity to provide safety nets and to respond to food insecurity concerns.
- Promote food availability and support sustainable agricultural production to farmers across the country. Increase awareness on good nutritional practices and improve food diversity for vulnerable households
- Build capacity within the government disaster risk management unit at central and field level to enhance effective food security preparedness and response

### 2. WFP updates

**Line Rindebaek – WFP (line.rindebaek@wfp.org):** See below for further details on WFP plans for the coming months (covered under the additional session on the reduction of food assistance / impact).

### 3. VaSyR 2015 presentation

**Catherine Said – WFP (catherine.said@wfp.org):** the main findings on food security from VaSyR 2015 preliminary results were presented, including overviews of main livelihoods sources, food consumption score, diet diversity and food consumption patterns. Please refer to the full presentation: [http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working\\_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=122&Id=48](http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=122&Id=48)

### 4. Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment presentation

**Pardie Karamanoukian (pardie.karamanoukian@fao.org) and Jonas Herzog (jherzog@immap.org) – RFSAN:** the brochure from the FSLA report was presented, which was prepared by the Regional Food Security Analysis Network based on the results from the FSLA data focusing mainly on food security indicators and analysis.



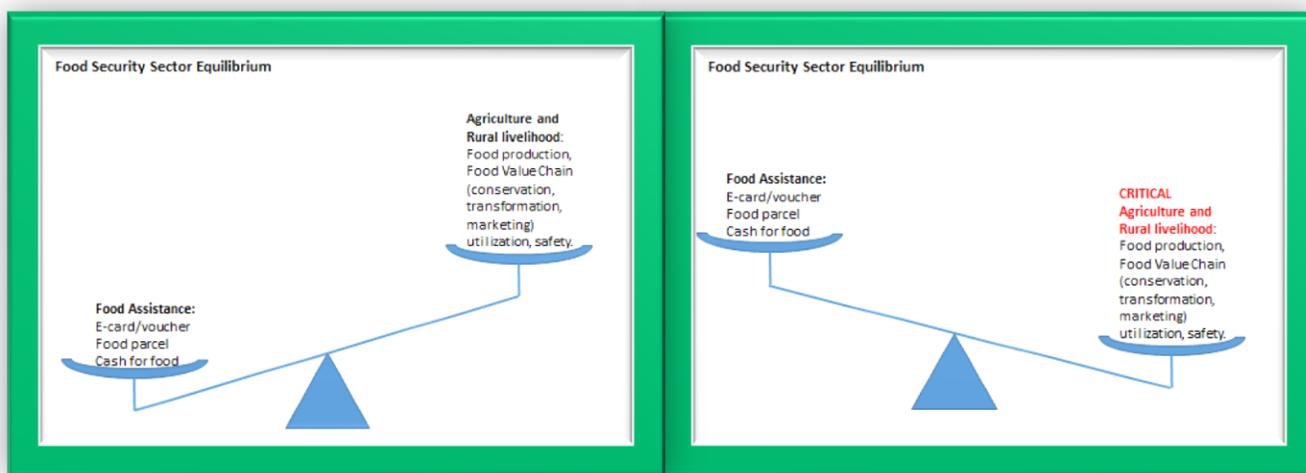
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5. Brainstorming session

Bruno Minjauw – FAO: presented the food security sector equilibrium and the need and importance, especially in the context of limited funding for food assistance, of transitioning from food assistance to other critical activities within the frame of food availability and utilization including agricultural livelihoods activities.

Figure 1 Food Security Sector Equilibrium



The attendees were divided into 3 groups, each by turn trying to identify critical activities under food availability and utilization. The table below captures the partners' suggestions only and does not reflect the government position or proposals. A follow-up meeting will be held within the core FSS to further discuss the activities in preparation for the 2016 plan.

Type of Activity	Lebanese	Displaced
Food utilization	Awareness on good nutritional practices for specific groups (mothers, children at schools)	
	Community kitchens	
	Food safety testing in urban and rural gardening	
	Food processing techniques	
	Food preservation techniques	
	Improvement of storage (grain pro bags, silos)	
	Introduce utilization of organic produce	
	Strengthening market linkages for organic produce	
	Co-farming	
	Food availability	Provision of cooking stoves
Provision of refrigerators (cold chain)		
Provision of refrigerators		
Wild edible plants		
Introduction of Vit A rich fruits/ vegetables		
Distribution of targeted seeds high in nutrients (protein, vit A...)		
Provision of seeds and tools		
Home gardening / off soil gardening		
Farmer field schools		
Small scale livestock		
Support/activate existing cooperatives		
Market linkages (mainly transportation) from farmer to market, to avoid middlemen		
Innovative credit/loan schemes		



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	Linkages of products to existing markets	
	Subsidize animal feed (especially chicken)	
		Work on the farms of host communities
		Increase arable land through cash for work
	On farm pre and post harvesting trainings	Re-distribution of leftover foods from retail (link with private sector) Food banks
	Provision of tools to reduce food loss/waste	
	Integrated pest management	
	Fruit disease control	Cash for work
	Vaccination campaign	
	Encourage having animals eat waste	
	Composting	
	Rain water collection for agricultural use	
	Integrated water resource management	

6. AOB

The results of discussions at the global Food Security Cluster Coordinators’ retreat in late July will be shared when available.

**ADDITIONAL SESSION: Reduction in Food Assistance / Impact**

Farah Chaaban – WFP (Farah.Chaaban@wfp.org): WFP provided an overview of planned response from August-December 2015 following by a discussion on the details of the planned strategy:

WFP operational update:

- **August:** 772,102 beneficiaries will receive \$13.5 per person.
- **September:** WFP will start capping assistance at 5 members per household; 638,573 beneficiaries will receive \$13.5 and safety net beneficiaries will be removed.

From September, however there will be a programmatic shift, focusing on households. A decision to cap household sizes at five members will ensure that WFP is able to reach the maximum number of households with its limited resources.

Rations will be maintained at US\$13.5 until the end of the year, providing beneficiaries with an element of stability and ability to plan for those months.

In July, safety net cases were informed that they are also no longer eligible for assistance from September onwards. WFP has taken that decision based on the fact that those individuals belong to households which are not so vulnerable that they require WFP assistance. Those cases will be absorbed within the households.

→ The possibility of referring HHs cut from the safety net support to the cash partners for HH visits was discussed. It was agreed to address this in the Targeting Sub-Working Group.

→ The need to strengthen communication was noted and it was agreed to look into reconvening communication meetings.

- **October – December:** acceleration in targeting aiming at completing household visits by December. WFP is committed to an accelerated targeting process to ensure that all of the households are assessed for their vulnerability in the fastest and most efficient manner.

→ Given the joint inter-agency approach, it was agreed to follow up on this within the Targeting Sub-Working Group.



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### Line Rindebaek – WFP:

**Impact Overview:** In June, WFP prepared a 1-page overview of the impact of the reduction of food assistance. It was agreed at inter-sector level to prepare a document reflecting the impacts across all sectors. A draft version summarizing anecdotal information and sector observations on the sector-specific impact of the reduction of food assistance was shared in hard copy.

**Inter-Sector Mitigation Measures:** At HCT level, sectors were asked to convene to discuss possible ways of moving forwards in light of these funding constraints facing WFP and to identify possible mitigation measures in a context of limited funding.

- 1) An inter-sector exercise has been initiated to collect more data through the different sectors at field level. A template will be circulated to each sector to gather information on the following: How to identify Identifying those most seriously affected by the reduction in food assistance & identify existing capacities/resources within the Syrian displaced community, and,
- 2) Identifying possible measures to mitigate negative coping mechanisms applied as a result of the reduction in food assistance.

It was emphasized that measures/actions are not designed to compensate for funding shortages; but as a way to identify ways to mitigate the impact through possible interventions in each sector. WFP and the Food Security Sector will continue to advocate for the resources needed to cover food assistance needs; the most appropriate solution is that the sector receives additional funding to cover not just immediate food needs but also other food security activities that will reduce the need for direct assistance over time.

There were no further ideas/suggestions/comments on how to build on this approach from the group.



Bruno Minjauw  
FAO Coordinator - Food Security Sector Working Group  
+961 (5) 924005/6/7  
[Bruno.Minjauw@fao.org](mailto:Bruno.Minjauw@fao.org)

FAO Lebanon  
Tallet Al Rayess – Al Rayess Street, Baabda, Lebanon



Line Rindebaek  
WFP Coordinator - Food Security Sector Working Group  
+961 (1) 978775  
[line.rindebaek@wfp.org](mailto:line.rindebaek@wfp.org)

WFP Lebanon  
6th Floor, Block 3 Azarieh Building, Downtown, Beirut, Lebanon