

Food and Agriculture Sector Meeting Report

Minutes of 16 January 2018

Chair: Joseph ONEKA and Bernard MREWA

Venue: Syria - Damascus – Four Season Hotel – Palmyra Venue (10:00 – 12:00)

Agenda:

Subject	Agency Presenting	Time
Introductions (of agenda and participants)	All	5 min
Review and approval of previous minutes	All	5 min
Alerts/ongoing emergency response <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Idleb (update and responses) - East Ghouta update/situation and response/convoy - NES response 	OCHA Coordinators OCHA / Coordinators	20 min 15 min 10 min
HRP/HNO Consultations with line ministries on the Sector strategy update: MAAR, Ministry of Internal Trade and Consumer Protection, MoLSA and MoLAE.	Coordinators	10 min
Sector update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - December Actuals maps - January Plans - Integration strategy - Income Generating activities (Presentation) FAO 	IMOs FAO	20 min 15 min
CBT TORs and activities	UNRWA	15 min

Action Points:

- Partners need to report timely for the 4Ws as per the timelines provided. There has noticeable delays in reporting in the last couple of months
- ICRC to make a presentation on microeconomic programme in Aleppo as part of sharing lessons learning exercise.
- Need to explore linkages between Agha Khan microfinance system and income generation activities (Sector to explore whether Agha Khan can make a presentation in upcoming monthly meetings)
- Partners need to indicate in the 4Ws how many of the beneficiaries receiving livelihood support are also receiving food assistance. This should be indicated both for the 4Ws report as well as for the monthly notes shared with the sector as major partner highlights. This information is necessary to monitor and report on the integration strategy.
- The CBT task force will need start the mapping of cash activities including status of approval and timelines for implementation.
- Partners responding to the needs in NES need to report such activities to the sector to enable accurate identification of gaps.

Food and Agriculture Response and Plans Updates

AGENCY	Notes/highlights
ACF	<p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 home-gardening kits were distributed in Aleppo, Daraa, Rural Damascus and Hassakeh during December; • Fodder (500 kg per household) were distributed in Daraa and Rural Damascus and Aleppo to 664 households. The distribution of fodder in Hassakeh to 400 households, as well as the finalization of distributions in Daraa and Aleppo, is taking place in January, reaching a final total number of 1,200 households. • Trainings in <u>dairy production</u>, <u>vegetable processing</u> and conservation, <u>fodder production</u>, <u>organic manure production</u>, and <u>para-vet</u>, including the distribution of related kits for a total of 450 beneficiaries, are being organized and will take place between February and March 2018.
NRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fodder distributions in Wadi Barada and Dimas for 530 HHs receiving 500 Kg of barley each were finalised by the end of December. • Monitoring of the above project, and of Poultry and Feed distributions in Wadi Barada is starting in January, as well as assessments in Wadi Barada and Haramoun areas.
MSJN	<p>December 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributed 5,000 hot meals, around 31,554 individuals were served in Der Zor city funded by PLC • Distributed 2500 food parcel and 5000 bread bundle in Al-Raqqa city <p>Plan for Jan and Feb 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue with the operating the Kitchen in Deir Ezzor • 250 food parcel to Mhrdeh in rural Hama • A convoy to Hassakeh with a milk factory, 2,000 food parcels, Winterization, and 10

<p style="text-align: center;">AKF</p>	<p>DECEMBER ACHIEVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided technical training for 545 Farmer under Farmers Field Schools (FFSs) in Hama and Tartus. • Provided VSL and EW services to 693 livestock farmers. • Four Conservation Agriculture seeders were fabricated locally and made available for farmers in the district. 86 crop farmers used them and sowed 5,077 Dunum. • Conducted 5 field days on using natural biogas, rabbits raising and quail raising (171 participants). • Conducted awareness raising field day of biosecurity in animal to 35 livestock farmers and preventive veterinary campaign against internal parasites in livestock to 45 livestock farmers. • Followed up agro- processing projects and 5 saving groups beneficiary women. <p>PLANS FOR JANUARY TO MARCH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activation of green fodder intensive production unit (hydroponic) in Hama and Tartous. • Follow up of agro-processing, dairy, molasses and home and kitchen gardens and women saving groups. • Carry on the activities of Farmer Field Schools in Hama and Tarots, • Implementing of Cash for Work projects. • Establish and follow up new Saving Groups
<p style="text-align: center;">FAO</p>	<p>November Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing of small-scale poultry units as income generating opportunity for 900 beneficiaries in Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous completed in cooperation with UNHCR. • installation of 2 units of Milk Processing in Homs and Hama governorates were completed. <p>Dec – Jan Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 households will have support and capacity building for beehive and honey production in Aleppo. • 3400 Households will be provided with Mushroom Production kits in Aleppo as income generating activities as well. • 50 HHs will be provided with Soap production tools as an income generating activities. • 2700 HHs affected by the forest fires in 2016, will be supported to restore their production and rehabilitate their damaged tree, through provision of winter vegetable seeds packages as well as olive saplings and tools to produce compost (2700 HHs, sets of manual vegetable farming tools, olive saplings 70,000, and shredders for composting (1 /District = 5 shredders)- irrigation kits for 44 HHs. • Distributing 3000 vegetable packages in Homs and Rural Damascus in cooperation with UNFPA. • 35 School in Aleppo and Rural Damascus will have school gardening to improve student’s nutrition knowledge about nutrition sensitive agriculture.

<p>ICRC/SARC</p>	<p>December 2017 Update (ICRC-SARC joint activities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In December, about 750,000 beneficiaries were reached with food parcels, canned food parcels, bulk food and bread packs. • During the month of December, most of the vegetable seeds/tools kits were distributed in 9 governorates (targeting approximately 18,000 HHs) • Likewise, SARC branches collected the cereal seeds from GOSM branches and received fertilizer from the ICRC suppliers and distribution commenced targeting 12,000 HHs in 7 governorates • ICRC-SARC continued to engage in finalizing the relief and livelihood program for 2018 <p>ICRC-SARC Plan for Jan-Feb 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover about 750,000 beneficiaries with various food packages per month, increase response in the North East • Carry out Post Distribution Monitoring of Relief and Agro program • Supporting bakeries and flour mills with new production lines and generators - over 10 structural support (with Generators and production lines - Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Deir Ezzor etc.) continues
<p>IFRC/SARC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalised the distribution of vegetable kits in Aleppo, Homs, Rural Damascus, Quneitra and Hama • Distribution of 1,100 sheep (500 sheep-250 families in Lattakia / 600 sheep-300 families in Hama) plus 55,000 kg of brand wheat and 55,000 kg of barley (100 Kg wheat/100 kg barley per family). • Finalised the endline survey for the livelihoods projects in Homs and Lattakia (projects 2016) • Distribution of 12,374 food parcels in Rural Damascus, Deir-Ez-Zor, Homs, As-Sweida
<p>COOPI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement the second phase from COOPI ongoing project in qatana area(included khan alsheih and monchieat khan alsheih villages) through distribute hygiene kits for 650 bénéficiaires in full cooperation with SARC • implement a training course(5 sessions) given by a specialist doctor about the general health promotion.
<p>TDH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January continuing with food vouchers distributions for 510 families in Aleppo. • In Feb, will start distributing 375 vouchers in Aleppo and 475 vouchers in Rural Damascus monthly and for one year. • Also procuring 18,500 FP to be distributed in Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo and Lattakia, in the coming months
<p>UNRWA</p>	<p>Food and NFI</p> <p>A total number 42,692 food baskets and 15,242 Hygiene kits were distributed to Palestine refugees</p> <p>Cash Assistance</p>

	35,267 Palestine refugees received cash assistance in June. Each person received USD 64.
WFP	<p>During September, 588,605 FRs distributed to 2,943,025 beneficiaries out of planned 3.8 million.</p> <p>For October, WFP dispatched 712,922 food rations enough for 3,564,610 Beneficiaries (94% of the plan). This include 7,073 MT of Wheat Flour</p> <p>Overall, the operational plan for the period Sep/Nov 17 has been reduced to 3.8 million beneficiaries. Additional reduction is expected by Dec 17 up to 3.3 million. The operational plan for 2018 will target only 2.8 million. This is a reduced plan based on resources availability.</p> <p>For Nov Cycle is targeting <u>reach 3.8 million people including IACs.</u></p> <p>For Oct WFP delivered 14,000 bags of WHF to DZ for direct distribution to beneficiaries especially in Rural Areas and still waiting for SARC request to distribute normal rations and RTEs when needed.</p> <p>WFP warehouse in Aleppo is functioning now with the aim to cover Aleppo's allocation from this central warehouse and covers the north east in the future.</p>

Key highlights of 2018 HRP consultations with MAAR:

- MAAR highlighted the need for separation of food assistance and agricultural plans in the 2018HRP to ensure that both are given equal emphasis.
- Emphasized the need to support agricultural institutions as reliable sources of quality production inputs and services.
- Provided guidance on need to focus on Agricultural livelihood projects which target large segments of the rural affected population (example cereal production, household level support to poultry production)
- For economic feasibility and inclusion of priority locations (e.g. Eastern Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor and Al-Zabadani) projects to be included in 2018HRP should be done in consultations with MAAR.
- There is need to progressively move from pure emergency to recovery and development for agricultural related projects.
- Noted a huge gaps in 2017HRP response (e.g. 850,000hhs planned vs achieved 106,355hhs) which needs to be addressed in 2018HRP.
- Need to increase coordination
- Highlighted few priorities as outlined below:-
 - Small family fish farms
 - Rehabilitation of wells
 - Sustainable use of natural resources-establishment of soil
 - Support agricultural vocation training (agric. nurseries, laboratories, and food industries)
 - Rehabilitate forestry, fruit trees plantation and bee production centers.

Update on Idleb:

- **Developments on the ground :**
 - Between 01 October 2017 and 09 January 2018, the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster tracked 205,989 people who were displaced in southern rural Idleb, northern and north-eastern rural Hama.
 - This includes 99,569 displacements between 01 December and 09 January.
 - Most of these IDPs are moving to the central and northern parts of Idleb Governorate, around the existing informal IDP sites in Ma'arrat An Nu'man, Saraqab and Dana sub-districts.
 - The situation in Idleb Governorate is extremely chaotic with IDPs reportedly scattered across the open areas of the northern, central and western parts of the governorate.
 - Reports of civilian vehicles with people moving continue to emerge.
 - Only a limited amount of life-saving assistance is being provided to the displaced by local humanitarian actors, and many IDPs continue to shelter in the open, despite the harsh winter conditions.

- **Stock available:**
 - Prepositioned 27,118 RTEs in strategic locations in Idleb and Aleppo (16,559 in the former). Dispatches are also ongoing from Turkey into Idleb of additional 14,400 RTEs.
 - Prepositioning of 4,000 Food baskets (20,000 IDPs) is ongoing plus 10,000 RTEs (50,000 IDPs) at the end of this months to respond for the ongoing displacement.
 - Available stock
 - 1,000 Food baskets to cover 2,000 HHs (10,000 IDPs).
 - 5,200 Food baskets available at partner warehouse.

Update on Ar-Raqqa:

- **Developments on the ground**
 - Return movements to Ar-Raqqa city continue with gradual increases, including to neighborhoods contaminated with landmines (50,000 returnees).
 - Demining efforts have resumed, but remain insufficient and reportedly focus on surveying/clearance of streets and infrastructures.
 - Response: Health and WASH and Mine Risk Education.
 - UN agencies are developing a strategy to intervene in Ar-Raqqa city.
 - Humanitarian actors continue to hold off on humanitarian assistance.
 - Suspension of National NGOs operations by KSA continues as these NGOs are not registered with KSA, discussion is on-going with the Governor and KSA.

- **Concerns:**

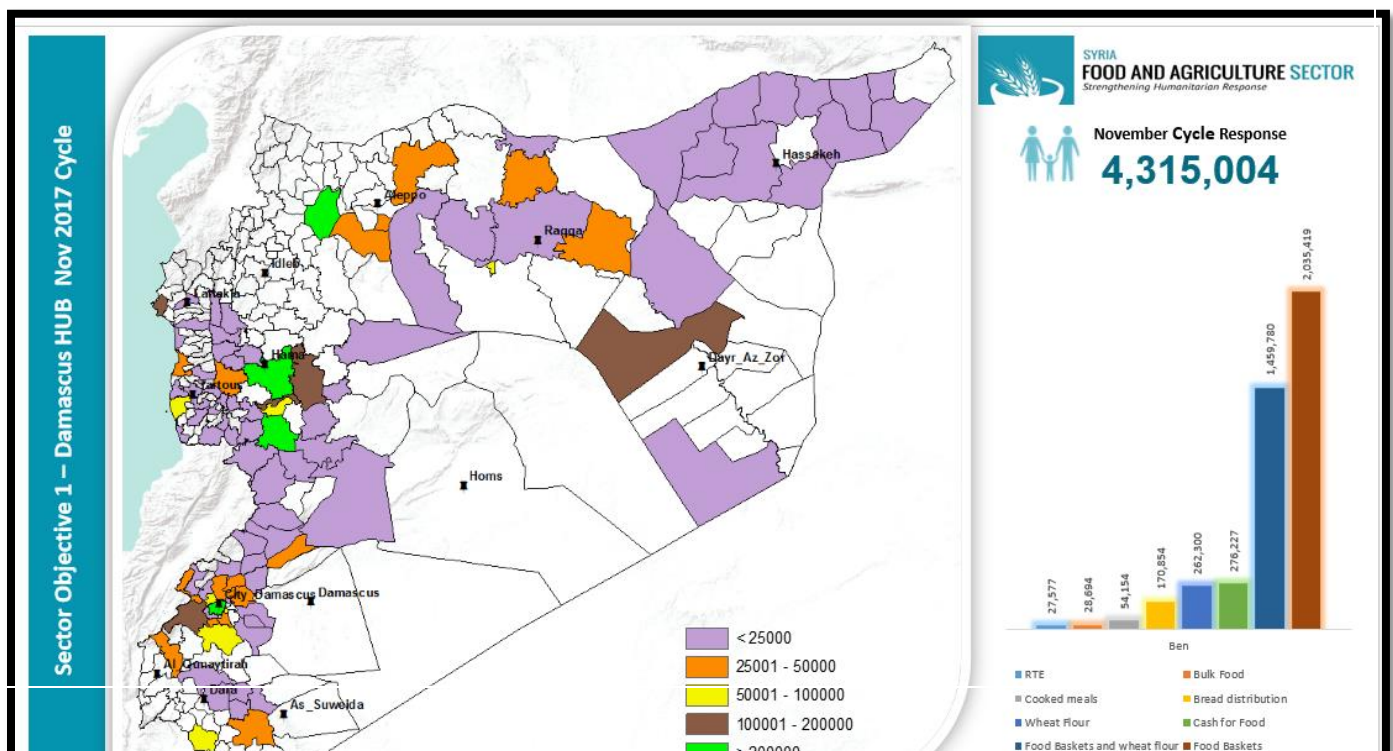
Update on Berm:

- On 8 January, the first shipment of United Nations assistance through crane-delivery modalities arrived at the Al-Rukban camp.
- The assistance is being delivered via a total of 15 large flat-bed trucks that were offloaded from the UN Service Facility on the Jordanian berm to smaller trucks which are operated by the Al- Rukban community.
- This delivery is scheduled to reach 50,000 people with humanitarian assistance, including food, specialized winterization kits and other life-saving assistance.

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES – FAO Presentation ([Download](#))

- HHS:
2400 HHs in 2016 / 2017
4460 in 2018
- Implementing Partners:
NNGOs, INGO and Local intuitive
- Synergy:
WFP, UNFPA, UNHCR and OCHA

Gaps/Coverage Analysis:



Summary record of the Cash working group meeting- 16 January 2017

WFP led the discussion and briefed the partners on the process of developing the Terms of Reference for the Cash Working Group (CWG) noting that the document was finalized after having a series of consultations with the key actors to agree on the roles and responsibilities within the Group. The Food and Agriculture Sector will be sharing the finalized ToRs shortly.

WFP further noted that the document will be supplemented by an overarching strategy that outlines the opportunities and the risks related to cash assistance in Syria and recommend measures to mitigate these risks. Partners agreed that having a well-built strategy will serve as a strong advocacy tool to seek approvals from the concerned entities to expand / scale up the cash based response in the country. The meeting appointed a focused group consisting of WFP, FAO, UNRWA, NRC, UNHCR, AAH, COOPI and OCHA to discuss Cash Strategy for Syria.

The partners discussed the participation and structure of the CWG and suggested that the group is co-chaired by an INGO representative. The importance of having a strong link with the ISCG was also highlighted.

During the meeting, it was agreed that a mapping exercise for the partners who are implementing cash activities will be conducted. This will also include updating on the approval status of the projects. Once the current cash activities are identified, the Group will initiate an active discussion to explore ways to find linkages and create complementarity among the ongoing cash activities while building on the lessons learnt and the best practices of the leading cash implementing partners in Syria.

In this context, partners acknowledged the long experience of UNRWA in implementing cash transfers through local financial service providers while noting that the current financial infrastructure is considered a challenge in light of the ongoing sanctions on Syria and the banking infrastructure being not ready for electronic transfers

Through this platform, partners will have access to the existing CASH feasibility studies. i.e. the Cash Feasibility Study in Southern Syria jointly conducted by WFP and FAO as well as the assessment carried out by SARC. Both reports are awaited release of the final version by respective agencies. The group will develop products for the cash actors including but not limited to the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB) Cost, which defines the minimum culturally adjusted group of items required to support a household over a one-month period for food and NFI assistance in Syria, in addition to other the market monitoring updates.

Action point	Who	When
Mapping partners having cash-based-response under HRP 2017/2018	OCHA	18 January 2018
Updating the approval status	Partners implementing cash	1 February 2018
Sharing the feasibility studies	WFP/FAO and SARC	Upon official release of the report
Focus Group discussing Cash Strategy for Syria to carry out first meeting	Reem took the names. Reem to add names	5 th February 2018

Next Meeting:

To be held on Syria – Damascus – Mezzeh - UNRWA Compound- 8 February 2018 (10:00-12:00)