

Food and Agriculture Sector meeting minutes

7 March 2017

Venue: Damascus – Four Seasons (7 March 2017: 10-1130am)

Chairs: Bernard Mrewa and Bernard Mwesigwa (F&AS Co-Coordiators)

Subject	Agency Presenting	Time
Introductions (of agenda and participants)	All	5 min
Review and approval of previous minutes	All	5 min
Update on sub-national hub coordinators training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Action points 	Coordinators	5 min
Food Security Alerts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aleppo - 3 hubs coordination plans for Raqqa responses - Dara humanitarian update - Value chain analysis 	Coordinators/OCHA	20 min
Sector update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Jan maps o Achievements and plans 	IMOs/All	10 min
Food security and prices update	VAM (WFP)	10 min
Agriculture update	FAO	
Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome monitoring initiative-Draft report • Livelihood guidelines 	Coordinators Coordinators	30 min
AOB		

AGENCY	Notes/highlights
ICRC	<p>February 2017 Update</p> <p>Approx. 1 million beneficiaries were reached across 11 governorates with food parcels, canned food parcels, bulk food and bread packs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeds and fertilizer distribution completed in all governorates- Sweida, Rural Damascus, Quneitra, Hassakeh, Homs and Hama. • Post distribution monitoring of agricultural intervention is ongoing in most of the governorates supported with seeds/fertilizers. <p>Plan for March-April 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to cover about 1 million beneficiaries with various food packages per month during March-April in up to 12 governorates. • Post-distribution monitoring in various governorates covered by the agro program will be completed by April. • During this period, ICRC together with the SARC will start planning for the agro/livelihood program 2017, some of the livelihood programs are already on-going/under preparation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aleppo: Micro-Economic Initiatives (MEI) for People with Disabilities (PwDs) and war widows (200 HHs) ○ Homs: Micro-Economic Initiatives (MEI) for People with Disabilities (PwDs), IDPs and Returnees (200 HHs) ○ Damascus: Micro-Economic Initiatives (MEI) for People with Disabilities (PwDs)- under making (100 HHs) ○ Lattakia: Tools for Apple producing farmers - 400 HHs, Green houses rehabilitation/support - 200 HHs, tailoring for woman-headed households (tools/training) - 70 HHs
WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During Jan 16, only 608,765 FRs have been distributed to feed 3,043,825 beneficiaries. The reduction is due to the start of new project there will be spillover into Feb. • During Feb 17, WFP dispatched 708,414 food rations enough to feed 3,542,070 Beneficiaries (89% of the plan), equivalent to 42,330 MT, WHF Dispatches reached (6,705 MT) in total • Cross Borders deliveries: 125,301 Food Rations (included in the above figures): 100,460 FR from Turkey to Rural Idleb, 6,821 FR from Turkey to Rural Aleppo, and 18,020 FR from Jordan to Rural Dara'a (Reduction due to the closure of Ramtha point due to the ongoing fighting between ISIL and OAGs). • March 17 plan submitted to MoFA included most of besieged and HtR area and many locations approved for WFP.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March Cycle deliveries started aiming to reach 4 million people. WFP will be shifting the response in east Aleppo from Hot Meals and RTEs to Normal Rations and Bread. • A total of 9,245 food boxes/ were delivered During Jan through airdrop operations from Amman to Deir Ezzor. • During March, 15,000 RTEs, 10 Mt of Yeast and 10 Mt of Salt expected to be dropped to DZ. • WFP will preposition 10,000 RTEs Aleppo by 15th of March. • The plan for the first half of 2017 will continue to be the same covering 4 million people including an allocation devoted for convoys. • The allocation of the airlift to Hassaka Gov has been increased by 3,500 FR to support Iraqi refugees in Al-Hol for 6 months, extendable based on the situation. • WFP prepositioned 22,000 RTEs in Hassaka for all immediate responses for IDPs and Refugees. Some of this allocation could be prepositioned in Ras Al Ain. • WFP will contribute in the response to the needs in Manbej (Displacement of 60-70 K from Deir Hafer, Maskana and Rural Bab and Rural Manbej) by sending RTEs from Qameshli. • Bread production in Aleppo city increased from 40,000 to 52,000 bundles/day as to cover more people in the Eastern part of the city.
<p>FAO</p>	<p>FEBRUARY ACHIEVEMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poultry Packages (15 chickens + 150 kg feed + supplementary vitamins and minerals) were distributed to 1814 HHs in Rural Damascus and Sweida. • TOT Training In Homs and Hama for FAO Beneficiaries conducted by AKD on following Subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food processing and preserving - Organic fertilizers (compost making - Pests and diseases management <p>PLANS FOR MARCH –MAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterinary treatment for ecto and endo parasites for 1.3 million heads of sheep and goats and 65,000 heads of cattle for 39000 HHs in 10 governorates (all except Raqa, Deir-ez-zor, and Idleb). • Rehabilitation of irrigation systems in Homs. • In order to engage schools in nutrition sensitive agriculture, a 10 Schools were selected in 5 Governorates (Rural Damascus – Homs – Hama – Tartous – Lattakia) to practice school gardening. • Income generating capacities and access to alternative source of revenues by providing Medicinal Plants for 50 HHs in Tartous – Rural Kadmous. • Vegetable Packages will distributed to 2500 HHs in Homs and Lattakia • The installation of 60 bio gas units in the governorates (Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Tartous and Lattakia) will start in April. • The distribution of beekeeping packages for 250 HHs in the governorates (Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Tartous and Lattakia)

	<p>Approved SHF proposal will support the following outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity of 2000 vulnerable households (12000 individuals) for mushroom production and processing improved - Capacity of 150 vulnerable households (900 individuals) for integrated fish and vegetable/herbs production improved - Capacity for beehive and honey production improved through support to local service providers and 500 vulnerable households (3000 individuals)
<p>Aga Khan</p>	<p>FEBRUARY ACHIEVEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of technical training sessions on vegetable diseases, flock management and early warning system for 148 farmers and technicians in Homs and Hama. • Follow up the 4 CA demonstration plots in Salamieh District • Implementation of lab screening services for 51 livestock and poultry farmers <p>PLANS FOR MARCH –MAY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of demonstration plots on broiler chicken, rabbit raising, livestock fattening, biogas, vertical agriculture and integrated water use management. • Implantation of training for livestock and crop farmers and technicians. • Distribution of vet kits, food aids, local layer hens and vegetable production inputs. • Implementation of apprenticeship and cash for work projects • Establishment of agro-processing units, home and kitchen gardens and saving groups.
<p>UNRWA</p>	<p>In-kind assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January, UNRWA was completing the 4th and 5th rounds of the 2016 food distribution through our 16 distribution centers (please refer to the attached document). • The target - 103,553 families (result for R4= 99% and result for R5= 95%). • In February and March, UNRWA to continue the 2017 1st round of food distribution. <p>Cash assistance (for food and NFI)</p> <p>UNRWA started the 2017 1st round of cash assistance in January and will finish in 2 weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Additional amount of USD 32 (total = USD 96), as part of the winterization intervention. ✓ Planning PDM survey
<p>TDH</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiencing delays in delivering our 16465 food parcels, (to be distributed in Aleppo, Homs, Damascus and Rural Damascus) • Soon (in two weeks) to start a 5 months food vouchers project in the city of Aleppo, for 685 families of people with disability.

Monastery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One hot meal 5 days/week for 5,000 families which benefited 27,153 people in Aleppo (Sfira and Jabal Samaan- Sakhour - Ard Al-Hamra) • One bread bundle daily for 5,000 families which benefited 27,153 people in Aleppo (Sfira and Jabal Samaan- Sakhour - Ard Al-Hamra) • 5,000 food parcels for 5000 families which benefited 27,153 people in Aleppo (Sfira and Jabal Samaan- Sakhour - Ard Al-Hamra)
ACF (based on last month update)	<p>Achievements in December:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community training sessions on agriculture production and livestock care and management in Daraa and Hassake governorate • PDM survey in Hassake and Daraa governorate for delivered inputs (certified wheat seeds, farming tools animal feed, veterinary kits) • Distribution of 468,000 bread bundle in Rural Damascus <p>Plans for February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of 222,348 bread bundle in Rural Damascus

Action Points:

- Monastery to provide a presentation on the approved SHF project for Aleppo at the next sector meeting.
- ACF to update the sector on the coverage of the bread distribution as well as the number of people being assisted.
- Partners conducting PDMs to share the tools with the sector; and are encouraged to include the 3 outcomes indicators the sector is using to report against the HRP targets.

Raqqa Response: Menbji

People in Need:

- From 27 February to 4 March 2017, more than 7,000 families (35,000 people) have fled their insecure villages located in the southwest country side, of which 3,020 families (15,100) persons settled Southern countryside of Manbij and 3,480 families (17,400 people) settled Western countryside of Manbij and 500 families (2,500) arrived into Manbij Town.
- It has been reported that 1,500 vulnerable families that require urgent shelter needs who are staying in open areas in which around 1,300 families of 6,500 people are staying in open fields in six settlements in both Little Osajli village and in Big Osajli, and some of 200 families are staying on in open areas in the sides of the roads and outskirts of the town of Manbij.
- Displaced people are mostly elderly and young girls and vulnerable women and children as the young men whether fled to Turkey or were recruited by SDF. The displaced population is currently growing and expected to grow in the future and numbers of children is likely to change.

- From the previous displacement 40,000 IDPs have fled their insecure villages and towns, from ISIL controlled areas, and still living in Manbij town, some rented houses and the majority are living in unfinished buildings and schools in which living in a miserable humanitarian situations. And so there is no enough space for all those likely to arrive to the city of Manbij.
- Menbij local council has offered a 38,000 square meter piece of land in order to provide an urgent and proper safe refuge /camp in particular for the women and children who are 80% of the displaced people.

Recommendations

- Former IDP camp that exists in Qanat Sheikh Tabash town (Haj A'abiden camp) which was established in 2013, to be rehabilitated to be used on a temporary bases for hosting potential IDPs.

Interventions:

- 1- Distribution of food rations (ready to eat) for IDPs as soon as possible. General food distribution should be taken into consideration in future for IDPs and hosting community.
- 2- Urgently need supplementary feeding for children between 6-59 months.
- 3- Need inter-sectoral needs assessment mission in Menbij district

Aleppo Response

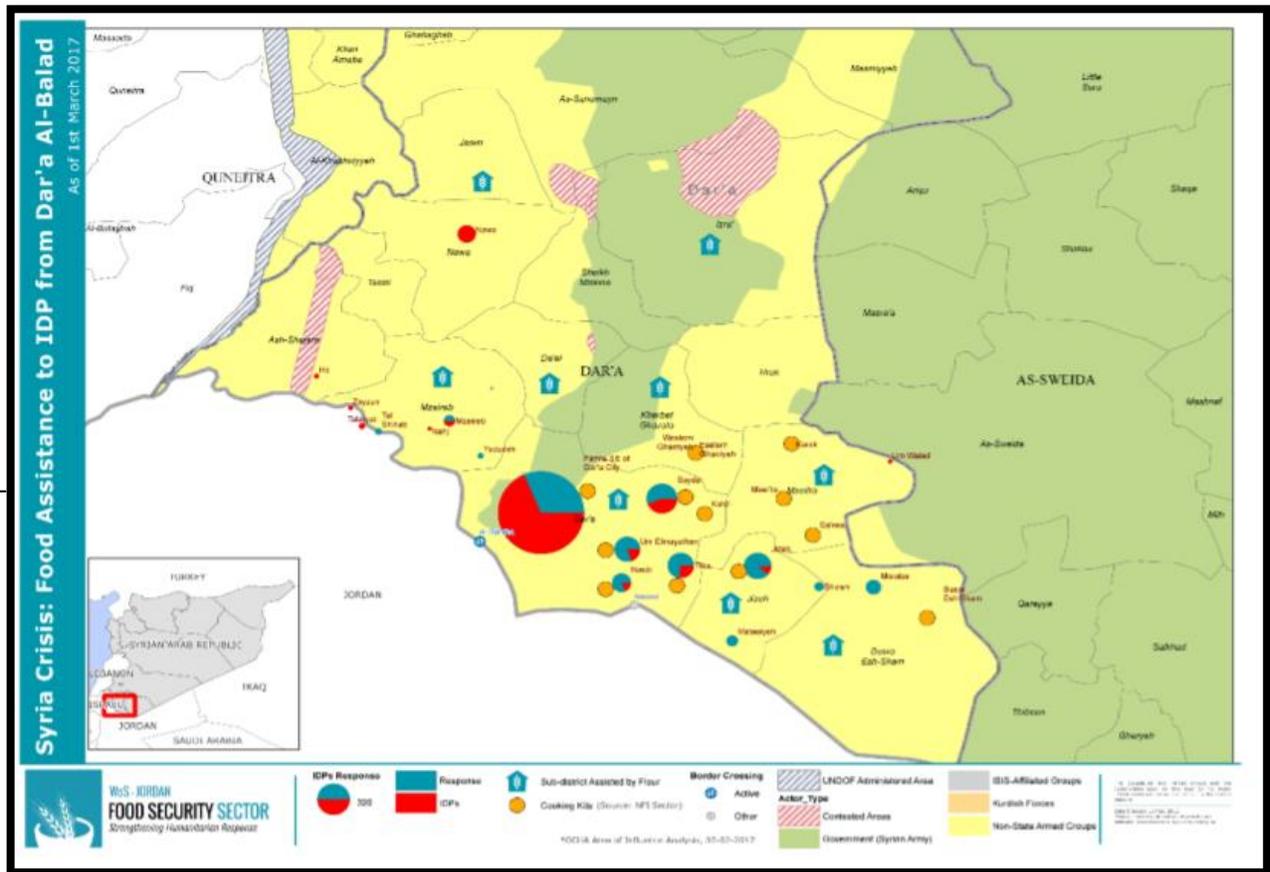
- **Distribution of 1,048,600** bread bundles continued as regular program reaching approximately **383,000** people.
 - 108,000 in EAC; 5,000 in Jibreen Shelter; 9,000 in Sheikh Maqsood and 261,000 in WAC. Distributions in WAC are very two days while for the rest it is daily.
- **1,286** FRs were distributed targeting IDPs from eastern Aleppo staying in WAC.
- **84,420** beneficiaries of Ready to Eat rations.
- **40,000** people are provided with hot meals in WAC and EAC.

Gaps and Constraints:

- Shortage of fuel including for transport

DARA Update:

- Dar'a al- Baled City estimated population of 15,000 - 25,000
- More than 17,805 people (about 3,561 HHs) have been displaced- mostly to the farms and villages of South Eastern Dar'a Governorate:
- Displacements are also being experienced in Yarmouk Valley and surrounding villages of South West of Dar'a, and IDPs moving northwards towards Nawa and also southwards towards the villages on the border with Jordan.
- Insecurity hampering transport to warehouses in Western Dar'a.
- Tell Shihab, the informal crossing is running normally as of now, but NGO partners reported insecurity.



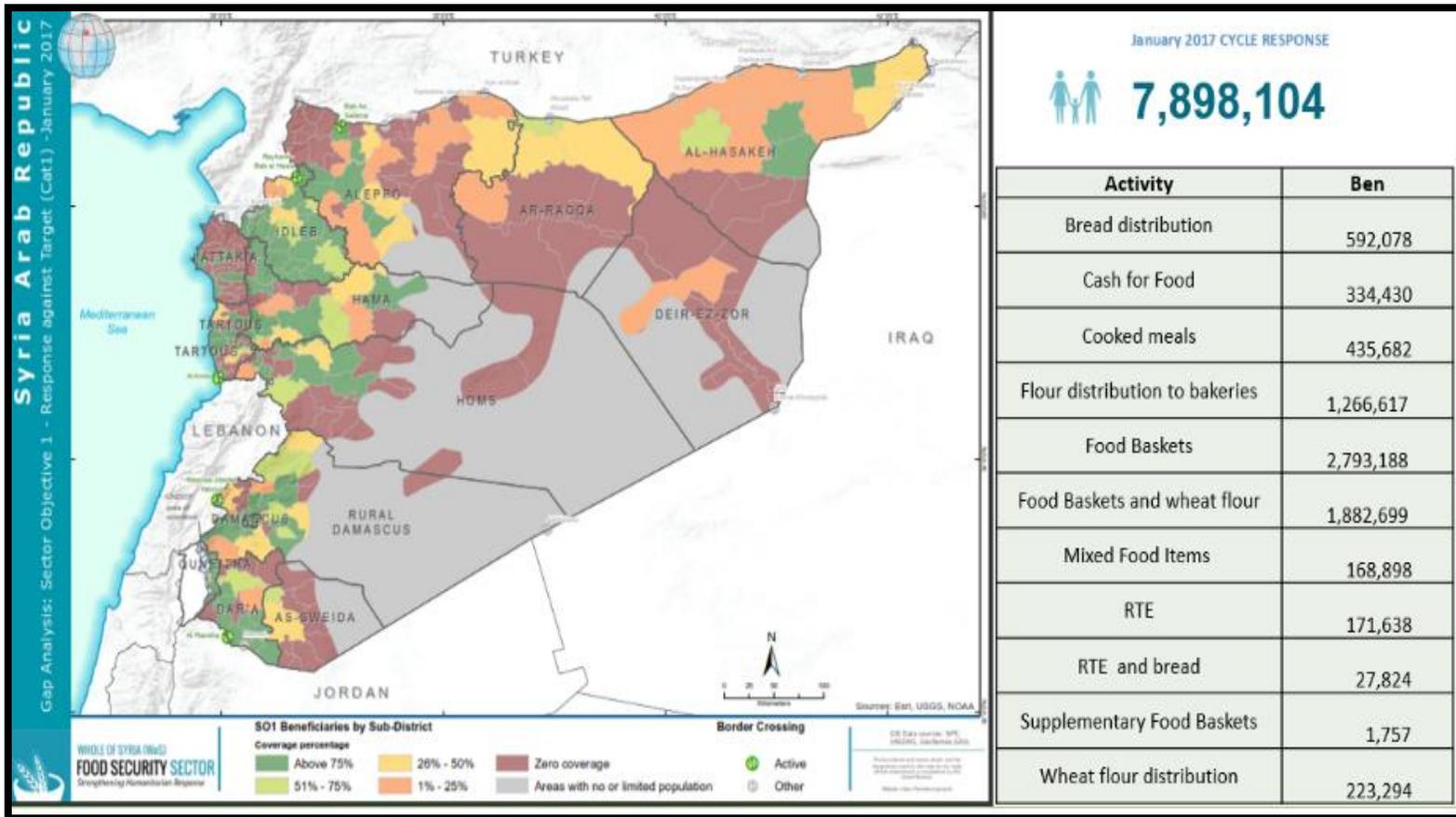
Immediate response

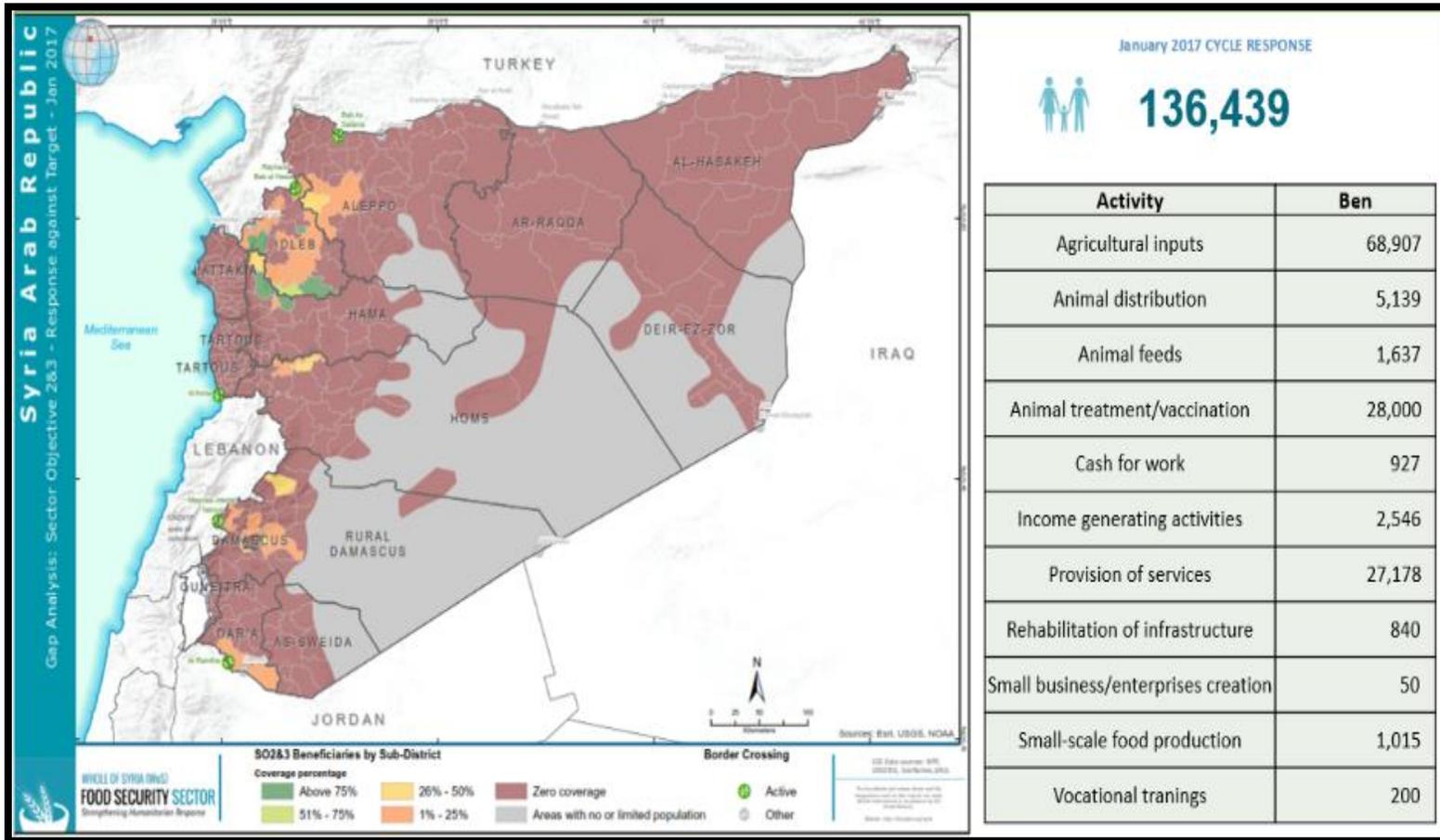
- RTEs provided to 5,160 IDPs (1,032 HHs) displaced from Yarmouk Valley to Saham El Golan, Hit, Jlein, Tassil, and Nawa.

Preparedness plans

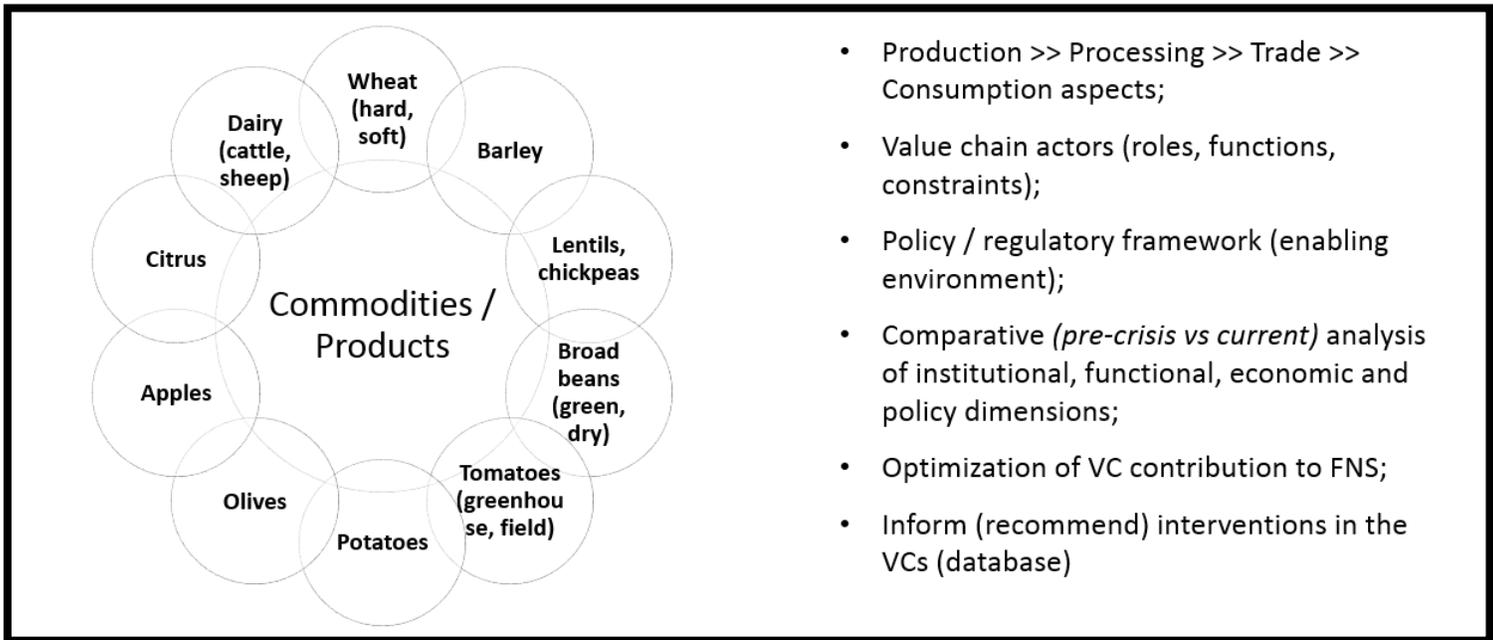
- 30,000 Ready to Eat Rations (10,000 RTEs from WFP and 20,000 RTEs from NGO).
- 15,000 Monthly Food Rations (10,000 FRs from WFP and 5,000 FRs from NGO).
- **Additional-** Food rations already inside Syria to cater for an estimated 55 households, where the contents of baskets are: Rice - 8 Kg, Sugar - 2 Kg, Canned peas - 3 Can, Canned chicken - 1 Can, Oil - 2 L.
- 3 convoy forward plan to resupply food and other essential lifesaving items through Ramtha

WOS Monthly Response Update:





Value Chain Analysis, 2017: FAO, with EU funding:



2° data

- Periodicals, statistical abstracts, unpublished datasets by MAAR (+ affiliated institutions), CBS, Syrian Chamber of Commerce;
- FAOSTAT / [CountrySTAT](#);
- International Trade Center database;
- Syrian Farm Data Handbook;
- Previous VC studies;

1° data

- Farm questionnaires (general, plant production, breeders, food security);
- General questionnaire of agriculture directorates;
- Processors' questionnaire;
- Traders' questionnaire;
- Questionnaires for other key informants;



Action point:

- FAO to share the detailed presentations on the key findings when the data analysis is completed.