

Food and Agriculture Sector Meeting Report

Minutes of 8 March 2018

Chair: Joseph ONEKA and Bernard MREWA

Venue: Four Seasons Room 1430

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"> - East Ghouta update/situation and response/convoys - Dela Zoir - Idleb (update and responses) - Northwest Syria: Sector preparedness plan 	OCHA/Coordinators OCHA/Coordinators OCHA/Coordinators OCHA/Coordinators	20 min 10min 10 min 10 min
- Livelihood programming in the South: Coordination Challenges reported at the AHCT (<i>Discussion on agenda item was postponed</i>)	Coordinators/OCHA	15 minutes
- Technical presentation: Linkage of Agha Khan's microfinance system and income generation activities	Aga Khan	15 minutes
Sector update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January Actuals maps - March Plans 	IMOs	10 min
CBT activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update on the Task force meeting 	UNRWA/WFP	15 min

Action Points:

- Agha Khan Foundation to make presentation on their financial services to the cash working groups to explore potential linkages with the Cash working group response.
- ICRC to provide a presentation to sector partners pertaining their microeconomic programme. This is scheduled to be at the next sector meeting.
- ICRC to share their SMEB estimates for Aleppo with the cash working group. This will be a critical contribution in the development of Syria SMEB currently being explored by Cash working group.
- Need to further discuss responses to Dez-ez-zoir to ensure that coverage go beyond the city.
- Partners need to continue to report to the sector if livelihood beneficiaries are also being supported with food assistance (as part of the integration strategy). The sector stands ready to help with linking partners implementing livelihood activities (targeting food insecure beneficiaries) with those partners who can provide food assistance.
- The sector will facilitate a discussion on targeting of beneficiaries with livelihood activities in the South. The aim will be to ensure that there are mechanisms in place to avoid overlaps.

Alerts/ongoing emergencies

Humanitarian Update:

NW

❖ Needs

An estimated 20,000 people are expected to be displaced to area around Northern Hama. Northern Hama Town (Suran, Talibat Al Imam, Maardes) Al Hamra Hama City and outskirts. A further 30,000 people are expected to be displaced from Afrin to three places in Aleppo (Nabul, Zahara and Aleppo City). Additionally, 70,000 – 100,000 people are expected to be displaced with Afrin district.

❖ Response

Strategic objective 1: Food Assistance for immediate needs with Ready to Eat Rations and for monthly needs with monthly Food Rations.

Phase 1: Food assistance targeting 50,000 people for 3 months (March – May)

In total, the sector needs 10,000 RTERs and 30,000 Food Rations to meet the immediate and regular monthly food needs of displaced people to Hama and Aleppo. In addition, 20,000 Food ration are planned/budgeted for possible IAC to Afrin.

- WFP has 10,000 RTERs are already in stock for both locations
- WFP also has a stock of 19,000 FRs, and a further 11,000 FRs available in pipeline to meet the expected needs of 30,000 FRs
- Bread and collective kitchen capacity available in Aleppo

Afrin Response is planned through Inter Agency Convoy with Food baskets (including Wheat flour) sufficient for 100,000 people

Sector objective 2: Quick impact livelihood interventions for ensuring adequate coping mechanisms for hosts and IDPs.

The sector seeks to support IDP/host communities with livelihoods support in both Aleppo and Hama.

Aleppo

- ✓ 10,000 pregnant sheep and 1,500MT of feeds
- ✓ 100,000 chicken and 1,000MT of poultry feeds
- ✓ 10MT of kits (vegetable seeds and accessories)
- ✓ 100,000 poultry vaccines and medicines

Hama

- ✓ 7,000 pregnant sheep and 1,050MT of feeds
- ✓ 70,000 chicken and 700MT of poultry feeds
- ✓ 10MT of kits (vegetable seeds and accessories)
- ✓ 70,000 poultry vaccines and medicines

Livelihood programing in the South: Coordination Challenges reported at the AHCT

- Extract of 4Ws of responses to the south Syria indicated need for close coordination of responses especially to Deir-ez-zoir as partners especially started response.
- Noted was limited logistic capacities and lack of definite plans for Dez-ez-zoir

Organization	Activity	Unit	Value	#Families	#Beneficiaries	Governorate	District	Sub-district	Populated Place (Town/Village)
MSJM	Cooked meals	Numbers	100,180	5,009	31,554	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-Ez-Zor
MSJM	Food Baskets	Numbers	1,000	1,000	5,839	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-Ez-Zor
FAO	Agricultural inputs	Numbers	100	100	600	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Tabni	Tabni
WFP	Food Baskets	MT	444	8,000	40,000	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-Ez-Zor
WFP	Food Baskets	MT	250	4,500	22,500	Deir-ez-Zor	Abu Kamal	Abu Kamal	Abu Kamal
WFP	Food Baskets	MT	250	4,500	22,500	Deir-ez-Zor	Al Mayadin	Al Mayadin	Al Mayadin
WFP	Food Baskets	MT	166	3,000	15,000	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Kisreh	Abu Khashab
ICRC	Bread Distribution	Numbers	750,000	25,000	125,000	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-Ez-Zor
OXFAM	Bread Distribution	Numbers	--	7000	35,000	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-Ez-Zor
IFRC	RTE (Canned Food)	Numbers	5,000	5,000	25,000	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-ez-Zor	Deir-Ez-Zor

Food and Agriculture Response and Plans Updates

AGENCY	Notes/highlights						
ACF	Achievement during January and February:						
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food baskets distribution for one month, in Aleppo sub-district Aleppo governorate, during January 2018 for (6,961 HH estimated 34,805 individuals). • Supply and install one irrigation system (piped system) in Yabroud sub-district _Rural Damascus governorate during January.2018 for (421 HH, estimated 2,105 individuals) • 250 Ton (500 KG by HH) of fodder has been distributed in Hassakeh governorate for (500HH estimated 2500 individuals). 						
	Training sessions started (and still ongoing) in Rural Damascus, Daraa, Aleppo, Hassakeh and Lattakia like the following:						
	Training	Hassak eh BENS	Dara' a BENS	Rural Damascus BENS	Aleppo BENS	Lataki a BENS	Total BENS
	Conservation agriculture	20	20	20	20	0	80
	Para-vet training with related kits	10	10	10	10	10	50
	Dairy production training with related kits	20	20	20	20	20	100
	Organic manure training with related kits	20	20	20	20	20	100
Fodder production training with related kits	20	20	20	20	20	100	
Vegetables processing and conservation training with related kits	20	20	20	20	20	100	
<p>Plans for March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 Home gardening kits (coming season vegetables seeds, N P K fertilizers and tools) are going to distribute to (500 HH- 3600 individuals) in Rural Aleppo (AL-Bab and Manbj district). 							
NRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihood Assessment completed in Deir Khabyia and Az Zabdani for Spring/Summer 						

	<p>interventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional locations in Horyra and Deir Qanun being discussed with the Governorate of Rural Damascus.
OXFAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bread distribution to approx. 7,000 HH in Deir ez Zour city will continue until end of April • Oxfam will kick off with agricultural resilience project in Rural Damascus • Oxfam is finalising partnership agreements with three local organisations
MSJN	<p>February 2018</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 1,000 RTE to 1,000 families (or 5,839 individuals) were served in Der Zor city funded by MSJM <p>Plan for March and April 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue serve people in our new Kitchen in Deir Ezzor until 13 of March 2018 • Distribute 850 RTE in Afrin, Aleppo • A convoy to Hassakeh with a milk factory, 2,000 food parcels, Winterization, and 1,000 hygiene kits. Swedish INGO's. (approval is still pending)
AKF	<p>February Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide technical training for 231 Farmers under Farmer Field Schools (FFSs) in Hama and Tartus. • Provide lab screening services for 47 livestock farmers. • Provide apprenticeship services to 49 unemployed crisis-affected youth women and men. • Follow up the livestock farmers group benefited from fodder production hydroponic unit. • Follow up the agro- processing beneficiary women. <p>PLANS FOR March to May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct graduation ceremonies for the FFS participants. • Develop information, education, and communication (IEC) materials be used in FFSs. • Carry on the activities of Farmer Field Schools in Hama and Tarots, • Train CBOs, (Community Based Organizations) on technical and managerial skills to establish new community assets in livestock and agriculture sub-sectors. • Follow up the agro-processing, home and kitchen garden activities and CBSGs (Community Based Saving Groups). • Implement Cash for Work projects.
FAO	<p>January Achievements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOT on Sustainable natural resources management practices promoted in vegetable and olive production for 17 technical in Lattakia Governorate to provide training to 2700 beneficiaries who already received olive seedlings. • Distribution irrigation kits to 2000 households in Homs and Rural Damascus who already received vegetable packages. • Training on wheat production (the economic importance for wheat, the wheat

	<p>importance for providing food, the nutrition sensitive agriculture, wheat varieties in Syria and how to choose the suitable one, land preparation for wheat and the correct date for planting, seeds rate and agricultural cycle) was conduct in Rural Damascus to 135 Households (10% of 1350 beneficiaries had wheat seeds last month).</p> <p>Feb– March Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 households will have support and building capacity 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. • 35 School in Aleppo and Rural Damascus will have school gardening to improve students’ nutrition knowledge about nutrition sensitive agriculture.
<p>ICRC/SARC</p>	<p>February 2018 Update (ICRC-SARC joint activities)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 700,000 beneficiaries were reached with food parcels, canned food parcels, bulk food and bread packs • Distribution of seeds and fertilizers completed in all governorates, post distribution monitoring is on-going in several governorates <p>ICRC-SARC Plan for March- April 2018:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan to reach 800,000 beneficiaries with various food packages • Post-distribution monitoring in various governorates covered by the agro program will be hopefully completed in March. • ICRC together with the SARC will finalize the rest of the agro/livelihood program 2017 (aiming at reaching to 40,000 HHs with Agro inputs and 10,000 HHs with other community based projects), some of the livelihood programs are already on-going (Aleppo, Homs, Lattakia, Damascus, Rural Damascus etc.)
<p>IFRC/SARC</p>	<p>February 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of 110.000 Kg of feed (55.000 Kg Barley – 55.000 Kg Brand wheat) to 550 HHs in Jableh District (Lattakia) and Jinan Community (Hama) • Finalised the PDM survey for the past distribution of vegetable kits for winter season in Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus, Quneitra • Finalised the procurement for the distribution of vegetable of 7.300 HHs (Hama, Rural Damascus • Distribution of 6.779 food parcels in Deir Azzor, Damascus, Hama, Homs y Sweida <p>April 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start distribution of vegetable kits for summer season
<p>COOPI</p>	<p>Final phase of the ongoing project in Qatana:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution 1,500 full package gardening kit (summer seeds, winter seeds, NPK, tools)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution 650 gardening kit (summer seeds only, those whom are already received the winter seeds, NPK, tools before on last November distribution) • Distribution 1,500 egg laying hens for 100 beneficiaries(each one could receive 15 hen, 150 KG fodder, 5 vitamins bottles)
TDH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributions ongoing for the 510 food vouchers “monthly” in Aleppo. In March, distributions will start in Rural Damascus as well as expand the targeted number of people in Aleppo. • Finalising the procurement of 18,500 FPs, to be distributed in Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo and Lattakia.
UNRWA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1st round of food assistance for SHC started on 16 January 2018 and closed on 22 February 2018. Total 10,765 families (31,456 individuals) received their food assistance. The first round of regular food distribution started on 05 March 2018. • The first cash round for 2018 started 14 January. An estimated number of 408,000 refugees would receive cash assistance in the 1st cash round. 383,501 refugees received cash assistance until 1 March 2018.
WFP	<p>January 2018 Distributed 433,553 food rations assisting 2,167,765 beneficiaries.</p> <p>February 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dispatched 539,845 food rations to assist 2,699,225 beneficiaries (90% of the plan). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ This includes 4,604 MT of WHF. ✓ Cross Borders deliveries during Feb 18: 130,182 FR (included in the above figures): 56,000 FR from Turkey to Rural Idleb, 19,982 FR from Turkey to Rural Aleppo, and 54,200 FR from Jordan to Rural Dara’a and Quneitra. ✓ Idleb cross borders deliveries were affected and couldn’t complete the plan due to the insecurity and the closure of the transshipment point. ✓ The distributions in Hassaka and Raqqa resumed in Feb; entire plan delivered except in Raqqa city. <p>March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March Cycle deliveries started aiming to <u>reach 3 million people without IACs.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WFP started distributing milk (Liquid) with the food ration; 6 Lit per family. This milk is a balance out of the school feeding program. The distribution will continue for 3 months till the end of May 18. <p>Overall: The operational plan for 2018 is considered a resource-based plan covering around 3 million people.</p>

Introduction:

- CWG Meeting held on 05 March 2018
- UN Agencies' and NGOs' representatives attended the meeting
- Advocacy Strategy for Cash Based Intervention (CBI) in Syria was the main agenda for the meeting. CWG members decided to assess/review Institutional capacity, regulatory environment of financial services providers to prepare an advocacy tool for CBI.

Review/Assessments:

Financial service providers:

- Methodology of transfer
- Transfer fees
- Frequency of the transfers
- Requirements
- Reach/coverage
- Relevant regulations/policies/guidelines/practices
- Entry points/how to approach them
- Any relevant financial products
- Size/ volume of the current interventions

Regulatory environment:

- Relevant regulations (guidelines) for the financial sector, regulations on the practical aspects of cash transfer process.
- The bidding/tendering process related to contracting vendor's/service providers.

Humanitarian actors' capacity:

- Operational and technical capacity of the different partners for CBI

Besides these reviews the team will also review the GOS's smart card services provided for fuel subsidies through Al Takamol company to explore any potential cooperation

Infrastructure for electronic, physical and vouchers transfers:

- Data and information would be gathered during the review of the financial services providers

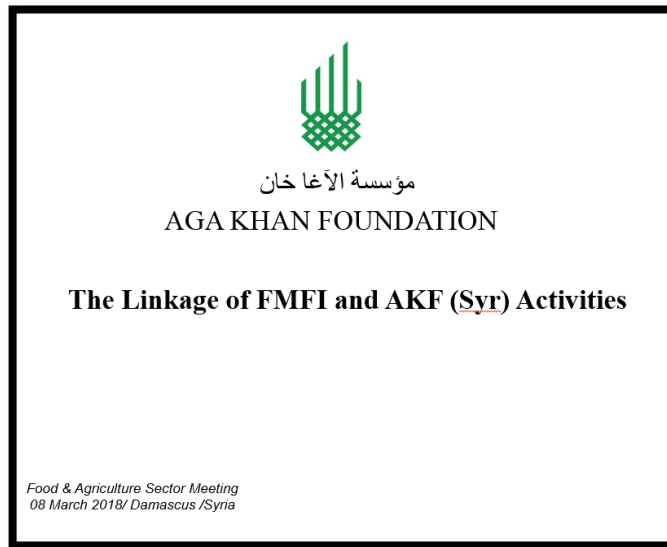
Syria 5 plus one practices

- SMEB: Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket
- Its utmost important to have a literature review to prepare any advocacy tool
- For CBI, reviews of SMEB of the cross border actors would be an effective tool to calculate the minimum cash transfer requirement at individual or family level

WFP Platform

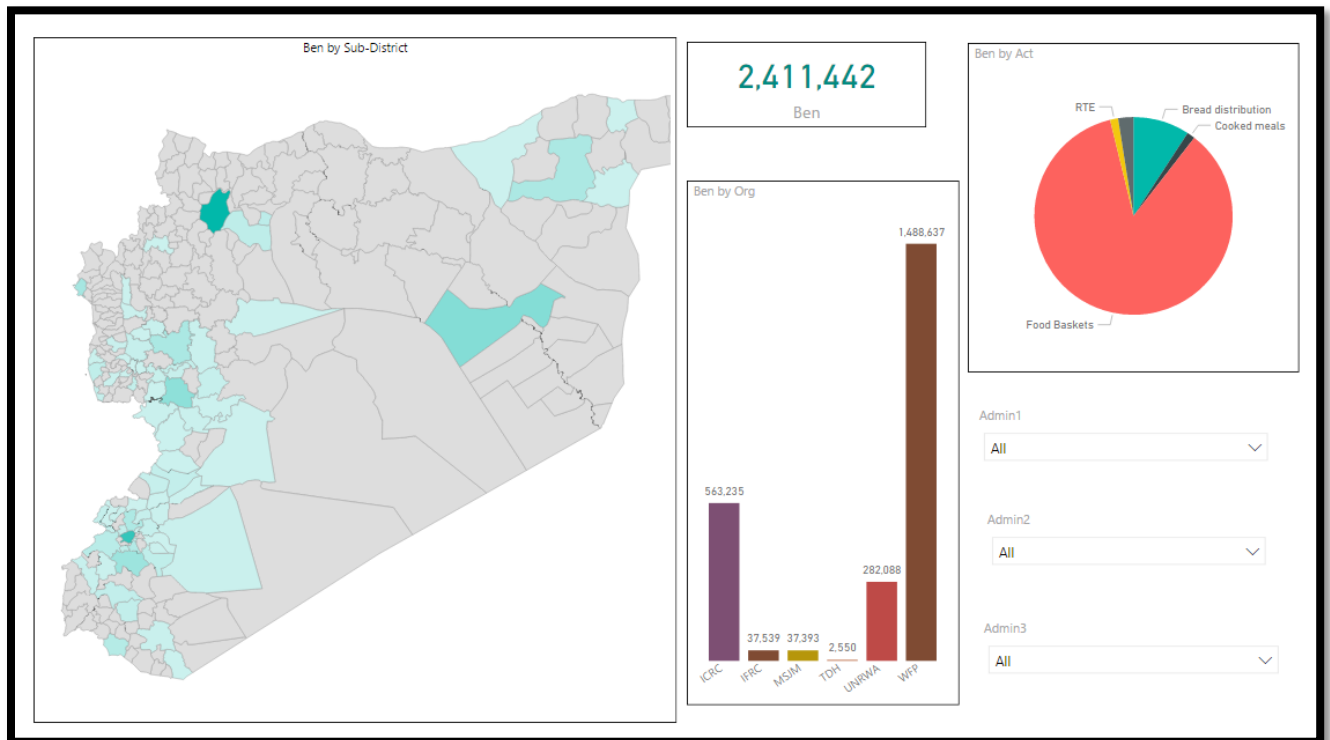
- WFP would present an overview on the SCOPE platform to interested partners.

The Linkage of FMFI and AKF (Syr) Activities

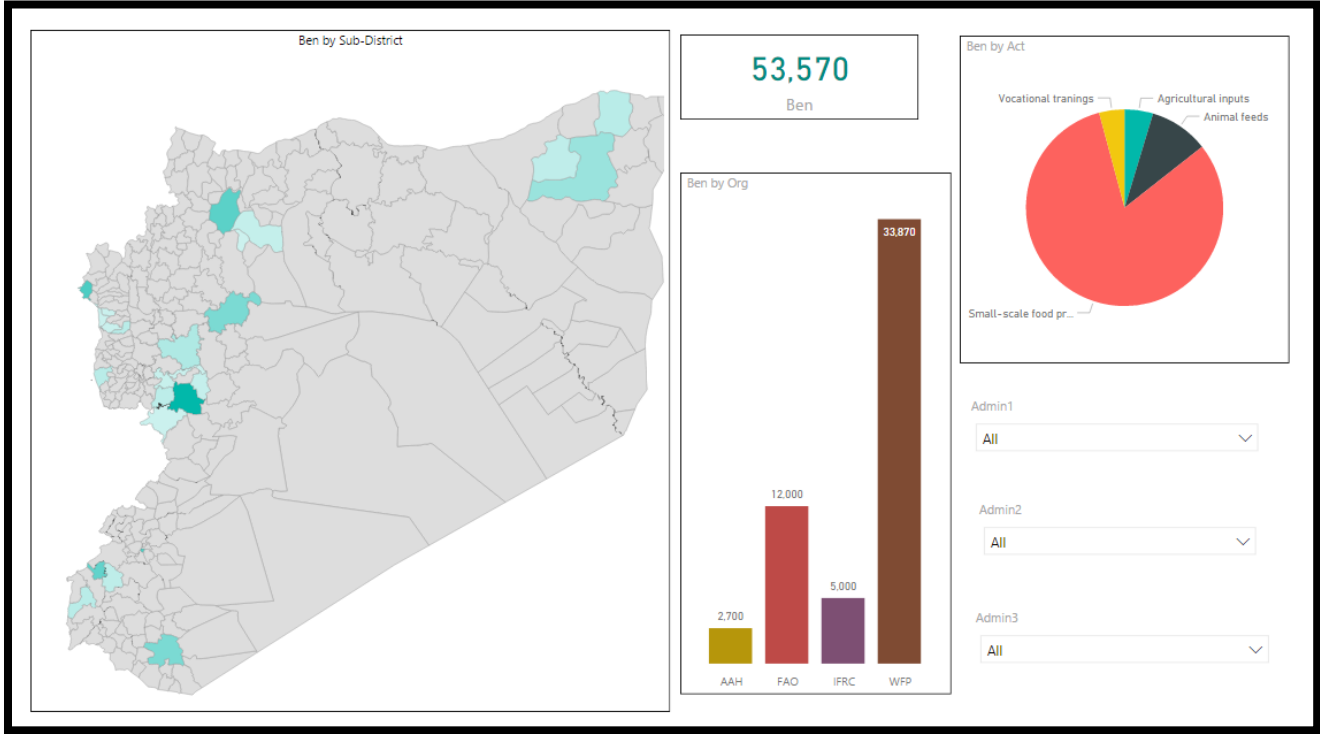


Gaps/Coverage Analysis:

Sector Objectiv1 Response – Syria Hub – Jan 18



Sector Objectiv2&3 Response – Syria Hub – Jan 18



Next Meeting: To be held on 05 April 2019 at Syria – Damascus – Four Season Hotel – Palmyra