

FOOD SECURITY SECTOR – oPt
March 21st, 2017 - Minutes of Meeting-West Bank

Date, venue: March 21st , 10:00-12:00, MoA in Ramallah - Meeting Room

Facilitators: Marco Ferloni, Hassan Ashqar

Agenda:

1. Response to demolition - MoA response update.
2. HRP 2017 info graphic and basic coordination.
3. Advocacy activities - 50 years of occupation.
4. FSS IM - status and upgrade.
5. HPF funding, FSS priorities for next call
6. Partners corner.
7. AoB

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- Mr. Abullah Lahloh the minister deputy opened the meeting by welcoming all the participants, and highlighted the important role of agriculture in the Palestinian economy in terms of its contribution to gross domestic product (GDP), employment, trade, and food security. While recognizing existing challenges in the sector, he appreciated that as a country, there are unique opportunities and potentialities to achieve greater growth targets.

1. Response to demolition - MoA response update.

- The General Directorate of the Farmers Services in the MoA presented their current agricultural assistance programme funded by the EU in order to support farmers affected by the occupation regime or demolition.
- The Agricultural Assistance Programme aiming to
 - ✓ Ensure farmers' resilience and attachment to their land, while fulfilling the contribution of the agriculture sector in providing requirements for development of the State of Palestine.
 - ✓ Efficient and sustainable management of natural resources.
 - ✓ Enhanced agricultural production, productivity and competitiveness, as well as enhanced contribution of agriculture to food security.
 - ✓ The agriculture sector has effective and efficient capacities, institutional frameworks, legal environment, and agricultural services.

- For more details about the MoA program, please kindly refer to the link (<http://fscluster.org/state-of-palestine/document/agricultural-assistance-programme-moa>)
- In order to ensure full coverage of all areas and FSS-related needs, FSS partners are invited to plan their interventions in any affected areas of the West Bank and Jerusalem with particular focus on Area C.
- FSS responders will carry out the response based on their resources and criteria. MoA should be notified at the time of response, complying with MoA database requirements. FSS should be in copy on the feedback.
- FSS will call for ad-hoc meetings FSS key responders in order to agree and further clarify the mechanism of the feedback requested by MoA.

2. HRP 2017 infographic and basic coordination.

- Graphical information of the HRP 2017 are products from the FSS visual representations of information, data, about the FSS HRP 2017.
- The product contain a collection of information elaborated from data extracted from the projects matrix that was sent among FSS partners at the time of developing the FSS HRP 2017 projects.
- The product was designed in a manner that enable partners to easily understand data and facts for planning, coordination on the ground, advocacy and analysis.
- Both infographics for the West Bank and Gaza Strip are available at the FSS website.

3. Advocacy activities - 50 years of occupation.

- The FSS advocacy focal point from ACF briefly presented this year initiatives. The HCT (Humanitarian Country Team) members plan to engage in a series of coordinated and joint advocacy initiatives to mark 50 Years of Israeli Occupation (5th to 10th of June – 1967 Six- Day war) and 10 years of blockade (4th of June 2007) on Gaza Strip. The initiatives is coordinated through the HCT Advocacy Working Group, in coordination with local and international NGOs associations.
- The main objectives of the 50 Years of Occupation' Advocacy initiative are as follows:
 1. **Raise awareness regarding the impact of 'occupation'** for Palestinians in real-life human terms in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank
 2. **Highlight** the occupying power's prolonged regime with regard to the oPt and the **fundamental concerns** regarding the incompatibility with IHL and IHRL
 3. **Contribute to mobilizing international support** and action towards ending the occupation and ensuring respect for international law.
- The campaign will revolve around two themes and two related hashtags. Agencies are encouraged to use these hashtags when spreading their advocacy materials on social media.

➤ **#thisisoccupation**

Spread stories, highlighting the humanitarian impact of the occupation on Palestinians in very human terms (e.g. a farmer pushed into aid dependency after losing access to his land). The aim is to increase public understanding of what it means to live under this form of prolonged occupation, in all its facets. As stated in the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for the oPt, the humanitarian needs stem from the effects of protracted occupation. Partners are encouraged to use the hashtag as of now.

➤ **#endtheoccupation**

This element of the campaign will encourage international action towards a global call to end the occupation, which is characterized by chronic IHL and IHRL violations that create the oPt's significant humanitarian needs. This segment of the campaign and the related hashtag will be launched as of May 2017.

Nuance: The HCT will not try to outline how the occupation should end or what political solution would need to happen. Rather the emphasis will be that from a humanitarian and moral standpoint, it needs to end. This will enable Palestinians to undertake self-sustaining livelihoods, thereby removing need for international humanitarian assistance.

- Suggested advocacy activities include:
 - Coordinated op-eds by the HC and other Heads of Agency;
 - Centralized and shared online platform (i.e. web portal/landing page) for campaign; joint social media support, joint messaging
 - Targeted information towards particularly the EU and MS;
 - 2 actual events (Brussels & UNGA) *tbc*

4. FSS IM status and upgrade.

- The information management is essential as its needed for coordinating partner responses to ensure that planning and implementation of food security responses avoid gaps and duplications, and are comparable and timely to affected populations.
- IM consists of a number of connected and specialized activities such as planning, data collection, processing, analysis, production and dissemination of information and information outputs, as well as information archive.
- The current available tools at this stage are:
 - 4 Ws (Who is doing What, Where and When): the 4Ws was updated on a quarterly basis. The matrix is then used to generate information products such as maps and tables of achievements to date
 - APIS (Agricultural Project Information System): is an agricultural response monitoring tool and resource project-based data base, currently managed by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). The current main purpose of APIS is to gather all information available concerning agricultural and other related projects, as well as relevant information about the different organizations involved in agricultural activities in Palestine. In the last years the use of APIS has declined.
 - Result-based management tool (XRMS): New MoA system for result-based management for the Agricultural sector strategy, designed during 2016 under the name of XMRS. The developed system covers the whole process of result-based management

and intends to connect all activities, projects and interventions in the agricultural sector to the planning process for goals, outcomes and outputs.

- OCHA new 4Ws portal: it is being developed to offer an inter-cluster portal for humanitarian interventions, inspired by the 4Ws approach.
- The FSS in coordination with the MoA has initiated a process for incorporating APIS's functions into the XRMS platform. This represents a promising change of direction, mainly due to the priority given to avoid proliferation of data bases used as entry-points for projects information.
- The new system will be able to feed the OCHA 4Ws portal, so that FSS humanitarian interventions will be included into official OCHA country analysis.
- The new information system should be able:
 - To produce standard reports and maps, through a user-friendly interface.
 - To help in visualizing gaps and overlaps of partner responses.
 - To help in avoiding duplication of humanitarian assistance, especially considering issues of food availability, access and utilization.
 - To share consistent information by partners will facilitate project tracking and monitoring, and ultimately result in evidence based decision making for strategic intervention and improved implementation.

5. HPF funding-FSS priorities for next call

- Humanitarian Pooled Fund conducts funding allocations to support the delivery of strategic priorities within the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)
- There are currently around US\$5 million with the HPF which will be made available for the first allocation. The target date for the launch of the allocation is end of March 2017.
- As the first step, sectors/cluster have to prepare a list of priority activities that should be considered for funding in this allocation in closer coordination with line ministries.
- Within the Country Strategic objective 3, the FSS in coordination with MoA has defined specific priorities. For this round of HPF allocation, projects should contribute to restore and enhance the productive capacity of vulnerable and affected households, to protect their livelihoods and assets, and increase their resilience.
- In **Gaza Strip**, Priority is given to projects addressing water and land, compounding the positive effects of improved water availability and rehabilitation/improvement of agricultural land.
- Better and more sustainable agricultural production is key to preserve vulnerable livelihoods of small farmers. Summary of activities:
 - ✓ Agricultural water wells rehabilitation
 - ✓ Agricultural water carriers
 - ✓ Land rehabilitation

- Access to productive agricultural land is a central issue in the **West Bank**. Water availability for agriculture is also a major concern. Therefore the focus in this region is on making agricultural land better accessible and more productive, also with the improvement of water delivery systems, when applicable. Summary of activities:
 - ✓ Land rehabilitation
 - ✓ Agricultural road rehabilitation
 - ✓ Water irrigation system.

- In addition to good practices and principles of implementation of humanitarian projects, implementing partners should promote cash for work modality of implementation, rather than contracting companies.

6. Partners' corner

- **UAWC: Pilot COCOON planting technology as a model to enable the growing of olive and almond trees in arid conditions in West Bank and Gaza Strip.**
 - ✓ The overall objective of the project is to implement 3 olive tree planting demonstrations in arid areas using COCOON planting technology. 200 (olive and almond) trees will be planted in West Bank and 300 (olive) trees will be planted in Gaza Strip.
 - ✓ The Cocoon technology – a low cost, water efficient, biodegradable technology that enables the sustainable and scalable plantings of trees.
 - ✓ For more details, please kindly refer to the link (<http://fscluster.org/agriculturewg/document/uawc-introduction-cocoons>)

List of Participants:

N°	Name	Organization
West Bank		
1.	Abullah Lahloh	MoA
2.	Marco Ferloni	FSS
3.	Hasan Ashqar	MoA
4.	Hosni Barakat	FSS
5.	Assel abu Assba	ACTED
6.	Sarah Sakatni	SIF
7.	Maram Sawalha	MoA
8.	Hazem Khwais	USAID
9.	Samer Titi	MoA
10.	Salem Nassr	ACF
11.	Reema Rasheed	ESDC
12.	Raed Hanania	Global Communities
13.	Diaa Salamah	Care
14.	Salim Karmi	Oxfam

15.	Islam Nairokh	UAWC
16.	Elena Dikomitis	ACF
17.	Taysir Arbasi	GVC
18.	Eiman Jarrar	MoA
19.	Dawood Hammodeh	PFU
20.	Rula Al-Khateeb	PFU
21.	Abdelrahim Alasad	IR
22.	Mubel Abu Jeish	PARC
23.	Thaer Jalloud	UNRWA
24.	Hasanieh Hasanein	PARC
25.	Givua Campieotto	Overseas
26.	Mosab Thafer	ICRC
27.	Luban Matar	World Vision
28.	Abber Mushni	ACCO
29.	Pla Adwi	PYU
30.	Danela Andreewsca	MAS
31.	Nazeh Fkhaida	MoA
32.	Wahbeh Asfour	MA'AN
33.	Abiuail Taylor	MA'AN
34.	Bashar Sawafta	MoL
35.	Omaymah Shaltaf	AAA
36.	Aisa Khalil	GVC
37.	Anne Claire Yaesh	PUI

END