

## Food and Agriculture Sector Meeting Report

### Minutes of 04 July 2017

Chair: Bernard Mrewa (FSC Co-Coordinator) & Bernard Mwesigwa (FSC Co-Coordinator)

Venue: Syria – Damascus – Four Seasons Hotel – Palmyra Venue

#### 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: (Raqqa update, Dela-Zoir update Micro plans; AZ badani etc.)	Coordinators/OCHA	20 min
Sector update (May maps, July plans)	IMOs/All	10 min
Update on the market based initiative mapping: (Agreement on the next market based responses focused meeting and the topic for discussion, Update on Agriculture Activities, and Update on nominations for IPC training/analysis)	Coordinators FAO Coordinators	40 min
AOB Update/status of Midyear HRP review	Coordinators	5 min

#### Action Points of the meeting

- FAO to provide further guidance to partners who may not be able to physically attend the Agriculture working groups; on how such partners can provide inputs pertaining to their plans and actuals-as well as be updated of any strategic discussions/decisions.
- ACF to review and revert on the reporting of previous months distributions of bread in rural Damascus; and provide this information via the 4Ws matrix.
- The sector to look at the possibility of facilitating travel arrangements (through the lead agencies) for some of the participants to the IPC training and analysis workshops in Damascus.
- The sector to share the finalised schedule for the IPC analysis workshop with partners.
- The sector to update partners (in the next meeting) on the outcomes of the Az Zabadani planning workshop which will be attended by MoLAE staff, the Municipality of Zabadani staff and the Governor's office.
- Partners should provide the 4Ws to the sector in line with the agreed timelines. As well, partners should ensure completeness of data including information on the integration of food assistance and livelihood activities.

## Food and Agriculture Response and Plans Updates

AGENCY	Notes/highlights
ACF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution plan of 1,550 home-gardening kits has been prepared and distribution will take place in the forthcoming weeks in Daraa, Hassakeh and Rural Damascus;</li> <li>• During July and August, additional 600 home-gardening kits will be procured to be distributed in Aleppo, Daraa, Hassakeh and Rural Damascus, as well as 100 green-house kits to be distributed in Latakia;</li> <li>• Preparation for trainings in conservation agriculture, organic manure production, fodder production, dairy production, vegetable processing and conservation and para-veterinarian activities will be carried out. The trainings will benefit 450 among farmers, herders, and women in Aleppo, Daraa, Hassakeh, Rural Damascus and Latakia between October and December 2017.</li> </ul>
AKF	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>JUNE ACHIEVEMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute home and kitchen garden equipment to 100 vulnerable women.</li> <li>• Provide technical training to 74 vulnerable women in agro-processing.</li> <li>• Distribute drip irrigation equipment and summer vegetable aids to 235 beneficiary farmers,</li> <li>• Implement 17 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in Tartous and Hama with 318 Beneficiary farmers,</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLANS FOR JULY – SEBTEMBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute vet kits, food aids, local layer hens, vegetable production, home garden inputs and agro-processing equipment.</li> <li>• Implement cash for work projects</li> <li>• Provide training for livestock and crop farmers and technicians on wheat, Farmer Agricultural School approach in Hama and Tarots,</li> <li>• Establish green fodder intensive production unit as a pilot.</li> <li>• Implement technical and business training to vulnerable women in agro-processing.</li> <li>• Implement Farmer Field School on livestock fattening.</li> <li>• Establish new saving groups for women.</li> </ul>
FAO	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing the biogas units is still on going in Homs -Rural Damascus, Hama and Lattakia</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of irrigation systems in Homs is still ongoing.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>July - August Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poultry farm units for income generating business developed for 900 beneficiaries in Homs, Hama, Lattakia and Tartous.</li> <li>• 25 households will have a Silkworm Breeding as an income generating activities in Tartous.</li> <li>• 500 households will have support and building capacity for beehive and honey production in Aleppo.</li> <li>• 3,400 Households will be provided with Mushroom Production tools in Aleppo</li> <li>• Beekeeping packages for 250 HHs will be distributed in the governorates (Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Tartous and Lattakia)</li> <li>• 2 unit of Milk Processing will be installed in Homs and Hama</li> <li>• 100 HHs will be provided with Mushroom Production tools and 50 HHs will be provided with Soap production tools as an income generating activities.</li> <li>• 2,700 HHs will have winter vegetable seeds packages (2,700 HHs, sets of manual vegetable farming tools, olive saplings 25000, and shredders for composting (1 /District = 4 shredders)- irrigation kits for 42 HHs.</li> </ul>

<p><b>ICRC</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June 2017 Update (ICRC-SARC joint activities)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In June, about <b>1 million beneficiaries</b> were reached with food parcels, canned food parcels, bulk food and bread packs.</li> <li>The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform approved the ICRC/SARC Agro project for winter/fall season 2017 - targeting 30'000 HHs in Syria with cereals and vegetable seeds/fertilizer packages across 10 governorates.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ICRC-SARC Plan for July-August 2017</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cover over 1 million beneficiaries with various food packages each month</li> <li>Complete area and beneficiary selection in the targeted governorates for the agro program 2017.</li> <li>Supporting bakeries and flour mills with new production lines and generators - fixing or donating new ones (potentially in Rural Damascus and Aleppo)</li> </ul>
<p><b>IFRC</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Achievements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of the livestock projects in Homs and Lattakia-including provisioning of drugs when needed</li> <li>Distribution of seeds for summer season, fertilizer and tools for 116 HHs in Nhalia Community (Hama)</li> <li>Approval obtained from MoAAR for the implementation of the backyard food production through distribution of vegetables kits for winter season for 6,000 HHs</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Plan July-August</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribution of 30,000 food parcels per month</li> <li>Complete area and beneficiary selection process for the distribution of vegetables kits in coordination with SARC, ICRC, FAO and other actors)</li> <li>Finalise livelihoods assessments in Lattakia and Homs</li> </ul>
<p><b>MSJN</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funded by OCHA - cooked 5 days per a week one hot meal for 2,000 families around 10,354 beneficiaries were reached in Al-Sakhour</li> <li>Funded by OCHA - distributed every day 1 bread bundle for 2,000 families around 10,354 beneficiaries were reached in Al- Sakhour</li> <li>Funded by OCHA - Provide one RTE food parcel per month for 2,000 family around 10,354 beneficiaries were reached in Al- Sakhour</li> <li>Funded by PLC - cooked 5 days per a week one hot meal for 5,000 families around 27,145 beneficiaries were reached in Aleppo countryside</li> <li>Funded by PLC - distributed every day 1 bread bundle for 5,000 families around 27,145 beneficiaries were reached in Aleppo countryside</li> <li>Funded by PLC - Provide one RTE food parcel per month for 5,000 family around 27,145 beneficiaries were reached in Aleppo countryside</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mini domestic mushroom farms in Aleppo countryside in June for 750 families or around 4,500 individuals.</li> <li>Open a kitchen in Aleppo countryside (Al-Khafsfa, Der Hafer and Albab) to feed around 5,000 families and 22,600 persons.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TDH</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributed 685 food vouchers</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>July</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distribution of 1,195 food vouchers (where?) including proposed scale up into Rural Damascus,</li> <li>Waiting for review approval of SARC and the SHF to distribute 16,465 food parcels following changes to the distribution plan-in terms of locations. The new locations are still in Aleppo, Homs, Damascus and Rural Damascus. Distributions expected to commence in July.</li> </ul>
<p><b>UNRWA</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Food and NFI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A total number 42,692 food baskets and 15,242 Hygiene kits were distributed to Palestine refugees</li> </ul>

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Cash Assistance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35,267 Palestine refugees received cash assistance in June. Each person received USD 64.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WFP</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>729,433</b> FRs distributed reaching approx. <b>3,647,165</b> beneficiaries.</li> <li>This include 104,500 people in the hard-to-reach areas of Dar Kabira- Duma and Jayroud (reached via inter-agency convoys)</li> <li>Cross Borders deliveries: <b>140,335</b> FR (included in the above figures): <b>82,192</b> FR from Turkey to Rural Idleb, <b>32,639</b> FR from Turkey to Rural Aleppo, and <b>25,504</b> FR from Jordan to Rural Dara'a.</li> <li>No Cross Borders distribution in Rural Quneitra for 2 months; and discussions are ongoing to resolve various issues.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>June</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>805,104</b> food rations dispatched to assist an estimated <b>4,025,520</b> beneficiaries</li> <li><b>6,197</b> food boxes/ were delivered through airdrop operations in Deir Ezzor including one drop to the Southern part (Harabesh).</li> <li>The plan is now to do one 'drop' off food to the Southern part of besieged DZ (Harabesh) each 10 drops in the Northern part.</li> <li>The airlift operation has been phased out due to the successful deliveries by road. Up to date, 21 trucks carrying around 23,000 FR and one truck of plumpy doz were delivered.</li> <li>WFP completed the distribution of Normal rations in Raqqa with a plan of 37,100 rations (98% completed). The same plan will be implemented in a monthly basis. The distribution covered most of the IDPs communities like Ein Issa, Tal Abiyad, Journiya, Karama, Tabqa, Abo Khashab, Mabrouka camp, and Slouk. 2 additional locations will be added to July plan (Mansoura and Raqqa farms).</li> <li>WFP distributed 5000 FR in Barzeh through SARC unaccompanied convoy.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>July-September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To scale up and reach approx. 4, 5 million. This is mostly related to the Raqqa response following resumption of road deliveries.</li> <li>The overland deliveries through Aleppo to Qameshli will continue covering the plans for Raqqa and Hassaka with around 100 trucks a month.</li> <li>Starting July, WHF will be added to the food basket for both Hassaka and Raqqa because the capacity of the overland delivery will enable to add it</li> </ul>

## Emergency Response

### Raqqa Response:

#### Population Movement

- CCCM (as of 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017): 108,779 displaced since May 1<sup>st</sup> including secondary displacements
- Of these: 89,932 occurred within Ar-Raqqa, 14,527 were displaced to Aleppo and 1,599 to Deir-ez-Zor governorates respectively.

#### Improvements on road deliveries

- The overland deliveries through Aleppo to Qameshli will continue covering the plans for Raqqa and Hassaka with around 100 trucks a month.
- Starting July, WHF will be added to the food basket for both Hassaka and Raqqa because the capacity of the overland delivery will enable to add it

#### F&AS response-June

Estimated **243,055** beneficiaries across the North-East Syria Region affected by the ongoing Ar-Raqqa displacements. Assistance has reached IDPs located in the governorates of Ar-Raqqa, Aleppo, Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor.

- 2,000 RTERs covering food needs for 5 days for a family of 5 were distributed to 10,000 beneficiaries.
- 600 RTERs covering food needs for 7 days for a family of 6 were distributed to 3,600 beneficiaries.
- 1,359 RTERs covering food needs for 10 days for a family of 6 were distributed to 8,154 beneficiaries.
- 5,672 Food Rations covering food needs for 10 days for a family of 6 were distributed to 34,032 beneficiaries.
- 36,521 Regular Food Baskets covering food needs for a month for a family of 5 were distributed to 182,605 beneficiaries.
- A total of 157,080 loaves of bread were also distributed and benefitting an average of 2,647 beneficiaries per day.

<b>Ar-Raqqa</b>	
<b>Ein Issa</b>	<b>Two XB INGOs distributed 1,600 RTERs and one XB NGO 69 FRs covering food needs between 5 to 10 days for a family of 6, reaching 10,014 beneficiaries respective</b>
	<b>WFP distributed 7,100 FRs covering food needs for one month for a family of 5 in Ein Issa camp and surrounding areas reaching 35,500 beneficiaries</b>
<b>Tell Abiad</b>	<b>WFP distributed 3,500 FRs covering food needs for one month for a family of 5 benefitting 17,500 beneficiaries</b>
<b>Suluk</b>	<b>WFP distributed 1,500 FRs covering food needs for one month for a family of 5 benefitting 7,500 beneficiaries</b>
<b>Karama</b>	<b>WFP distributed 13,000 FRs covering food needs for one month for a family of 5 benefitting 65,000 beneficiaries in Karama location. An additional 2,000 RTERs covering the food needs of 5 for 5 days was distributed in Hamra reaching 10,000 people</b>
<b>Jurneyyeh</b>	<b>One XB INGO distributed 360 FRs covering food needs for 10 days for a family of 6, reaching 2,160 beneficiaries</b>

	WFP distributed 5,500 FRs covering food needs for one month for a family of 5 benefitting 27,500 beneficiaries in Jurneyyeh and Mahmoudly locations
<i>Taqba/Ath-Thawrah</i>	One XB INGO distributed 2,055 FRs covering food needs for 10 days for a family of 6, reaching 12,330 beneficiaries
	One XB INGO distributed 359 RTERs for a family of 6 covering 10 days reaching 2,154 beneficiaries
	WFP distributed 2,500 FRs covering food needs for one month for a family of 5 benefitting 12,500 beneficiaries
<i>Ar-Raqqa</i>	One XB INGO distributed 1,386 FRs covering food needs for 10 days for a family of 6, reaching nearly 8,316 beneficiaries. Additionally, XB NGO distributed 1,627 FRs in Kalta covering the food needs for 9,762 beneficiaries

Al-Hasakeh	
Mabrouka Camp	<p>One XB INGO distributed 157,080 loaves of bread which benefitted an average of 2,647 beneficiaries per day inside the camp</p> <p>WFP distributed 421 FRs covering food needs for one month for a family of 5 benefitting 2,105 beneficiaries</p>
Aleppo	
Menbij	One XB INGOs distributed 108 FRs covering food needs between 10 days for a family of 6, reaching nearly 648 beneficiaries
<u>Ain Al Arab</u>	One XB INGO distributed 67 FRs covering food needs for 10 days for a family of 6, reaching nearly 402 beneficiaries in <u>Sarin</u> location
Deir-ez-Zor	
<u>Kisreh</u>	WFP distributed 3,000 FRs covering food needs for one month for a family of 5 benefitting 15,000 beneficiaries

- The July plan shows that the sector has been able to address some of the gaps identified in June in relation to flour and geographical areas (such as inclusion of Mansoorah farms).
- The plans for July as submitted by partners sufficient to meet the projected caseload, but efforts will be ongoing as new areas for responding will emerge (Bahara/Ariha camp in Shadadeh sub-district of Hasakah, hosting IDPs from Deir Ez Zor).
- Bakeries have been assessed in some parts of Raqqa by a XB INGO, which shows clear gaps in inputs, yeast and flour resulting in an insufficient production of bread. Partners including WFP and XB NGOs have the necessary expertise and experience to do bakery rehabilitation and are in process to plan such interventions. Donors are also requested to expedite such funding requests from sector partners.
- Additionally, challenges that partners face in access and delivery if not addressed will continue to pose a problem in reaching the affected population. These challenges include delays in issuing facilitation letters, insecurity, very large presence of IEDs/ERWs and UXOs, transitory nature of camps and lack of formal registration pose a challenge for tracking assistance adequately.

## Agriculture update (Coordination Mechanism for the actors in the agriculture sector):

Provide evidence based guidance and technical expertise to support stakeholder interventions

Building on synergies and complementarity for a higher impact and value for money .

Exchange key information

Address long term planning needs, prioritization and implementation of interventions and plans

Complement the existing UN structure (FSA co-lead by FAO and WFP)

- Strengthening appropriate coordination mechanism
- Ensure a forum for consultation to reinforce, needs assessment, priorities setting and planning for response
- Serve as forum to provide update information on the sector performance and gaps
- Formulate recommendation to address gaps and strengthen the sector efficiency
- Financial gaps assessment and recommendations for resources mobilization
- Make recommendation for policies formulation of and operational strategies relevant to the sector work
- Make recommendation for joint programming to ensure synergies and complementarities
- Formulate recommendations to support institutional capacity building

Governorate	Alternative resources of energy	Capacity building	Crop production			Income generating	Forestry management	Livestock		Land and soil management	Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture	Policy development	Drought early warning	Food Security Assessment and Information Management	Water management
			Cereal	vegetables	Fruits			Animal Health	Livestock restocking						
Damascus	FAO	FAO							UNDP					FAO, WFP	
Aleppo		FAO	FAO	UNDP, FAO				FAO						FAO, WFP	
Rural Damascus	FAO	FAO	FAO, SARC	UNDP, ACSAD, FAO		FAO, WFP		FAO	FAO		FAO			FAO, WFP	ACSAD
Homs	FAO	AKD, FAO	SARC, ICRC, FAO	UNDP, FAO		FAO, WFP		UNDP, FAO	SARC		FAO			FAO, WFP	FAO
Hama	FAO	AKD, FAO	AKD, FAO, SARC	UNDP, AKD, FAO		AKD, FAO, WFP		UNDP, AKD, FAO	AKD		FAO			FAO, WFP	
Lattakia	FAO	FAO		UNDP, SARC	SARC	UNDP, FAO, WFP		FAO	UNDP, SARC		FAO		FAO	FAO, WFP	
Idlib												FAO	FAO	FAO, WFP	
Al-Hasakeh		ACSAD, FAO	FAO, ACSAD, SARC	UNDP, ACSAD		UNDP, ACSAD		FAO, ACSAD	UNDP					FAO, WFP	ACSAD
Deir-ez-Zor														FAO, WFP	
Tartous	FAO	FAO		UNDP, FAO, WFP		FAO, WFP		FAO	UNDP		FAO			FAO, WFP	
Ar-Raqqa														FAO, WFP	
Dar'a		ACSAD, FAO	ACSAD, FAO	ACSAD, FAO				ACSAD, FAO	ACSAD					FAO, WFP	ACSAD
As-Sweida		FAO	SARC, FAO	FAO				FAO	FAO					FAO, WFP	
Quneitra		FAO	SARC	FAO				FAO						FAO, WFP	

## Market based responses:

- Objective: streamline the design, development and implementation of cash based responses
- Improve programs, identify and mitigate risks as well as connect stakeholders to the best and most current information and practices

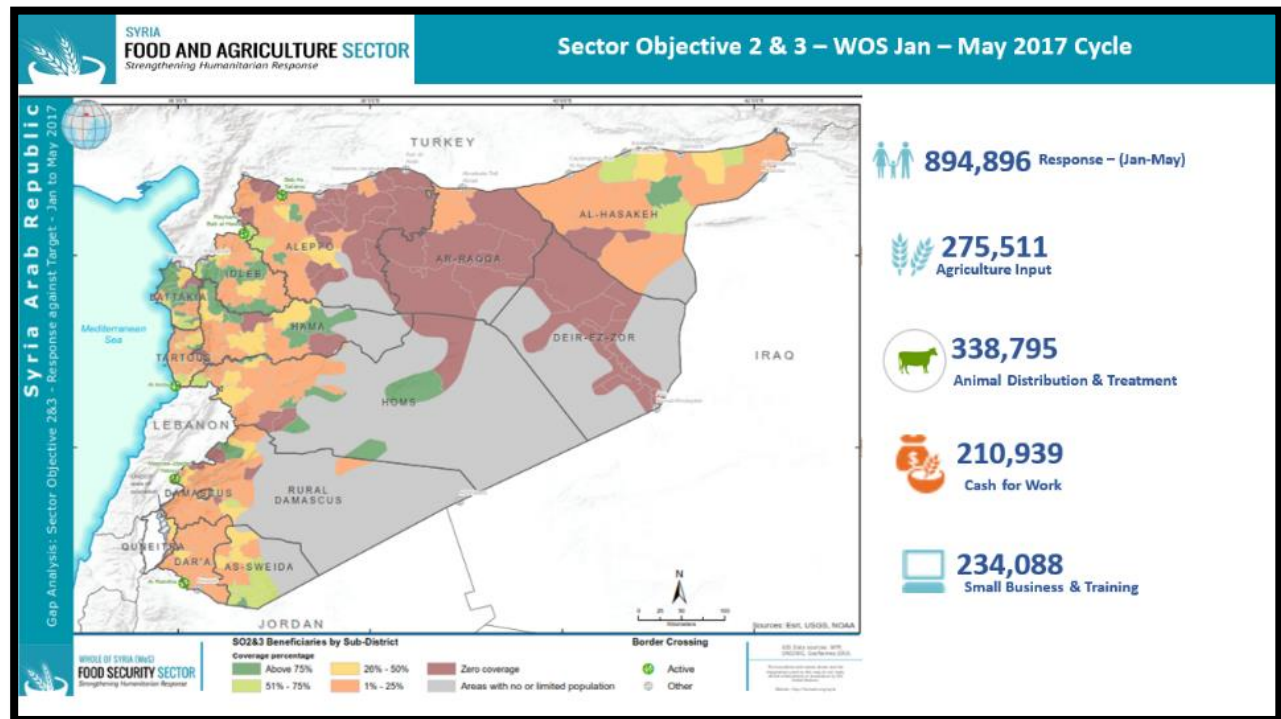
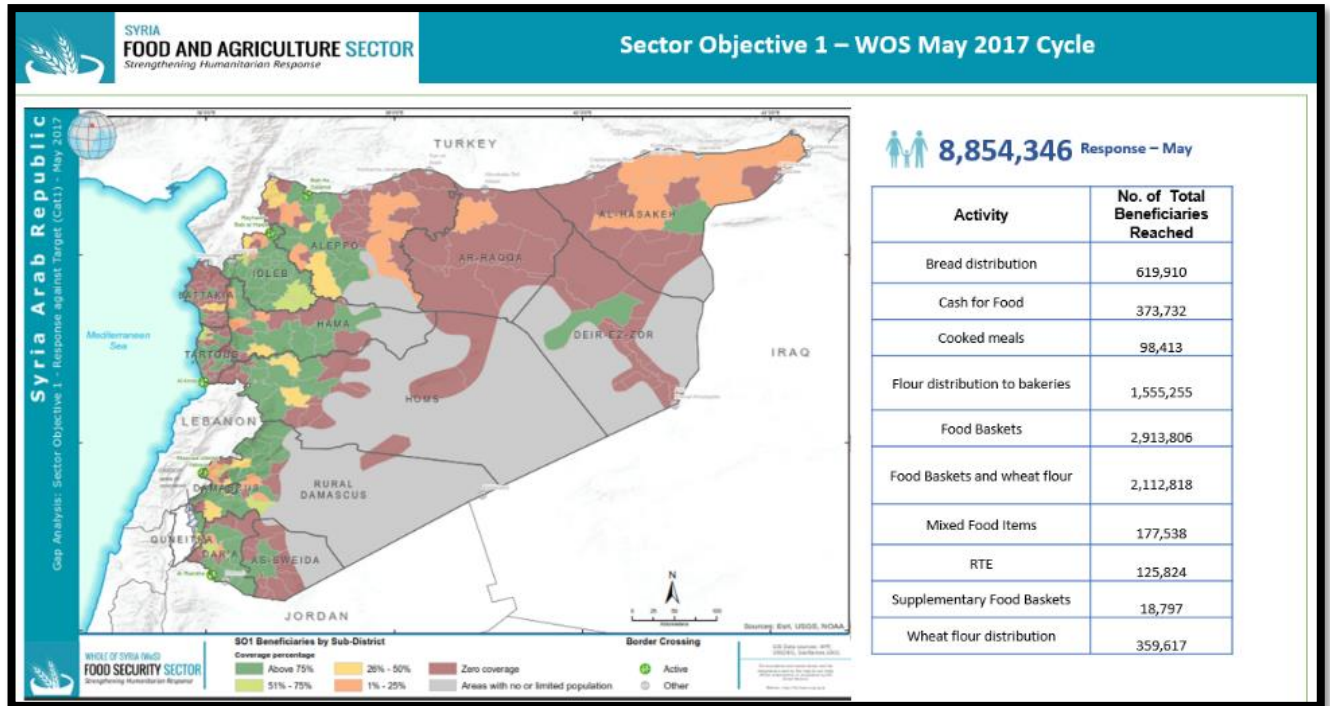
Name of Partner	when did the Cash/market-based response started	Geographical coverage	Number of beneficiaries	Program modality (cash, vouchers etc)	Assistance value / frequency	Transfer modality (e.g. vouchers, e-cards, direct cash payouts etc)	Summary of the beneficiary selection criteria	Is it being reported in 4ws? / which sector?	Any additional information
UNICEF	November 2016	Started in Aleppo and Latakia. Will start in Tartous & R. Damascus soon	Aleppo: 4,733 Lattakia: 1,300 Tartous: 1,200 R. Damascus: 2,200	Direct Cash transfer	Bi-Monthly transfer (\$80 – 41,000 SP)	Direct Cash through money transfer company (Al Haram)	Children with disabilities in the selected governorates (eligibility criteria can be shared upon request)	Yes, ERL sector	Lists and Information related to beneficiaries are collected by UNICEF's partners (NGOs) in each governorate
WFP	July 2014	Homs, Tartus, Latakia, Rural Damascus & Adding	Planned: 30,100 Actual: 12,139 & adding	Vouchers	Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW)	Vouchers	Either verifiably pregnant OR breastfeeding an infant under the age of six months	Yes from beginning of 2017 to nutrition sector	
WFP	November 2016	Homs, Latakia and adding	Planned: 26,500 Current: 1,276 and adding	Vouchers	Out of School Children (OOSC)	Vouchers	OOSC is targeting the UNICEF Curriculum B activity.	Yes from beginning of 2017 to Education sector	
WFP	June 2017	Homs, Latakia, Tartus and adding	Planned: 20,000 Current: 8,975 and adding	Vouchers	Livelihood	Vouchers	Beneficiaries participating with vocational training from UNDP	No	
TdH	June 2017	Aleppo – Jebel Samaan – Aleppo-Aleppo and Nairab	3425/ To be increased next month to 5975 beneficiaries	Conditioned vouchers	685/ To be increased next months to 1195	Food vouchers	Families with disabled members	To the food security and agriculture sector	In the coming months we will expand this activity in other governorates

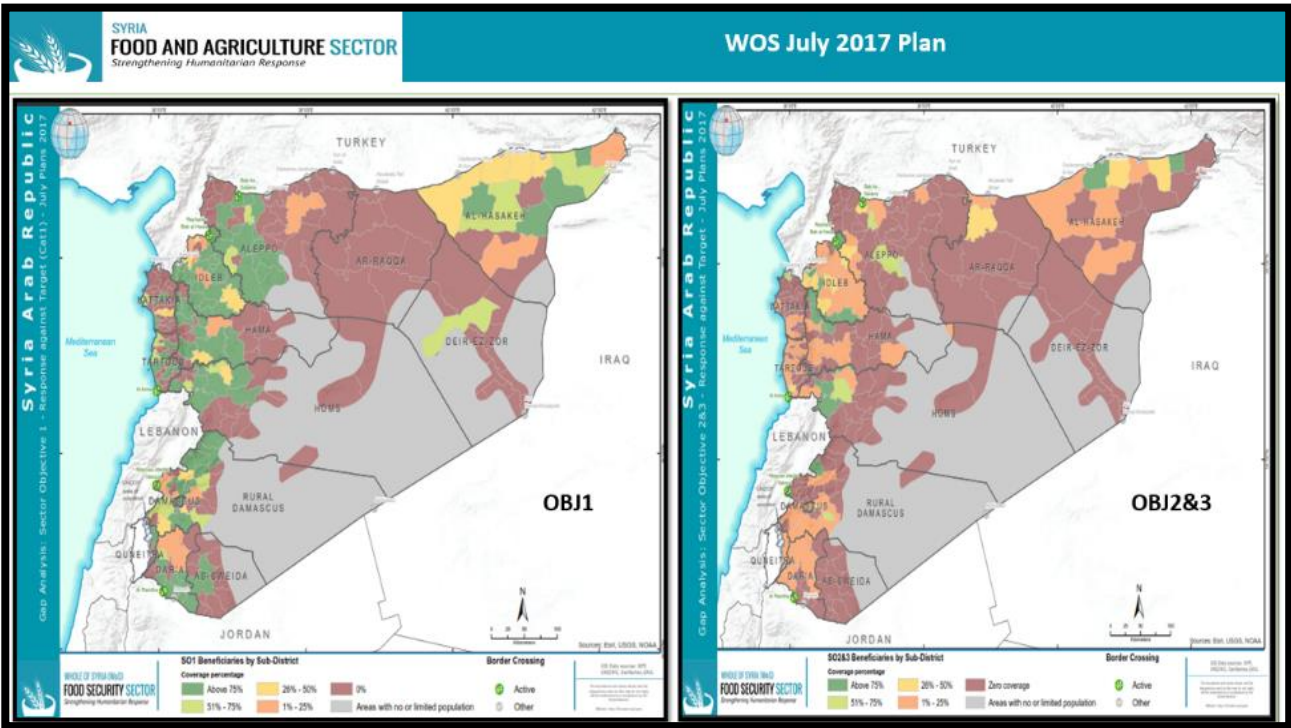
## UNRWA Cash Assistance:

- UNRWA Started its cash assistance project in 2012 following the crisis in Syria.
- Cash Assistance support for Palestine refugees in Syria has been offering beneficiaries the flexibility to respond to their own needs.
- UNRWA provides cash assistance to 430,000 Palestine Refugees.
- Each person receives USD 32/month. USD 64/per in each round.
- Currently, UNRWA has three cash assistance distribution partners (Al Haram, BEMO, Al Baraka).
- Transaction cost is very low (0.0029%).
- UNRWA has 50 staff to support the entire operation including monitoring.
- For delegation process was developed and tailored to serve specific Palestine refugee groups who are not able to reach Cash assistance distribution outlets.
- Extract the beneficiaries data from our database EMAS before the cash round starts, then send the list of beneficiaries to our partners for distribution, finally inform beneficiaries by SMS.
- Beneficiaries receive cash assistance from designated partners.
- Any member of a family over 18 years old is eligible to collect the cash on behalf of the family.
- Those who can't receive the cash assistance following the first SMS, UNRWA invites them again to collect the cash.
- UNRWA verifies the physical presence of the refugees in Syria once in a year.
- Closing the round, checking disbursement data received from partners and preparation of report.



## Gaps/Coverage Analysis:





**Next Meeting:** To be held on 3 August 2017