Meeting Minutes

Location: Online Zoom Meeting, Damascus, Syria

Date: 03/12/2020

Time: 10:00 – 11:00 am

Agenda
1. Operational Updates and Achievements – IMO,
2. Updates on 2nd SHF Standard Allocation – FAS Coordinator,
3. HPC updates (Assessments, HNO 2021 planning etc) – FAS Coordinator,
4. 2020 – 2021 Agriculture Seasonal Update - 2020/21 – FAO,
5. Community-based Rural Development Committees – All,
6. AOB and wrap-up – 5 mins,

Participants
i. OCHA
ii. EcRec Livelihood Program
iii. OXFAM
iv. TGH
v. COOPI
vi. ADRA
vii. FAO
viii. DORCAS
ix. PUI
x. RESCATE
xi. UNHCR
xii. AKD
xiii. ZOA
xiv. ICRC
xv. WFP
xvi. ACF

Name of coordinator chairing meeting: Jameson Zvizvai – FAS Coordinator (FAO)

1. Opening remarks
   ▪ Jameson officially announced that Kenneth Anyanzo, the FAS coordinator, was leaving the mission this week and he wished Kenneth well in his future endeavors and path.
   ▪ The coordinator also announced the arrival of Moteb Marei who will be serving as the IMO for Damascus-hub FAS. He will deliver on various information management outputs and dashboards and we wish him well in his newly assigned role. The coordinator asked all FAS members to provide Moteb with the usual support and information.
2. **Operational Updates and Achievements:**
   - The IMO highlighted that **4,647,817** beneficiaries were reached or assisted by the sector from January to September 2020. This comprises **3,779,813** beneficiaries supported through S01 activities and **868,004** through S02 & S03.

3. **Updates on 2nd SHF Standard Allocation:** ([download the presentation](#))
   - The 2nd SHF Standard Allocation was designed to fill critical gaps of assistance, prioritising to target underserved and newly assessed locations that have high severity scales. The 2nd standard allocation is adopting a funding gap analysis based on the mapping of 1st SHF standard allocation coverage and 2020 5Ws response analysis,
   - The coordinator highlighted that the FAS was consulted by OCHA and provided input to the formulation of 2nd SHF Standard Allocation (SA) Paper,
   - All sectors are still anticipating the official launch of the 2nd SHF standard allocation paper and the FAS will keep the membership updated,
   - **The coordinator highlighted that eligible activities that were submitted for consideration for the FAS include;**
     i. Food Assistance,
     ii. Winter feeds for livestock,
     iii. Winter crop production,
     iv. Quick impact livelihoods (vegetable production, poultry production), also targeting areas affected by Fires.
   - **In terms of priority locations, the FAS proposed to prioritize;**
     i. Underserved areas,
     ii. Areas with high levels of severity of food insecurity and
     iii. Areas affected by Crop Fires.
Since we were not sure about when the official launch would be made, there was need to consider crop production and livestock feed for both winter and summer and not only focus on winter,

OCHA also indicated that the launch will be made soon and the specific date was not yet set.

Sector members also wanted to know if coastal areas affected by wild fires were also included since the needs were quite dire. The sector coordinator indicated that areas affected by crop fires were also included in the sector’s submission to OCHA since a significant number of families lost their source of livelihoods and it was important to support them so that they do not slide into food insecurity.

4. **HPC updates (Assessments, HNO planning etc)**
   - In terms of the Humanitarian Program Cycle (HPC), the coordinator indicated that the sector had developed a timeline to deliver on the 2021 HNO,
   - The FSA in GoS areas and FSLA data collection and analysis was already underway and the data sets will be merged once both assessments are completed. The FSA and FSLA will most likely be completed by the 3\textsuperscript{rd} week of December 2020,
   - Hub-level and WoS validation of assessment results will be done in the 1\textsuperscript{st} and 2\textsuperscript{nd} week respectively,
   - This will result in the WoS validation of assessment results and determination of PiN figures through a 2021 HNO workshop. The sector will target to submit the final 2021 HNO to OCHA by 21\textsuperscript{st} January 2021 after endorsement by the CLAs.

5. **Agriculture Seasonal Update - 2020/21 by Jalal (Food Security Officer – FAO)**

   - Jalal (FAO) provided some seasonal outlook for the current ongoing winter season. His updated covered agro-climatic conditions and observations, crop situation, livestock and rangeland situation, agricultural production input availability and he also proffered some conclusions and recommendations to the sector,
   - In September 2020, low amounts of rainfall were received in Latakia and Tartous while in October 2020 there was no rainfall at all in all Governorates,
   - In terms of temperature, it was generally higher than the long-term averages (on average about 5 C° higher). However, temperature was 12\% higher than the long-term average in the coastal area and 24\% higher in Quneitra,
   - In terms of the crop situation for barley, sowing was observed to have begun from mid-October 2020 and the cultivated area had reached 50\% of the area planned for cultivation as of November 2020. For wheat, planting started in mid-November 2020 in most governorates and the cultivated area reached 30\% of the area planned for cultivation as of November 2020,
   - The rangeland condition and vegetation cover had generally improved due to the heavy rains received in November 2020,
   - In terms of availability of agriculture inputs, there is limited availability of fertilizers (Urea) and fuels (Diesel) in most regions and governorates. The availability of seed, livestock feed, veterinary medicine and agro-chemicals such as pesticides is quite varied across Governorates. Partners were also advised to refer to the FAO Market Bulletin of September and October 2020. The bulletin provides more specific information on the availability and prevailing prices of agriculture inputs and commodities,
   - In terms of prices, most of the fodder commodity prices continued to rise at an average of 22\% from September 2020 to October 2020. Other input prices increased by an average of 21\% over the previous month.
   - In November 2020, livestock has been observed to be in acceptable to good condition in most governorates.
   - In conclusion, FAS partners and farmers involved in agricultural activities were encouraged to closely monitor the weather conditions (Rainfall, Temperature and Humidity). There was also need to scale-up support to crisis-affected farmers through providing agricultural production inputs during the current winter agricultural season to enhance access to inputs due to the frequent market price increases observed.
• The coordinator also echoed the recommendations from Jalal by highlighting that through supporting small-scale farmers in wheat production, the shortages of wheat flour and bread can be fundamentally addressed.

6. **Community-based Rural Development Committees**

• The coordinator also highlighted that most organizations within the sector received letters from MAAR highlighting that the Ministry would be considering establishing community-based rural development committees.

• Sector members in attendance highlighted their concerns with such a move but the coordinator highlighted that the concerns are well noted but FAO will meet the minister to get more clarification and once we have more information on this, the sector colleagues will be appraised.

**AOB:**

There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:55 am.