SYRIA HCT
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
SECTOR

Meeting Minutes: Food and Agriculture Sector (FAS) Monthly Meeting (July 2022)

Location: Online MS. TEAMS Meeting, Damascus, Syria

Date: 03/07/2022

Time: 02:00 PM – 03:00 PM

Agenda

1. Opening remarks and key sector updates: 2
2. HPC 2022 Updates and Planning on Assessments [Download]: 2
3. First 2022 SHF Standard Allocation: 2
4. AOB: 5

Organizations of Participants:

i. ACF – INGO
ii. ADRA - INGO
iii. AKF - INGO
iv. ECHO - INGO
v. FAO – UN Agency
vi. FCA – INGO
vii. HEKS/EPER - INGO
viii. ICRC - INGO
ix. OCHA - UN Agency
x. OXFAM - INGO
xi. TAMAYOZ - NGO
xii. UNHCR - UN Agency
xiii. UNRWA - UN Agency
xiv. WFP - UN Agency
xv. ZOA - INGO

Name of coordinators chairing meeting:

1. Mohie Alwahsh – FAS Coordinator (WFP) - Chairperson.
2. Jameson Zvizvai – FAS Co-Coordinator (FAO) - Co-Chairperson.

3. Ruba Khanji – FAS Gender Focal Point.
4. Moteb Marei - FAS IMO – Facilitator.

1. Opening remarks and key sector updates:

- The FAS coordinator started the meeting by welcoming all participants.
- The WoS FSS staff retreat was held in Beirut one week prior to the cluster meeting. Many discussions went around strengthening the humanitarian response and coordination in WoS. Attendees from gFSC joined the retreat on the last day and a partner who works as a third party with WoS FSS.
- The sector is working on strengthening its communication and advocacy work bringing a robust communication strategy to the sector in cooperation with gFSC communication team.
- Moreover, on the IM side, the sector is developing the reporting system with support from OCHA HCT to move from MS Excel to Activity Info which supports submitting timely data to the sector. IM workshop was held with IMOs from FAS partners and feedback was received. Currently, the sector IMOs working on addressing comments, and the final version will be released for testing in August 2022.

2. HPC 2022 Updates and Planning on Assessments [Download]:

- Food Security Assessment (FSA) is planned for August 2022 by WFP. FSA/FSLA findings will inform HNO 2023. FAO is also conducting an assessment on production to understand the losses of the current season, and this will also be incorporated into the HNO.
- HRP 2022 – 2023 will be updated based on the HNO and funding requirement for 2023. The module of project submission will be reopened so partners who submitted multi-year HRP will have an opportunity to conduct another review for that. This will feed into the sector chapter in the HRP.
- Partners asked to give more time in terms of submitting their HRP than last year and the sector will address to OCHA.

3. First 2022 SHF Standard Allocation:

- SHF team launched the 1st Standard Allocation from 29th Jun to 26th Jul 2022, with 15 working days for proposal development and submission.
- This Standard Allocation prioritizes a multi-sectoral response to the deteriorating nutrition situation and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable people in areas with high severity needs and poor response reach. The two main priorities are:

1. Priority 1: Strengthening nutrition response through the provision of multi-sector nutrition assistance in the areas with the highest severity of nutrition needs and poor response reach. The response will focus on addressing key determinants of malnutrition. The focus of this priority:
    - Provision of **specialized treatment** and **management of malnutrition,**

- Boosting the **limited nutrition response capacity** and strengthening multi-sector programming (i.e. holistically).

- Guided by **UNICEF's Conceptual Framework** to address immediate and underlying determinants of maternal and child malnutrition.
- PRIORITY 1 KEY OBJECTIVE: To reduce the burden of **rising malnutrition** on children and women through addressing **immediate determinants** of malnutrition:
- There are 4 objectives under priority 1, but FAS will contribute to:
  - **Objective 1**: Contribute to reduction of wasting among children and women; and
  - **Objective 2**: Contribute to reduction in low birth weight.
- **Amount Allocated for this priority: 10 – 15 million USD.**
- PRIORITY 1: FAS ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR OBJECTIVES 1 & 2:

  I. **Supplementary food assistance interventions** that focus on the first 1,000 days i.e. targeting vulnerable families with children under 2 and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs) in prioritized locations - alongside Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) and nutrition education through relevant approaches. *Guided by SO1 sector guidance and package, Target U2's and PLW, Integrate with Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) and nutrition education (NE).*

  II. **Promoting and training on nutrition sensitive agriculture (NSA)**, including nutrition sensitive crop production, nutrition-sensitive livestock production, post-harvest handling, food preservation and storage. *Guided by SO2/SO3 sector guidance and packages, NSA is about making food more* ***available/accessible/diverse and nutritious,*** *Maximize agriculture's* ***contribution to nutrition, FAS priorities should promote production of nutritionally-dense foods (vegetables, poultry etc) to enhance dietary diversity, overcome malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies – Target poor and vulnerable WHHs.***

  III. Linked to and integrated with the above FSA interventions above, sector partners are also encouraged to propose context-specific, evidence-based pre and post-production interventions that **limit or minimize food loss and waste (FLW)**, with the aim of addressing some of the underlying causes of malnutrition. Sector partners are advised to focus on addressing the "micro-level" causes of FLW. These are the causes of FLW, targeting any particular stage of the food chain where FLW occurs, from production to consumption. *Choice of* ***right varieties for location*** *(for best quality)& target market, Promoting* ***disease and stress-resistant varieties*** *of crops, Proper* ***harvest timing*** *and scheduling for target markets, Support* ***improved and low-cost PHS practices*** *to reduce PHS deterioration, especially for perishables at the farm level.* ***Food Processing and Marketing,***

Awareness raising on FLW, Promoting post-production innovations such as low-cost drying or food processing,

2. Priority 2: Strengthening the delivery of priority humanitarian assistance planned for in the 2022-2023 HRP in areas of high needs and low coverage of response. The response will focus on strengthening resilience.

Almost a 30% of food produced for human consumption - approximately 1.3 billion tons per year - is either lost or wasted globally (FAO).

The INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FOOD LOSS AND WASTE REDUCTION - 29th September 2022.

- Provision of **specialized treatment** and **management of malnutrition**,
- Boosting the **limited nutrition response capacity** and strengthening multi-sector programming (i.e. holistically).

- PRIORITY 2 KEY OBJECTIVES: 1) Improve the most vulnerable population access to **basic critical services**, 2) Enable **resilience-building** and **integrated programming** in targeted areas through striking a balance and ensuring complementarity of life saving and life sustaining interventions.
- **Amount Allocated for this priority: 15 – 20 million USD.**
- PRIORITY 1: FAS ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR OBJECTIVES 1 & 2:

  I. Provision of **Food and Cash and Voucher Assistance** to food insecure households in underserved and food insecure locations with the highest severity levels of food insecurity (phase 3 and above),

  II. Supporting **Quick Impact Livelihoods Projects** with immediate consumption benefits to enhance food consumption and availability at household level (HH vegetable production, poultry production, HH Fish, mushrooms production and food processing on a small scale and cash for work for rehabilitation actions),

  III. Supporting **Livestock and Poultry production** targeting vulnerable small-scale breeders, in particular livestock feed/support to fodder production provision and vaccination and provision of veterinary kits, artificial insemination (To protect productive assets and minimize distress selling of animals).

  IV. **Provision of Critical Agriculture Inputs** to support the production of staple food crops in locations facing high levels of food insecurity such as cereals, and legumes crops.

  V. Scale-up support to **Market-driven Income-Generating Activities (IGAs)** including vocational training based on beneficiary preferences (Beekeeping, food/dairy processing, mushroom production and vegetable production) and finally,

VI. **Light Rehabilitation of Critical Livelihoods Infrastructure** with direct benefits for food production and distribution (irrigation canals, rainwater harvesting, Gray Water Treatment, bakeries and flour mills to assist the wheat value chain, wells and irrigation systems). *FAS partners encouraged to propose interventions that enhance multi-sectoral programmatic integration, where feasible, the FAS encourages partners to have integrated or combined concepts such as "from farm to bread - FtB", Sector partners encouraged to adopt a value chain and food system approach.*

IMPORTANT: Priority 1 and 2 Geographical Prioritization

- **FAS applied robust geographical targeting process to identify and prioritize the underserved and underfunded locations,**
- **Priority is on locations with high severity of needs (i.e. scale of 4) and**
- **High prevalence of food insecurity above 70% .**
- **Gap analysis findings where areas have low response below 50%.**

- However, there is a window for partners to submit proposals outside the geographical areas allocated by FAS and SHF if they provide a needs assessment on subdistrict level.
- **Please refer to the SHF website for guidance on budget development as well as the SHF Operational Manual.**

4. AOB:

- The sector team shared guidance on the Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture (NSA) under Priority 2 Multisector Envelope.

The meeting ended at 15:15 AM and the date for the next meeting will be communicated in due course.