

Meeting Minutes: Food and Agriculture Sector (FAS) Monthly Meeting (May 2023)

Location: In-Person, WFP Office, Damascus, and Online MS. TEAMS Meeting.

Date: 04/05/2023

Time: 11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon.

Agenda:

- ❖ [Updates and key remarks from the FAS.](#)
- ❖ [EQ response updates.](#)
- ❖ [HRP revision 2023 and key priorities by the FAS.](#)
- ❖ [Targeting and early recovery mainstreaming for FAS.](#)
- ❖ [AoB](#)

Organizations of Participants:

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| i. | AAH (ACF) – INGO. | xi. | Mission East – INGO. |
| ii. | ADRA – INGO. | xii. | NRC – INGO. |
| iii. | CARITAS – INGO. | xiii. | OCHA – UN Agency. |
| iv. | COOPI – INGO. | xiv. | OXFAM – INGO. |
| v. | FAO – UN Agency. | xv. | PUI – INGO. |
| vi. | FCA – UN Agency. | xvi. | TAMAYOZ – NGO. |
| vii. | GOPA – NGO. | xvii. | UNHCR – UN Agency. |
| viii. | GVC – INGO. | xviii. | UNRWA – UN Agency. |
| ix. | HEKS-EPER – INGO. | xix. | WFP – UN Agency. |
| x. | ICRC – INGO. | xx. | ZOA – INGO. |

Name of coordinators chairing meeting:

1. Mohie Alwahsh – FAS Coordinator – Meeting Chairperson.
2. Jalal – FAS AWG Chair.
3. Moteb Marei – FAS IMO.
4. Dima Najjar – FAS Comms and Reports Officer.

Updates and key remarks from the FAS [DWOLoad]:

- The Food Security Assessment FSA is planned for June 2023 by WFP.
- The assessment findings are planned to be completed by late September or early October.
- This will be followed by the HNO validation workshop to evaluate the FSA findings and agree on the severity scale for the whole country using the sector's methodology of different FAS indicators.
- FAO will continue using the agriculture indicators to inform HNO and CFSAM didn't conducted due to logistical challenges.
- FAS partners are encouraged to participate in the workshop and share any assessment completed at the FSA time in order to cross-check the findings.
- MSNA: the methodology will be shared with FAS partners for feedback. The EQ related questions will be included as well.

EQ response updates:

- The summary analysis shows the total reach of cumulative RTEs 274,314 as of 26th Apr 2023 since the beginning of the EQ response in the four affected governorates. In addition, 1,371,345 people were reached with Cooked Meals.
- The Gap analysis on the governorate indicates that 88% of the EQ-PiN were assisted with RTEs in Aleppo, while 30% were supported in Hama governorate.
- Some FAS partners were able to reach a few SDs in Idlib with RTEs response that covered only 2% of EQ-affected PiN from the HCT side.
- The Sector Coordinator advocated more for the RTEs/cooked meals response where IDPs don't have access to cooking materials and facilities. However, for people who have access to cooking facilities, it is highly recommended to support them with monthly food baskets for better dietary diversity and nutritional outcomes.

HRP revision 2023 and key priorities by the FAS Presentation:

- FSA programming will focus on earthquake-affected people in HCT response areas in Aleppo, Latakia, and Homs/Hama, and in Idlib and Aleppo areas reached through cross-border operations. It aims to ensure food assistance support to people hosted in and outside shelters, to ensure access

and availability to bread, distribute ready to eat kits, and scale up GFA in-kind or other response modality to meet the target.

- The HRP 2023 has been revised, the budget increased from 1.87 BN to 2.05 BN, and more projects related to the EQ were added.
- The plan is to phase out from emergency response [EQ-related] to regular response [HRP].

Targeting and early recovery mainstreaming for FAS:

- Protection Concerns around the targeting inside and outside the shelters. It is feasible to do cash for food inside and outside shelters.
- Approvals from the government are taking a long time which affects the programming.
- Response inside the shelter is challenging and the basic response is planned with a cash modality that might lead to keeping people inside shelters to continue receiving cash.
- The RTEs are recommended to continue only for 3 months after the emergency. However, there is an exemption for a few places where people are facing difficulties in moving to other places.
- Partners asked for a revision for the MEB, the last one was done in March 2022, and also SMEB.
- Cash for food value is set for 260,000 SYP with the exchange rate of 6,500 SYP for 1 USD.
- There is a difficulty to identify people to phase out from shelters.
- SARC in Aleppo has a list of people who will leave shelters.
- If the affected people have access to cooking materials and facilities it is recommended to distribute dry food baskets, otherwise cooked meals would be the alternative.
- RC is meeting with CBS to push on the recently released regulation on cash distribution to the EQ-affected people.
- COOPI: The population in Aleppo went back to the EQ-affected communities via hosting or to their main houses. The assessment is ongoing to identify the targeted HHs. Criteria used are: affected buildings, hosted and hosting families, and loss of LHH business assets. COOPI is in close coordination with WFP on national and subnational levels.
- WFP is covering targeted HHs around shelters. And also covering Idleb from the HCT side, partners are encouraged to reach out to cover the gap.
- WFP will assess the market starting in May.

- UNHCR: Developing cash for LLH interventions in Agriculture and will share the plans with FAS to avoid overlapping and to cover the gaps. The target is EQ-affected areas.

AOB:

- ❖ performance of 2022-2023 season (May 2023) FAS [[Download](#)]
- ❖ FAO team will share the crop production assessment with FAS partners.
- ❖ FAS partners are encouraged to report on the on 6 months plan response to the EQ.
- ❖ The Next FAS coordination meeting will be communicated in due course.