

AD HOC GARDENING MEETING

Location: WFP Meeting Room

Date: 3 March 2020

Time: 3:30 PM

PARTICIPANTS

13 Organizations (**18** individuals) in attendance;

Participants		
IOM	WVI	WFP
iMMAP	GUK	HELVETAS
ISCG	FAO	Solider Suisse
TWB	UNICEF	
UNHCR	CNRS	

AGENDA

This meeting was attended by Partners who are actively involved in Micro Gardening in the Refugee Camps. The intention was to share lessons learned and ensure active coordination and planning going forward.

- Welcome and Introductions
- Presentation and Discussion on Micro Gardening experiences and challenges
- Presentation on Guidance Notes (E&E) Presentation on livelihood activities by FSS
- Presentation on Micro Gardening by FAO
- AOB

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

- Lessons Learned:
 - Compost: Consolidate information on compost procurement and planning based on partner experiences
 - Soil: WVI to share Soil Resource Development Institute report on recommendations for crops for Ukhia and Teknaf.
 - CNRS to share findings of Soil Assessment with the group.
- Micro Gardening:
 - Recommended Crops: UNHCR to share recommended list of crops with FSS/ partners
 - FSS to recirculate MoM and Dashbord on Homestead gardening from previous meeting
 - FSS/ FAO and Partners agree that Homestead Gardening will no longer be used as a term, instead Micro Gardening and Kitchen Gardening will be used
 - A need exists to produce 'Recommended Response Document' that provides information on training and implementation for Micro-Gardening
 - Partners to share examples of Micro Gardening in the camps which will be included in the Recommended Response Document
- FSS to disseminate Guidance Notes (planting) to Partners

No	PROCEEDING	ACTION POINTS
1	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introductions: meeting chaired by Leah (Livelihood coordinator) - WVI were introduced to the partners as cochair 	
2	<p>Presentation and Discussion Micro Gardening experiences and challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided an overview on 'Partner Feedback' on Micro Gardening kits which covered various aspects including the gardening package (250-350 grams). The information collated from the partners highlighted that there were some discrepancies between partners regarding the size of the gardening space. - Need to prepare the ideal kits and a harmonized approach that covers fertilizer, pesticide, seeds, Integrated pest management. This will be based on understanding all packages currently being employed and this can be synchronized to develop a uniform package. FAO note that they want to know what fertilizer for example are being used. UNHCR note that they are providing dung, natural fertilizer and note that chemical fertilizer should not/ have not been provided. <p>Seasonal Cycle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Self-reliance (WFP) note that they do not have a clear answer on programming for seasons, due to developing new contracts. UNHCR have three seasons and will continue support the beneficiary's established from last year. They provide input twice but for three seasons. - Lessons learned : project cycles and duration <p>Fertilizer/ Compost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Livelihoods FSS asks all partners working on fertilizer/ composting initiatives whether they have established suppliers - CNRS note that it's not a large scale, they were unable to find a supplier to provide compost and noted that most compost is at pilot level and not commercial and is sourced from roughly 30 compost producers. CNRS are exercising national partners to attain Compost - Helvetas suggest a need to address this issue. They have 6k beneficiaries in last season in refugee camp and this required large quantity of compost which was hard to manage, and did not want the fresh cow dung, therefore, needed to be compost which was acquired from Ramu Upazila and there were challenges with quality. In addition, there is a need to reach out to partners to understand quantity cost of compost. Finally, Helvetas note that very little chemical fertilizer is needed and there is challenges managing this with the partners. - Self-reliance (WFP) – some compost is from Host Community and procured from implementing partners - UNHCR note that chemical fertilizer/ pesticide are not allowed in the camp and that this was informed and suggested by FAO - FSS Livelihood note action point on lessons learned and how to consolidate and coordinate the procurement and administration of compost between and amongst partners - Lessons learned: compost procurement and planning 	<p>Consolidate information on compost procurement and planning informed by partner experiences</p> <p>UNHCR to share recommended list of crops with Food Security Sector (FSS) and FAO</p> <p>FSS to recirculate MoM and Dashbord on Homestead gardening from previous meeting</p> <p>FSS Livelihoods to share 'key concerns' regarding the camp with Translators without Borders</p> <p>WVI to share Soil Resource Development Institute report on recommendations for crops for Ukhia and Teknaf.</p> <p>CNRS to share findings of Soil Assessment with the group.</p>

Soil Assessment

- CNRS have collected soil test for 10 locations, looking at % of soil nutrients (including zinc, calcium potassium, salinity, organic ingredients) and found that a scarcity of phosphorus and several other lacking nutrients. CNRS to share findings of Soil Assessment with the group.
- Seedlings/ Seeds:
- Helvetas noted that varieties of seeds are very important and that is related to the location and that there is emphasis on local varieties which they can harvest and save for next year. Noted that seedlings are also provided – including 2 seedlings which gave good results.
- FSS ask if any other partners are providing seedlings – and noted that yes, CNRS are distributing seedlings which have advantages and note that there are opportunities for multi-layer cropping systems.
- FAO ask which seeds are being used, local or hybrid – noted that the former is more sustainable as beneficiaries can get them independently. UNHCR note that they are using both, and this depends on the crop. For example, bitter melon is a hybrid. UNHCR note that a survey is done to inform crop selection. FAO ask if they have a list of recommended crops from the refugees and this should be included in the response package – UNHCR to share list with FAO.
- Soil resource development institute – have provided report on each Upazila and this could be a good source (noted by WVI) and crops are recommended by location but this is more general than the CNRS study. WVI to share Soil Resource Development Institute report on recommendations for crops for Ukhia and Teknaf.
- FAO asks what is more suitable to provide – seedlings or seeds and notes that when you provide seeds it includes and requires capacity strengthening and noted from UNCHR and group that both mechanisms are needed and this is agreed by group.

Trainings

- Trainings – question asked whether there is consistency in training between partners with messaging and dialogue used. Helvetas noted that they have developed a structure/ guidelines to their trainings.
- Helvetas used agricultural extension who are from the host community which involved three parts: i. training ii. pre implementation and during implementation and iii. mentoring which involved community to community sharing.
- There is a need to agree on target, content and application for trainings

Experience Sharing (open discussion)

- CNRS note that different gardening techniques have been employed based on Teknaf and Ukhia – and that CNRS have developed techniques to grow on the structures/ shelters which reduces issues with mulching and rotting and also snakes, which can, if not managed properly, use the gardening to enter houses, and 9 of 21 snakes in Teknaf are venomous. Therefore, notes that landscape informs process and that they have ‘an over the top’ process for Micro Garden in Teknaf, whilst in Ukhia it is able to use flat land. The

'over the top' structure is intended to protect the shelter and also to reduce damage from sunlight and heat.

- Helvetas note that they recommend to not implement/ supply crops that require tillage as this can lead to issues in the wet season with soil erosion
- Training components – a list was shared by partners to FSS and FSS Livelihoods asks if there are some core lessons learned
- Self Reliance (Louis) notes that there is a need to ensure that beneficiaries can maintain the gardens, as this activity is not going to generate income, so need to put this into context and this will be outlined in the guidelines
- UNHCR note that seeds are distributed but equipment needed for vertical gardening are not provided and this leads to issues with soil erosion.
- Recommendation: vertical gardening scaffolding equipment to be provided
- IOM note that there are many gardening activities which are taking place outside of the FSS Livelihoods spectrum, so the guidance need to reach these partners. Also that pilots should display the activities and how it operates, and noted that FSS have undertaken analysis at block level to note where activities are being undertaken. The meetings on locations of gardening will be recirculated by FSS (Dashboard on Homestead gardening and recirculate the MoM)
- Noted that sweet potato provides opportunities with high nutritional value and also potential economic benefits, plus able to grow using simple devices (eg in a bucket)
- Translators without borders are undertaking an assessment to look at landslides and this could include aspects of Micro Gardening, but specifically focuses on landslides and what can be done to address deforestation on slopes. Plan is to focus on high risk hotspots of landslides and focus in on those communities. Predicted that signage and messaging will be employed but depends on what factors are driving landslides and need to develop suitable interventions
- Translators without borders ask for FSS Livelihoods group to share key concerns regarding the camp, which could be relayed and communicated with site management

Lessons Learned summary:

Duration: Project Cycles – review and streamline across partner activities

Composting: Linking composting (and ensuring right type/quality linked with the land) Seeds:

- ensure that the seed type matches the planting area,
- look at local seeds vs. hybrid – what is best for the land and also for crop type (consider erosion)
- Seedlings – review lessons learned from partners on success of seedling programming
- What seeds do beneficiaries prefer? (partners to send list for summer distribution vs. winter season)

Location: how to best plant the seeds (vertical/ horizontal) adjusting for Ukhiya vs. Teknaf.

Soil: quality/chemical composition and how that feeds into the plans (to be shared by CNRS)

Pest control – effective methods? Partners to share best practices with FAO/FSS

	<p>Training: ensure sustainability – how to support beneficiaries in sustaining these projects. Include environmental components. Consistency across trainings – Department of Ag ex. - Length (hr. of training) - Dialect</p> <p>Inputs: Do they have the materials to plant (vertical/horizontal)</p>	
3	<p>Presentation on Guidance Notes (E&E)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FSS to disseminate Guidance Notes (Planting) to partners - Helvetas suggest that need to add small adjustment for guidance on climbing crops (include gourds) however, this is the final version and has already been shared and commented on. However, these suggestions can be included in the standardized 'Micro Gardening Kits' - Intercropping provides opportunities, noted by FAO and group. - WVI note that there is a need to share with the Government partners (Forest Department, Agricultural Department) and this could be circulated through the RRRC. 	<p>FSS to disseminate Guidance Notes to partners</p> <p>Guidance Notes to be shared by FSS to RRRC with intention to circulate to interested Government departments</p>
4	<p>Presentation on Micro Gardening by FAO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreed on terminology – micro gardening and/ or Kitchen Garden – noted we no longer use the term Homestead Garden as this refers to larger scale agriculture which is not occurring in the camps - FAO note that micro gardening is largely for supplementing nutritional diversity - FAO to share Presentation with partners - FAO encourage integration of Micro Gardening with different initiatives such as water harvesting, IPM, etc to create a more sustainable approach - FAO show examples of vertical gardening from Syria/ Lebanon case - Need to produce a concise document (Recommended Response Document) that provides information on training and implementation for Micro Gardening - Partners to share examples of Micro Gardening in the camps which will be included in the Recommended Response Document - CNRS showed example of the multilayer vertical micro gardening with different layers allocated to different crops. Which is being implemented in a number of camps and also has examples of IPM and novel techniques to maximise sunlight using reflection of wrapping paper. 	<p>FAO to share Presentation with partners</p> <p>A need exists to produce 'Recommended Response Document' that provides information on training and implementation for Micro-Gardening</p> <p>Partners to share examples of Micro Gardening in the camps which will be included in the Recommended Response Document</p> <p>CNRS to share more information and photographs of their 'over the top' Micro Gardening initiatives in Teknaf</p>

