

## Food and Agriculture Sector Meeting Report

### Minutes of 13 November 2017

**Chair:** Bernard MREWA and Joseph Oneka

**Venue:** Syria – Damascus – Four Season Hotel – Palmyra Venue (10:00 – 12:00)

**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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WFP revised targets- GFA</li> <li>Raqqa update</li> <li>Dier-ez-Zoir update</li> </ul>	WFP Coordinators/OCHA	10 min 20 min
Sector update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September Actuals maps</li> <li>December plans</li> </ul>	IMOs	20 min
HRP updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summary of partner's submissions and review process</li> <li>SHF-allocation</li> <li>Sector strategy/call for proposals and review process</li> </ul>	Coordinators	30 min
Technical presentation on Irrigation	FAO	15 min
Survival Expenditure Basket for Syria	WFP	10 min
Integration strategy roll-out	Coordinators	10 min
CBT working group-next steps	Coordinators	5 min

## Action Points from previous meeting

- The sector will facilitate an adhoc meeting to finalize on the Cash Based Transfers working group. This meeting should finalise the way forward pertaining group ToRs and nomination of the group facilitator
- Bilaterally follow up with partners on the integration strategy. This follow up will be based on planning reports submitted by partners
- Provide an update on the outcome of the SHF proposal review; in line with recent SHF standard allocation for the NES
- Partners highlighted the need to have a discussion focusing on the Agriculture plans for the coming season.

## Food and Agriculture Response and Plans Updates

AGENCY	Notes/highlights
ACF	<p><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AAH distributed 100 green-houses kits in Lattakia governorate, facilitated, in parallel, community sessions on vegetable and crop production (including soil and water management, pest and diseases management etc).</li> </ul> <p><b>November Plans</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install water harvesting units (17 units in Hasakeh, 18 in Daraa and 15 in Rural Damascus);</li> <li>• Distribute wheat seeds to 1,300 households in Lattakia, Hasakeh, Daraa, Rural Damascus and rural Aleppo (300 kg per household) – community sessions on crop production will be facilitated;</li> <li>• Distribute fodder (barley and processed fodder) to 1,300 households in Lattakia, Hasakeh, Daraa, Rural Damascus and rural Aleppo (500 kg per household) – community sessions on herd management will be facilitated;</li> <li>• Procure 600 home-gardening kits to be distributed to as many households in Hasakeh, Daraa, Rural Damascus and rural Aleppo.</li> </ul>
NRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of poultry and poultry feed has been completed to 427 HHs (4270 laying hens + 427 rooster + 64.05 of poultry feed) in: Souq Wadi Barada, Kafr Al Awameed, Deir Mqarren, Ein Al Fijeh, Deir Qanoun, Hrira, Barhlaia, Al Husainiah, Ifre and Kfeir Al Zeit.</li> <li>• Additional distribution day is planned on 14th of November 2017 for the 23 beneficiaries who were not able to come and collect their shares. Under this activity each household received 10 laying hens + 1 rooster + 150 kg of poultry feed.</li> <li>• Fodder distribution is planned during the third week of November to 260 HHs in Hreira, Ifre and Berhlia, each household will receive 500 kg of barley fodder.</li> <li>• Community training sessions on poultry and livestock care and management (MAAR) have been conducted to 211 of the above beneficiaries in Wadi Barada.</li> <li>• Distribution of vegetable seeds + farming tools is planned to take place during the first week of December to 145 HHs in Zabadani Plain.</li> </ul>
AKF	<b>OCTOBER ACHIEVEMENTS</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up the 197 dairy and agro-processing beneficiary women whose projects have been already established.</li> <li>• Provide technical training for 369 farmers under FFS beneficiary.</li> <li>• Distribute 69 vet kits and lab screening services to 74 livestock farmers.</li> <li>• Conduct 10 field days about conservation agriculture and poultry vaccination.</li> <li>• Implement agro- processing exhibition for (10 days), with 98 beneficiary women.</li> </ul> <p><b>PLANS FOR NOVEMBER – DECEMBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up agro-processing, dairy, molasses and home and kitchen gardens and saving groups.</li> <li>• Provide training for livestock and crop farmers and technicians through Farmer Field Schools in Hama and Tarots,</li> <li>• Implementing Cash for Work projects.</li> <li>• Design the 2018 work plan.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FAO</b></p>	<p><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 125 women-headed households received oyster mushroom seeds to help improve their livelihoods in Kesweh and Qatana in Rural Damascus. The selected households also received training on best practices in oyster mushroom cultivation and the nutritional value of the different types of mushrooms.</li> <li>• Distribution of tomato seeds in Tatous to 4000 HHs (1721 HHs in October) completed in cooperation with UNHCR who distributed Plastic sheets to 3000 HHs.</li> <li>• Started establishing of small-scale poultry units as income generating opportunity for 900 beneficiaries in Homs, Hama, Lattakia, Tartous.</li> <li>• Started the installation of 2 units of Milk Processing in Homs and Hama governorates.</li> </ul> <p><b>Nov - Dec Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• 3400 Households will be provided with Mushroom Production kits in Aleppo as income generating activities as well.</li> <li>• 50 HHs will be provided with Soap production tools as an income generating activities.</li> <li>• 2,700 HHs affected by the forest fires in 2016, will be supported to restore their production and rehabilitate their damaged tree, through provision of winter vegetable seeds packages as well as olive saplings and tools to produce compost (2700 HHs, sets of manual vegetable farming tools, olive saplings 25000, and shredders for composting (1 /District = 4 shredders)- irrigation kits for 42 HHs.</li> <li>• Distributing 1800 vegetable packages in Homs and Rural Damascus in cooperation with UNFPA.</li> </ul>

<p><b>ICRC/SARC</b></p>	<p><b>October 2017 Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In October, about 1 million beneficiaries were reached with food parcels, canned food parcels, bulk food and bread packs.</li> <li>• Area and beneficiary selection for the cereal and vegetable seeds program almost finalized, inputs (kits) for backyard vegetable production and fertilizer delivery to SARC branches continues (18'000 HHs). Also most of the fertilizer for cereal production delivered to most of the SARC branches.</li> <li>• Planning process almost finalized for the 2018 ICRC-SARC relief and livelihood programs</li> </ul> <p><b>NOV-DEC 2017:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cover about 1 million beneficiaries with various food packages per month, increase response in the North East</li> <li>• Complete the distribution of agricultural inputs (30'000 HHs/10 Governorates), combining vegetable and cereal seeds/fertilizer kits</li> <li>• Launch Post Distribution Monitoring of Agro program</li> <li>• Supporting bakeries and flour mills with new production lines and generators - 6 structural support (production lines - Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo) continues</li> </ul>
<p><b>IFRC/SARC</b></p>	<p><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of 20.000 Kg of brand wheat and 20.000 kg of barley in Al Hsn Community, Rural Homs</li> <li>• Distribution of 13.438 food parcels in Deir Er Zor, Damascus and Homs.</li> <li>• Finalised the tender for livestock distribution for 550 HHs in Rural Hama and Rural Jableh</li> <li>• Endline questionnaires finalised for the livestock distribution projects in Al Haffah District and Al Hsn Community started in October 2016</li> </ul> <p><b>November – December</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise the distribution of 6,000 vegetables packets in 6 Governorates</li> <li>• Finalise the distribution of livestock and feed from 550 HHs in Lattakia and Hama</li> <li>• Finalise the monitoring system for the backyard production kits</li> <li>• Distribution of 20,000 food parcels according to the needs requested by SARC</li> </ul>
<p><b>COOPI</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributing 650 winter kits, tools for gardening and fertilizers to 650 vulnerable families (IDPs and vulnerable host communities: female head of households, family with persons with disabilities...) in Qatana Region in November.</li> <li>• Budgeted in 200,000 \$ for the summer and winter kits + tools + fertilizers</li> <li>• <b>Key concern</b> : Most of the seeds vendors didn't fit the minimum criteria and mainly in their moisture range- implying most of vendors have a big stock of seeds that now are too old and will affect their germination rate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>TDH</b></p>	<p><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed our food parcels distribution in Aleppo, Homs, Damascus and Rural Damascus</li> </ul> <p><b>November 13, 2017</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue with food parcels distributions is Aleppo, Homs, Rural Damascus and Lattakia.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expanding food vouchers distribution to families with PwD members in Aleppo 510 vouchers, Rural Damascus – Jaramana 650, Daff Elshok 100, Qatana 200.</li> </ul>
<b>UNRWA</b>	<p><b>Food and NFI</b></p> <p>A total number 42,692 food baskets and 15,242 Hygiene kits were distributed to Palestine refugees</p> <p><b>Cash Assistance</b></p> <p>35,267 Palestine refugees received cash assistance in June. Each person received USD 64.</p>
<b>WFP</b>	<p><b>September</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>588,605 FRs have been distributed food to 2,943,025 beneficiaries out of planned 3.8 million.</li> </ul> <p><b>October</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dispatched 712,922 food rations enough to assist 3,564,610 beneficiaries (94% of the plan), equivalent to 41,559 MT, including 7,073 MT of WHF</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The operational plan for the period Sep/Nov 17 has been reduced to 3.8 million beneficiaries.</li> <li>Additional reduction is expected by Dec 17 up to 3.3 million.</li> <li>The operational plan for <b>2018 will target only 2.8</b> million. This is a reduced plan based on resources availability.</li> </ul> <p><b>November</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cycle deliveries started aiming to <b>reach 3.8 million people including IACs.</b></li> </ul>

## **WFP's Reduction Strategy**

### **❖ Overview**

- The reduction was due to resources/fund availability.
- Delay in the shipments due to Turkish Origin delayed the shipments and resulted in higher food costs.
- The reduction in beneficiaries number rather than in the food basket
- Reduced plan as follow: (3.8 during Sep to Nov 17, 3.3 during Dec 17, Continue the reduction during 2018 to start with 2.8 million).
- Reduced plans includes IACs (a buffer of 100,000 beneficiaries to be covered by IACs.
- No reduction for the North East.
- Reduction in the XB.

### ❖ The Basis of the Reduction

- More reduction in stable and secure areas.
- More reduction in the areas where markets are functioning and stable.
- More reduction in the areas where livelihoods activities started (Integration/transition strategy).
- Less reduction in the areas where higher food insecurity reported by VAM and FSS (HTR areas, Besieged areas, North East).
- 2018 reduction was set differently with only one element of the above which is food insecurity prevalence. Proportional allocation for 2.8 million from the 6.5 million in need.

### **NES Food assistance Responses- October Updates**

- ✓ A total of 454,451 beneficiaries were reached in October across NES (Ar-Raqqa, Al hasakeh, De-ez-Zor and Aleppo) with food assistance (food baskets, ready to eat rations, food vouchers, cash grants and bread).
- ✓ In Ar Raqqa, 294,074 beneficiaries by WFP and 5 XB INGOs in Tall Abyad, Suluk, Ein Issa, Jurneyyeh, Ath-Thawrah, Mansoura, Karama, Sabkha and Ar-Raqqa sub-districts with Food Assistance.
- ✓ In Al hasakeh, 129,144 beneficiaries were reached in October in Ras Al-Ayn Beir Al-Helo and Areesheh sub-districts respectively in Mabruka, Al-Hol and Areesheh Camps, and Areesheh surroundings.
- ✓ In De-ez Zor, 27,328 beneficiaries by WFP and one XB INGO, in Kisreh sub-district in Abu Khashab and Mkman.
- ✓ In Aleppo, 3,905 beneficiaries by 2 XB INGOs in October in Menbij and Ain Al-Arab districts with food assistance.

### **NES Food assistance Responses Plan - November Updates**

- ✓ Food Security Sector partners (WFP and 9 XB partners) will be able to cover food needs for a total of 574,731 people in November thru different modalities based on needs and context (RTERs, FBs, CBR and bread).
- ✓ Additionally, two “micro plans” for both Areesheh and Twehina were setup to ensure regular distribution while a proper allocation mechanism has been set up in the other UNHCR managed camps for both Emergency and Monthly Food distributions among NES FSS partners.
- ✓ Above two micro-plans are expected to cover 111,915 beneficiaries in Areesheh (without WFP support and other non-HRP partners) and 1,500 hhs in Twehina camp with monthly ration from WFP plus 10days Dry Food Ration by XB partners.
- ✓ Similar close field coordination mechanisms have been put in place for Tabqa City and Surroundings between WFP and 4XB partners to address food needs for 95,930 beneficiaries.
- ✓ Close monitoring of the Raqqa City situation is ongoing although no direct interventions are planned into the city by FSS partners.

## **NES Response Gaps and Challenges**

### ❖ Challenges

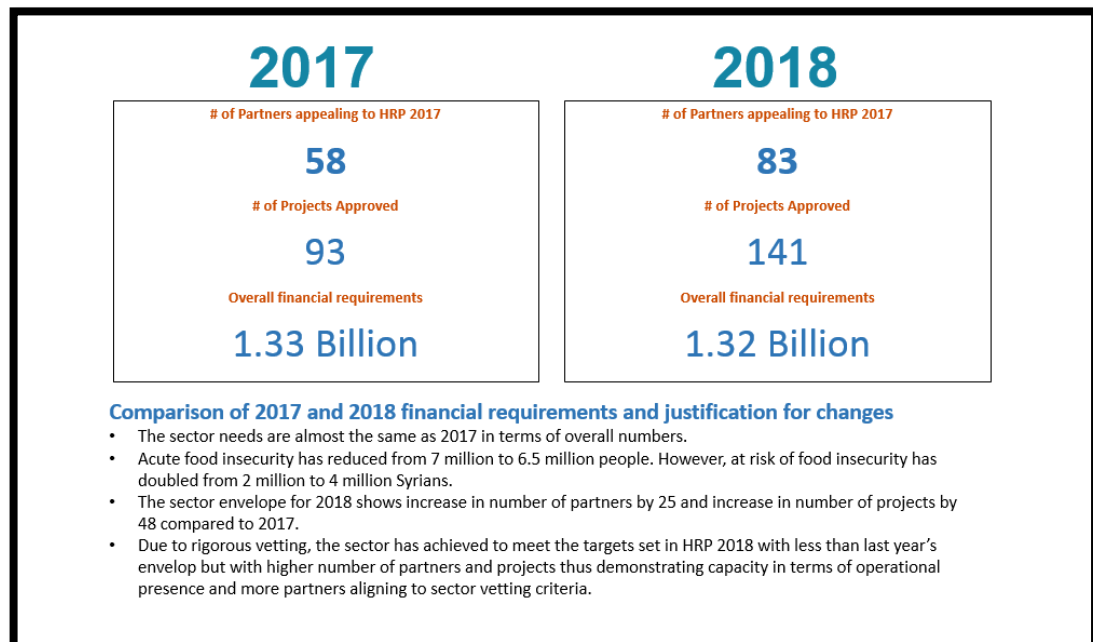
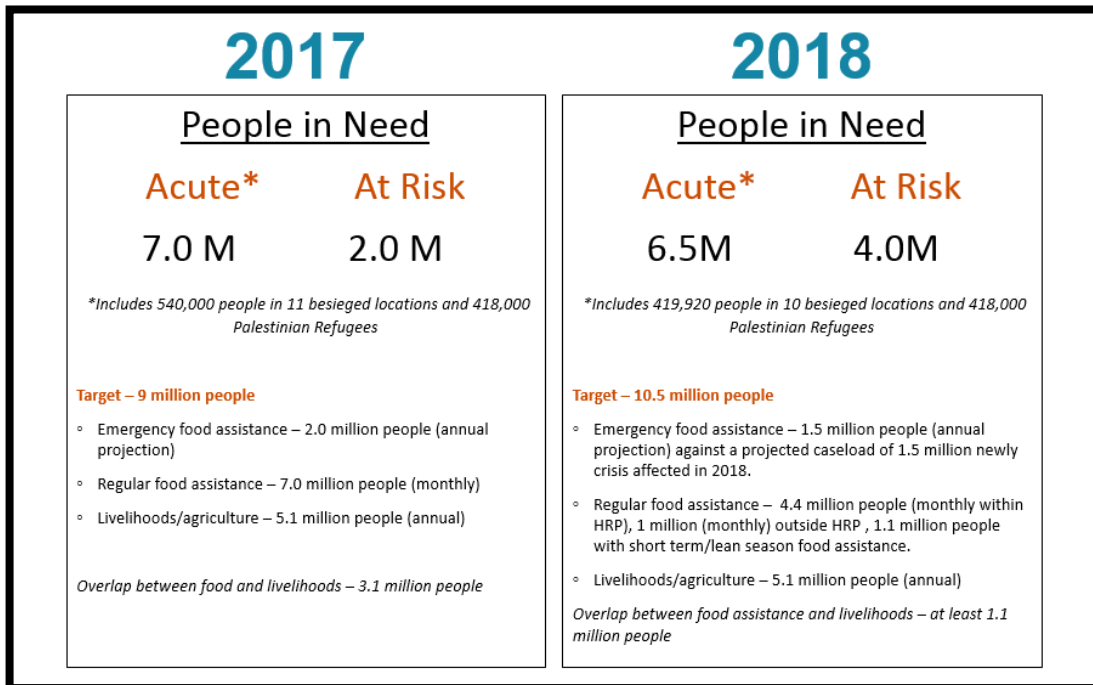
- ✓ Security incidents and heightened tensions reported in Twehina, Areesheh camps and surroundings, therefore hindering the distribution of food assistance.
- ✓ There is high risks involved with movement of returnees to the outskirts of Raqqa due to high contaminations by explosive hazards.
- ✓ IDPs currently located in and around Twehina have shown lack of willingness to relocate to the initially suggested alternative location situated in Safsafa. Major concerns are administration and management in & around the camp related to safety, freedom of movement and types of assistance they would be receiving.
- ✓ Ein Issa has been the subject of numerous protection concerns for vulnerable women and children.

### ❖ Gaps

- ✓ Coverage of Menbij District – in informal settlements and host communities.
- ✓ Coverage of villages around Raqqa City (north, south, east and west) which have not been either sufficiently or regularly covered or reached at all due to security risks.
- ✓ Unsafe access of Abu Khashab and Al-Malha Checkpoints and/or Informal Settlements for incoming IDPs.

## **SHF**

- 15 million overall for 8 Sector, as follows:
  - **Priority 1:** Main IDP sites/Transit camps (i.e., Areesha Transit camp, Al Hole Transit camp, Mabrouka, and Ein Issa Transit camp)
  - **Priority 2:** Shelters and other Informal sites in NES (i.e., Al Tweihina makeshift camp, and Tabqa city: collective shelters, unfinished buildings hosting IDPs)
  - **Priority3:** IDPs in Hassakeh and Qamishli cities
- 1.5 million- Food and Agriculture Sector, Provision of food assistance to IDPs through Ready to Eat rations (RTER), cooked meals and monthly food rations as appropriate and consistent with the sector guidelines. Priority locations will be Areesha Transit camp, Al Hole Transit camp, Mabrouka, and Ein Issa Transit camp.





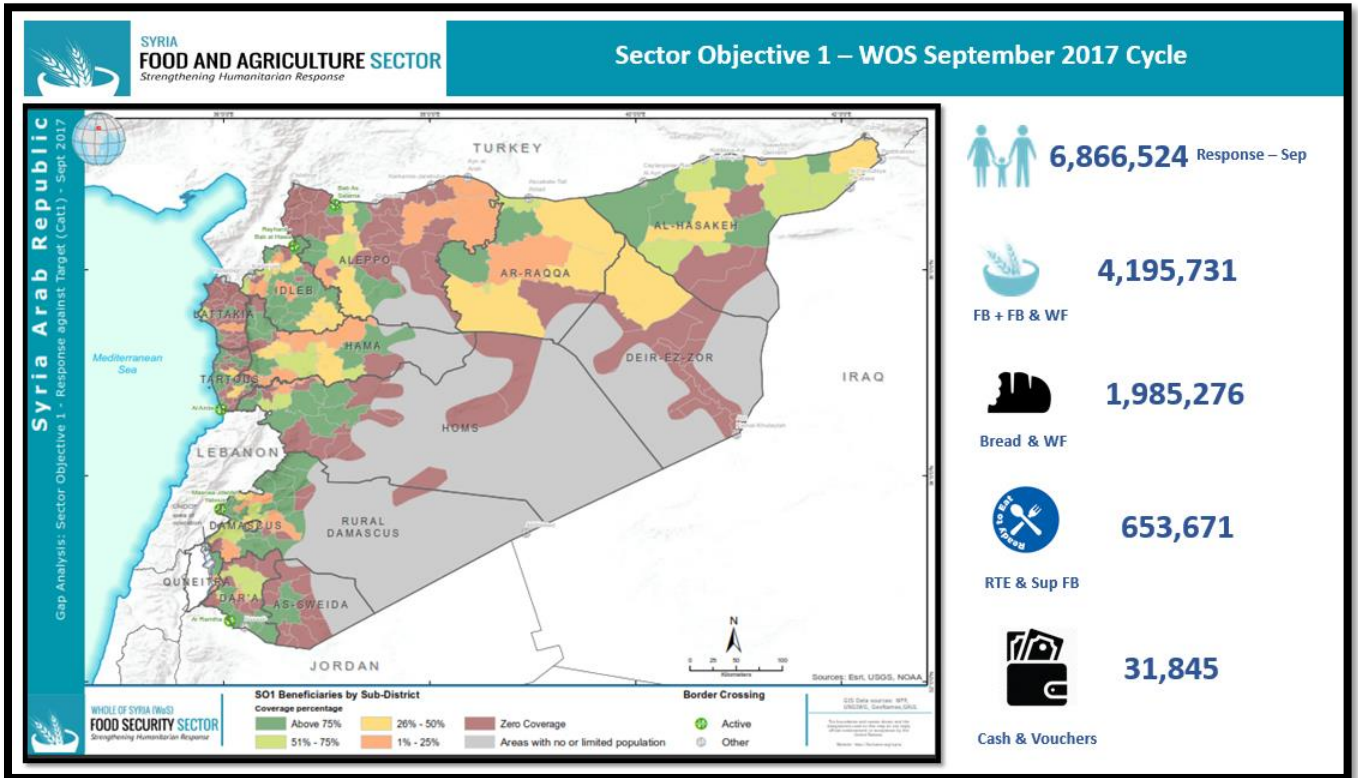
**Resource Based Planning Summary**

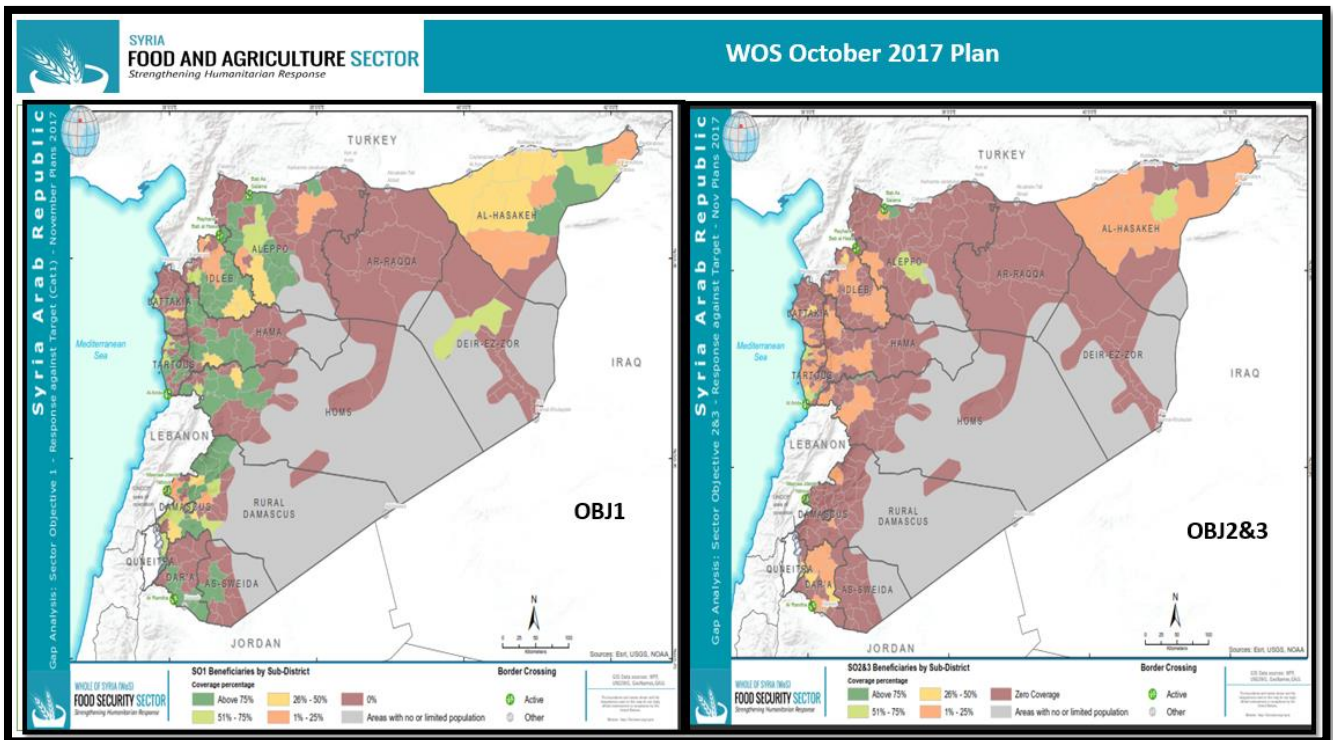
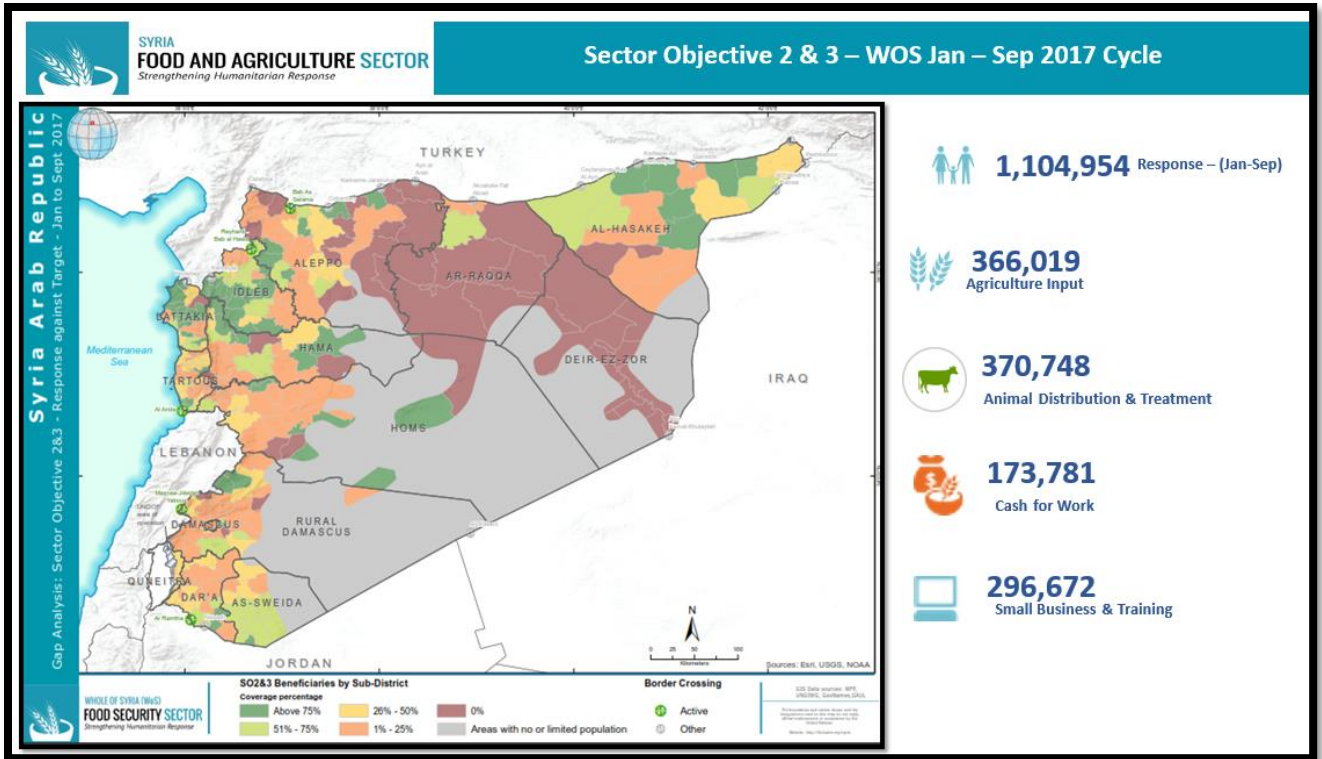
Hub	2017 Appeal	2017 Funding Received	2018 Appeal	2018 Expected funding
Syria	\$185,722,399	\$109,911,838	\$182,173,428	\$112,650,000
Turkey	\$226,198,373	\$164,113,701	\$249,241,590	\$147,484,340
Jordan	\$45,302,535	<b>\$38,000,000</b>	\$3,159,655	\$2,659,655
NES_Iraq	N/A	N/A	\$25,396,277	\$24,359,611
WoS	\$874,126,525	\$436,478,747	\$855,058,493	\$537,758,383
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,331,349,832</b>	<b>\$748,504,286</b>	<b>\$1,315,029,443</b>	<b>\$824,911,989</b>
<b>Total %</b>		<b>56,00%</b>		<b>62,73%</b>

NOTE:

- This is as per partners direct report to the sector on funds received in 2017 and expected funding in 2018
- The funds received in FTS shows 41% and thus this exercise shows that there is major discrepancy between funds reported on FTS and partners report to the sector

**Gaps/Coverage Analysis:**





**Integration Strategy:**  
<https://goo.gl/hRSqz9>

**OBJ1:**  
<https://goo.gl/3EM9xW>

**OBJ2:**  
<https://goo.gl/VYuJLz>

## **FAO technical Presentation**

FAO provided a technical presentation focusing on irrigation. ([Download](#) 12 MB)

**Next Meeting:** To be held on 13 December 2017 at Syria – Damascus – Four Season Hotel – Palmyra Venue (10:00 – 12:00)

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