Meeting Minutes

Location: Four Season Hotel, Amrit Venue, Damascus, Syria

Date: 03/10/2019

Agenda

1. Humanitarian Situation Updates
2. Update on SHF standard allocation.
3. Update on outcomes from HPC workshop in Cairo.
5. Key highlights on sector achievements to date
6. Discussion on integration strategy and targeting methodology.
7. Key highlights for the 2019 CFSAM and implications for food security.
8. AOB

Participants

ICRC, WFP, FAO, OCHA, TDH, MSJM, RESCATA, UNRWA, UNHCR, AKF, SARC

Chair: Kenneth ANYANZO, WoS Sector Coordinator
   Ahmad Omar, Syria Hub Information Officer
1. **Humanitarian Situation Updates**

*Al Hole IDP camp*
- The population of Al Hole around 68,600 people.
- The humanitarian situation in the camp has stabilized compared to previous months, needs remain considerable.
- 25.3 Million funding required

*North-Western Syria*
- Airstrikes has decreased since a ceasefire came into effect on 31 August.
- 700,000 displacements have been recorded since May till end of September.
- 1.5 million people reached with WFP and other partner food assistance in September

*Rukban*
- From the 26 to 29 September, the United Nations as well as the Syrian Arab Red Crescent successfully completed a convoy to Rukban, along the Jordanian border, to provide humanitarian aid and to support voluntary departures from the camp. The entire operation was conducted in line with humanitarian principles and minimum protection standards. The distribution of food and nutrition supplies wrapped up the delivery, which began earlier in September to help some 15,000 people for one month. More than 600 people were given legal and protection counselling. More than 100 medical consultations were also carried out.
- The UN and the Red Crescent also helped the first group of 329 people to voluntarily leave Rukban for collective shelters in Government-controlled Homs. These people have received clearance from Syrian authorities and will then continue to their areas of origin or destination of their choice. As needs assessment carried out last month found that, out of Rukban’s estimated population of 15,000, some 37 per cent wanted to leave and 40 per cent wanted to stay, while the remaining 16 per cent were undecided. The United Nations calls for continuing access to those in need in Rukban. The third phase of the
humanitarian operations there includes supporting people who want to leave with finding durable solutions.

2. **SHF Standard Allocation.**

- A total sum of USD 4.5 million was allocated to the Food Security Sector (FSS) with the allocation focused on addressing gaps in agriculture livelihoods and access to services in particular light rehabilitation of infrastructure.
- The FSS received four proposals out which one did not pass due to failure to meet minimum technical requirements for the kind of intervention proposed. Three proposals were referred back to the submitting agencies to address a number of comments related to the submission.
- Overall, there was low response to the call in particular from national organizations who were encouraged to participate in future calls provided they meet the minimum requirements.

3. **Updates for Inter-Sector HPC Workshop:**

- The 2019 HPC workshop was held in Cairo from 24th to 26th September 2019.
- The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the Inter-sector severity and PIN for 2020 HNO.
- Each sector was represented by WoS Coordinators, Hub Coordinators, WoS IMs and sector lead agencies. NGO representatives from the various hubs were also invited to participate in the exercise.
- There are some changes that have been introduced to the 2020 HNO. One of the changes that will be applied is the introduction of humanitarian consequences to elaborate the impact of the crisis on the Syrian people. There will be three humanitarian consequences that will be looked at in Syria which are; impact on Physical and Mental well-being, impact on Living Standards and impact on Protection. It was initially suggested that the FSS should fall under Living Standards, but a further review indicates that the food security impact of the conflict is related to both Physical and Mental well-being and Living Standards. As such the FSS will reflect the impact of the crisis and number of people affected/PIN both under Physical and Mental well-being and Living Standards.
While other sectors presented their PIN, the FSS could not do so because the analysis had not been completed owing to data gaps. However, all other sectors indicated that their PIN and severity scales were in draft form and would be finalized in the coming weeks.

Overall, there were slight upward/downward changes in the various sector PINs compared to 2019 for those who presented their draft analysis.

In terms of key messages, there will not be a significant variation from 2019 i.e. the Syria crisis remains a protection crisis; there are still high levels of vulnerability across the country, high levels of displacement persist; access to basic services in particular health, water, food, shelter and education remain poor. Other areas that may form key messages for 2020 include the high number of returnees that need support to reintegrate, need to focus more on livelihoods, more use of cash transfer modality and ensuring that youth and adolescents are prioritized.

4. **HNO Timelines**

The 2020 HNO validation for the FSS is planned from 21st to 25th October 2019. Prior to that, a technical team will undertake the analysis, compile all the presentations and reference indicators required for the partner validation exercise. Participants will be expected to arrive on 20th and depart on 26th Oct-19.

Based on the partners who participated in the 2019 HNO, the partners who have been proposed are Oxfam, Aghakan, MSJS, TDH and ADRA. UNRWA expressed interest to attend while other interested partners were also called upon to express their interest in the workshop.

The FSS expects to have the PIN and severity scales at district level by the end of the workshop.

Some challenges have been experienced in terms of collecting data in Raqqa and Deir-er-zor although it is expected that these data gaps will be filled by the end of the HNO cycle.
5. **Sector Achievements and Integration Strategy**

To check the full presentation, follow the &lt;&lt;LINK&gt;&gt;

**Partners Update:**

**MSJM**
- Al-Hassakah (Al-Hole) providing hot meals for 12,000 beneficiaries and bread distribution for 10,000 beneficiaries.
- In DZ (Harabesh) providing hot meals for 4,827 beneficiaries.

**ADRAA**
- A new Food Security (CVA) project starting September, the voucher distribution is set to start December 2019, targeting 10,000 HHs in Rural Damascus and Homs.

**AKF**
- Provide several training sessions and awareness session in Tartous, Rural Damascus, Homs and Hama.
- Establish 2 community asset groups housing 32 farmers in 2 villages in Rural Damascus

**RESCATA**
- As planning projects distribution of livestock in Quneitra” Jobata Alkhashab” and Establishment of 2 fodder (soil free) units in Qnietra “Breika and Bir Ajam” and Rehabilitation of bakeries in Harasta, Arbin, and Dara. Establishment of a Veterinary Center in Hama, Kfarzeita.

**AAH**
- For October Distributing 5,565 home gardening kits in Dar’a, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Hassakeh, and Der ez Zor governorates. Also wheat seeds for 3,750 beneficiaries.
- Distributing seed barely for 150 beneficiaries in Aleppo governorate.

**UNHCR**
- Planning to distribute agricultural inputs/kits to 200 Persons in Shabaa, Der Salman, and Der AlAsafeer.
- The kits will include wheat seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, livestock (sheep) and fodder.
UNRWA

- Apply new targeting criteria for food and cash assistance:
  - a household headed by a female
  - a household headed by an elderly person (older than 60 in 2019)
  - a household including or headed by a person with a permanent disability
  - an orphan under the age of 18

Response and Gaps analysis for Aug 19:
Integration Strategy:

- The sector aims to provide a wide-ranging support from emergency to regular food assistance as well as household and community based agricultural and livelihoods assistance.
- The sector aims to target populations who are both food insecure as well as at risk of food insecurity through multiple but mutually reinforcing activities.

- 2.5 Million At Risk Livelihoods
- 6.5 Million Food Insecure
- 5 Million Targeted with Food Assistance
- 1.5 Million Targeted with Livelihood + Protection Baskets
- 9 Million Overall target of sector

August 2019
6. **CFSAM 2019**

Findings & Recommendations of CFSAM 2019

FAS meeting
3 October 2019

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