Meeting Minutes

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

Date: 23/05/2019

Agenda

1. Humanitarian situation updates.
2. NWS Preparedness Plan
4. South Syria Food Security Working group by WFP
5. Food Security Situation updates by FAO.
6. Sector Partners updates
7. Response and Gaps analysis actuals (March) and May. Plans for HRP SO 1, 2& 3.
8. AOB

Participants


Chair: Joseph Oneka, Sector Coordinator

1. Humanitarian Situation Updates

North East Syria- Al Hole IDP camp

- The camp administration confirmed that there will be no more establishment of separate camp, demarcation and fencing for phase 6 and 8 was resumed.
- Phase 7 will be dedicated for Iraqi nationals and any Syria in phase 7 will be moved to phase 6.
- There is still gaps in shelters and sanitation facilities in the camps.
- Request to have surge capacities in Qamshili was submitted to MOFA however, it is likely that it will happen after Ramadhan.
**North West Syria**

- Due to recent events in NES, some 235,380 (39,230 households) were displaced from Northwest Hama, Western Aleppo and Southeastern Idlib towards Turkey's border.
- A preparedness plan being developed for actual and anticipated displacements by all the sector to be finalized before end of May 2019.
- The financial gaps estimated for inside Syria is about US$ 20 million.
- There is deterioration of the security situation also in Aleppo because of the same reasons above however it has reduced due to announcement of truce.

**Rukban**

- 12,575 people have left Rukban and relocated to collective shelters in Schools in Homs.
- As of 18th May 2019, departure to places of origin were 11,893 people and only 682 individuals remains in collective.
- There is a plan to organize 3rd convoy for the Rukban resident.
- The main limiting factors for people to leave Rukban appears to be cost of transport, which has skyrocketed. In addition, humanitarian partners received request for support with transportation for Rukban resident who wants to leave the camp.

**Fuel Shortages**

- Between February-March 2019 there was increased fuel prices (of upto 90%) due to shortages experience but this has since stabilized.

2. **NWS Preparedness Plan:**

- The sector in collaboration with other sectors and OCHA have been engaged in developing a preparedness response plan for NWS for estimated displacement of about 100,000 people. This included stock mapping for sector objective 1 (food assistance) as well identification of gaps in both sector objective 1 and 2 (livelihoods).

- The stock mapping for SO1 is as outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Planned stocks</th>
<th>Currently available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aleppo</td>
<td>20,000 RTEs (For 100,000 individuals)</td>
<td>13,000 RTEs (For 65,000 individuals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homs/Hama</td>
<td>10,000 RTEs (For 50,000 individuals)</td>
<td>3,000 RTEs (For 15,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tartous/Homs</td>
<td>5,000 GFA (For 25,000 individuals)</td>
<td><strong>Location of warehouses not identified yet</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Working to complement stocks.
- WFP production centre in Aleppo able to produce sufficient normal rations.
- Ongoing bread distribution another alternative to support displaced persons.
- Remaining RTEs in pipeline.
- WFP production centre in Homs able to produce sufficient normal rations.
- Location of warehouses not identified yet.
3. **SHF First Standard Allocation 2019**

- First SHF standard allocation with estimated budget of US$ 15-20 is under preparation by OCHA.
- The sector were requested to provide priorities for the this allocation as highlighted below;
- The sector strategy focused on addressing critical gaps and continuity of services under two HRP sector objectives. Sector Objective One - food assistance and Sector Objective Two - agriculture/ livelihoods assistance at household level. The strategy was aligned to sector response strategy for the HRP 2019, and continuity of services.
- The sector priority activities under strategic objective 1(food assistance) were (a) immediate needs with Ready to Eat Rations (b) Monthly Food Rations and (c) Supplementary food assistance. The geographical targeting proposed were high severity and areas with critical gaps in North East Syria.
- In addition, the sector priority activities under strategic objective 2(agricultural livelihoods) include provision of small-scale production kits to returnees in recent hotspot areas with residual needs due to emergencies in Southwest Syria(Dara and Quneitra governorates).

4. **South Syria Food Security Working group by WFP**

- A presentation on need for subnational coordination structure reactivation was made by WFP south Syria. The presentation highlighted the needs and food insecurity prevalence in southwest Syria. It also provided justifications for the need of a separate SW subnational coordination, which included (better coordination, efficient response and implementation of the integration strategy as per attached presentation.

5. **Food Security Situation updates by FAO**

- FAO made a presentation on food security situation updates which highlighted the followings:-
  - Performance of rainfall in 2019 as compared with 2018.
  - Performance of current season performance with reference to key indicators including NDVI, vegetation condition index, vegetation health index, dam water storage status, estimated cultivated areas for major crops, livestock population estimates.
• Constraints faced during the current seasons including flooding, crop diseases especially Yellow rush disease in wheat and eye peacock disease in olive. Other constraints included availability of inputs and dilapidated irrigation infrastructures.

6. Sector Partners’ Updates

Oxfam
• An agricultural LH support project in DEZ, which included restoration of irrigation systems through provision of equipment and emergency employment (CfW) activities to clear and maintain the irrigation channels, distribution of agricultural tool kits and awareness sessions to farmers groups. 3,000 beneficiaries were reached; in order to enable the selected most vulnerable HHs to have immediate access to food and other essential items, Oxfam provided them with cash assistance on monthly basis for 6 months.
• Oxfam implemented a project in Sfeireh- Aleppo which included the provision of agricultural tool kits to farmers and conducting awareness sessions on agriculture and irrigation techniques; 1,818 beneficiaries were reached;
• Oxfam is currently preparing for multipurpose cash distribution in East Ghouta; the transfer will be on monthly basis for 3 months.
• Oxfam is initiating a project, which will concentrate on the rehabilitation of 2 public bakeries and provision of irrigation equipment. In addition, Oxfam is about to start bread distribution in the most vulnerable and HTR areas in Deir ez Zor.
• Oxfam is initiating an agricultural LH support project in Jebel Samaan and As Safira districts in Aleppo governorate, which includes agricultural training and provision of agricultural toolkits as well as the rehabilitation of agricultural community infrastructure.

AAH
• Training 30 women head household in Rural Damascus governorate, and 30 women head household in Dar’a governorate on food processing and conservation in April 2019.

ADRA
• ADRA has completed 4 distributions of food vouchers (value US$ 60 per voucher) in Rural Homs (Zarzourieh and Mukharam) and Rural Damascus (Qutiefeh and Bqaasam). Numbers Targeted: Zarzourieh (154 HH); Mukharam (54 HH); Qutiefeh (56 HH); Bqaasam (31 HH)
- Future plan: 5th and last distribution will be implemented in June.

**ICRC**

- Plan for agricultural inputs for 27,500 hhs (cereals) and 7,500 hhs (vegetables)

**MSJM**

- Concluded the preparation of hotmeals for 48,000 IDPs in Al Hole camp from self-funded project.