Food and Agriculture Sector Meeting Report

Minutes of 5 April 2018

**Chair:** Joseph ONEKA and Bernard MREWA  
**Venue:** Four Seasons-Palmyra Hall

**Agenda**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Agency Presenting</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductions (of agenda and participants)</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>5 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review and approval of previous minutes</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>5 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alerts/ongoing emergency response:</td>
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<td>40 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>- East Ghouta and Afrin update/situation and response/convoys</td>
<td>OCHA/Coordinators</td>
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<td>- Hot Meal Provision under East ghouta</td>
<td>Oxfam/COOPI</td>
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<td>- Al Raqqa UN mission assessment updates</td>
<td>WFP</td>
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<td>- SHF updates</td>
<td>OCHA/Coordinators</td>
<td>10 min</td>
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<td>CBT activities</td>
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<td>- Major outcomes from CWG meeting and Cash Workshop</td>
<td>UNRWA/WFP</td>
<td>15 min</td>
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<td>Sector update</td>
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<td>- January Actuals maps</td>
<td>IMOs</td>
<td>10 min</td>
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<td>- March Plans</td>
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<td>GBV Role out plan</td>
<td>Coordinators</td>
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**Action Points:**

- Sector to undertake mapping of support provided by local initiatives (Local NGOs) through an online survey to updates.
- Partners to provide any new updates (field reports and observations) from IDPs shelters in Rural Damascus to help in updating the responses and the gaps.
- Partners planning assessments inside East Ghouta to share assessment findings with the sector once it becomes available.
- ICRC to provide a presentation to sector partners pertaining their microeconomic programme. This is scheduled to be at the next sector meeting.
- A capacity and response mapping template will be sent to the partners with programme in Dier-ez-zoir for purposes of mapping.
- The sector together with lead agencies to modify the interagency convoy tools to include livelihood components.
- Partners need to continue to report to the sector if livelihood beneficiaries are also being supported with food assistance (as part of the integration strategy). The sector stands ready to help with linking partners implementing livelihood activities (targeting food insecure beneficiaries) with those partners who can provide food assistance.

**Food and Agriculture Response and Plans Updates**

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<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>Notes/highlights</th>
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<td><strong>ACF</strong></td>
<td><strong>Achievement during March:</strong>&lt;br&gt;-Training sessions were finalized during March targeting a total of 530 beneficiaries in 5 governorates. Hassakeh, Dara’a, Rural Damascus, Aleppo, Lattakia, the topics covered “conservation agriculture, vegetable processing, dairy production, fodder production, organic manure production, and para-vet.&lt;br&gt;-250 Home gardening kits (vegetable seeds, N P K fertilizers, and agriculture tools) were distributed to (250 HH- 3600 individuals) in Rural Aleppo (AL-Bab district).</td>
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<td><strong>OXFAM</strong></td>
<td>-Bread distribution to approx. 7,000 HH in Deir ez Zour city will continue until end of April&lt;br&gt;-Oxfam will kick off with agricultural resilience project in Rural Damascus&lt;br&gt;-Oxfam is finalizing partnership agreements with three local organizations</td>
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<td><strong>MSJN</strong></td>
<td><strong>Achievement during March</strong>&lt;br&gt;- Distributed 5000 hot meals, around 31,554 individuals every day, were served in Der Zor city funded by PLC.&lt;br&gt;- Distributed 850 RTE in Afrin, Aleppo, funded by PARTNERS FOR DEVELOPPEMENT&lt;br&gt;- Support with technical wise the building and equipping of a kitchen in Hirjalleh collective shelter funded by ADRA&lt;br&gt;- Refurbish and run the kitchen of Al-Dwayr collective shelter&lt;br&gt;- Beginning with the 26/3/2018 cooking for al-Dwayr 10,250 individual hot meals&lt;br&gt;- Opening and equipping a kitchen in Tel Refaat, Afrin&lt;br&gt;- Cooking since 31/3/2018 20,000 individual meals for Tell Refaat and surrounds</td>
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**Food and Agriculture**

**Response and Plans Updates**
- Set up a kitchen in Al-Dwayer and distributing daily hot meals for 10,250 individuals.  
**Plan for April and May 2018;**  
- Continue serving 10,250 individuals with hot meals in Al-Dwayr (15 days then waiting funds from OCHA/RA)  
- Serve additional 5,000 individual hot meals for Abu al-Nasr collective shelter (15 days then waiting funds from OCHA/RA)  
- Serve 20,000 individual hot meals in Tell Refaat (all April, then waiting funds from OCHA/RA)  
- Run Herjalleh kitchen funded by ADRA, providing approval funds from OCHA/RA

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| - Provide technical training for 266 Farmers and establish two nurseries for grape seedlings for 3 Farmers under (FFSs) Farmer Field School activities.  
- Implement 3 filed days with 36 Farmers on the best practices of (CA) Conservation Agriculture, cultivation of mushrooms and irrigated wheat.  
- Provide 37 livestock farmers with lab screening services and 6 livestock farmers with (EWS) Early Warning System.  
- Provide apprenticeship services to 106 unemployed crisis-affected youth women and men.  
- Follow up the livestock farmers group benefited from fodder production hydroponic unit.  
- Follow up the agro-processing beneficiary women.  
**Plan for April-June** |
| - Conduct graduation ceremonies for the FFS participants.  
- Establish new Farmer Field Schools (FFS) for agriculture and livestock activities  
- Carry on the activities of Farmer Field Schools in Hama and Tarots,  
- Provide technical training to extension workers on (FFSs management, drip irrigation system, agriculture media and communication).  
- Provide managerial and technical training to CBOs, (Community Based Organizations) to establish new community assets in livestock and agriculture sub-sectors.  
- Follow up the agro-processing, home and kitchen garden activities and CBSGs (Community Based Saving Groups).  
- Implement Cash for Work projects. |

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| February Achievements:  
- A rehabilitating for irrigation systems and water harvesting in Tartous governorate (Banyas and Safia Districts) the estimated number of beneficiaries 10,000 HHs.  
- A third phase for rehabilitating for irrigation systems in Homs governorate starts in the upper Orontes valley.  
**March and April Plan:** |
| - External advanced training on Natural resources management for 12 Syrian Experts will be hold in Italy.  
- 500 households will have support and building capacity for beehive and honey production in Aleppo.  
- 3400 Households will be provided with Mushroom Production kits in Aleppo as income generating activities as well.  
- 50 HHs will be provided with Soap production tools as an income generating activities.  
- 35 School in Aleppo and Rural Damascus will have school gardening to improve students nutrition knowledge about nutrition sensitive agriculture. |

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### ICRC/SARC

**March 2018 Update (ICRC-SARC joint activities)**
- In March, about 0.9 million beneficiaries were reached with food parcels, canned food parcels, bulk food and bread packs.
- Emergency response to Eastern Ghouta and Afrin situation was stepped up with the provision of various food packages.
- Post Distribution Monitoring of Agro intervention completed, analysis and reporting on-going.

**ICRC-SARC Plan for April-May 2018:**
- ICRC plans to cover about 1 million beneficiaries with various food packages per month during April-May 2018.
- ICRC together with the SARC will finalize the rest of the agro/livelihood program 2017 (aiming at reaching to 40’000 HHs with Agro inputs and 10’000 HHs with other community based projects), some of the livelihood programs are already on-going (Aleppo, Homs, Lattakia, Damascus, Rural Damascus etc.).

### IFRC/SARC

**March achievements** for the livelihoods activities SARC/IFRC in March:
- Initiated the analysis of the PDM survey for the past distribution of vegetable kits for winter season in Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus, Quneitra.
- Finalised the procurement for the distribution of vegetable of 7.300 HHs (Hama, Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, Quneitra).
- Finalised the content of vegetables kits for the next winter season.
- Distribution of 4.435 canned food in Deir Azzor.
- Distribution of 8.267 food parcel in Rural Damascus, Homs, Hama, Lattakia, As-Sweida.

**Plan April**
- Start distribution of vegetable kits for summer season.
- Assessments on going in Lattakia, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus and As-Sweida.

### COOPI

**Final phase of the project in Qatana till end of April 2018:**
- Distribution 1,500 full package gardening kit (summer seeds, winter seeds, NPK, tools).
- Distribution 650 gardening kit (summer seeds only, those whom are already received the winter seeds, NPK, tools before on last November distribution).
- Distribution 1,500 egg laying hens for 100 beneficiaries( each one could receive 15 hen, 150 KG fodder, 5 vitamins bottles).

### TDH

- Finalizing the plan for distributing food vouchers.

### UNRWA

- Distributed food basket assistance to 33,487 families for cycle 01-2018 from 05-03-2018.
- Distributed urgent food, NFI, and cash to 37 families from Ghouta.

### WFP

- During Feb 18, only 543,275 FRs have been distributed to feed 2,716,375 beneficiaries.
- During March 18, WFP dispatched 595,620 food rations enough to feed 2,978,100 Beneficiaries (99% of the plan), equivalent to 37,297 MT, including 6,005 MT of WHF.
- The operational plan for 2018 is considered a resource-based plan covering around 3.002 million people.
- Cross Borders deliveries during March 18: 141,207 FR (included in the above figures): 75,452 FR from Turkey to Rural Idleb, 19,982 FR from Turkey to Rural Aleppo, and 45,773 FR from Jordan to Rural Dara’a and Qunitera.
- WFP has a plan of 17000 FR with WHF hasn’t been utilized by SARC for the last 3 months and have been reallocated by March to Homs and Rural Damascus. WFP is working with SARC to start the deliveries during April 18, in case SARC managed the
warehousing capacity issue.
- Idlib cross borders deliveries were affected and couldn’t complete the plan due to the insecurity and the closure of the transshipment point
- April Cycle deliveries started aiming to **reach 3,002 million people without IACs.**
- WFP distributed around 2000 MT of milk with the general food distribution and this is a one-off distribution.
- WFP is planning to start the response inside Raqqa city by April 18 with an allocation of food for 30,000 people
- WFP responded to the needs of the families displaced from Afrin to Tal Refa’at and Noubl and Zahra by distributing: 22,750 RTEs, 5000 FR, 7000 bread bundles a day (ongoing), and 31,200 Lit of milk
- 11. Part of the above items were delivered as part of Tal Refa’at Convoy by delivering: 10,000 RTEs and 5000 FR
- WFP responded to the needs of the families displaced from EG to different shelters by distributing: 36,500 RTEs, 10,000 FR (Inside EG to Kafr Batna, Hamouria, Saqba and Ain Tarma), 90,000 Lit of Milk and 36 MT of date bars.

### Alerts/ongoing emergencies

#### East Ghouta

- Displacement of some **131,000** individuals were recorded since 9 March 2018.
- **83,603** individuals left through established corridors towards eight collective shelters in Rural Damascus. Some 39,295 individuals, mostly women and children left the shelters while 44,308 IDPs remain in the shelters.
- An estimated **47,450** individuals were evacuated to Idleb.
- Estimated **70,000-78,000** remain in Duma and **50,000** individuals might have stayed behind in other areas of East Ghouta.
- Main FSA concerns is site capacity and management.

#### Needs

The Food and Agriculture Sector strategy considers all incoming IDPs as individuals facing acute food insecurity and as being in need of immediate food assistance and quick impact/life-saving livelihood assistance. Notably, IDPs in shelters lack access to cooking facilities and are therefore being assisted with ready-to-eat food rations, cooked meals and bread packs. In terms of some of the populations in East Ghouta, regular food rations will be considered whenever they have access to cooking facilities and quick impact livelihood assistance will be considered inside East Ghouta whenever it becomes feasible.

#### Responses

The sector response aims to reach the displaced within 72 hours of the onset of a crisis to cover a minimum of one to four weeks of their immediate food needs. When the IDPs have access to cooking facilities, regular monthly food assistance will be provided. Quick impact livelihood assistance will be considered whenever feasible to protect IDPs and host community livelihood within 3-6months.

The immediate response that has been provided by the sector and other humanitarian partners to the IDPs in shelters include: 36,500 ready-to-eat food rations and 7,000 canned food parcels;
90,000 litres of milk (milk was distributed as an initial response to cover school-aged children within the families, with necessary measures in place to avoid the utilization of milk as a breast milk substitute. Moving forward, milk will be provided to children only through schools, once they become functional); 11,700 bread packs daily, for which there is a plan scale up to 20,000 bread bundles daily, and hot meals through the three kitchens:-
  - The kitchen in Dumair is catering for the IDPs in the Adra area (Electricity building Adra and Adra school compound); 2,200 bulk food rations were delivered which are adequate to provide hot meals to 12,000 persons per day.
  - The kitchen in Hafeer is catering for the IDPs in the Al Dweir Camp; 1,000 bulk food rations were delivered which are adequate to provide hot meals to 5,000 persons per day.
  - The Herjalleh kitchen is catering for the IDPs in Herjalleh; 1,100 bulk food rations delivered which are adequate to provide hot meals to 5,500 persons per day.
  - Other locations are covered through above kitchens on an ad-hoc basis.

It was noted that some hot meals were also being provided by local NGOs however not included in the current mapping of the response. Ministry of internal trade also provided some assistance to the shelters which is not currently being reflected. It was further noted that prior to the current response to the shelters there were existing kitchens in Dweir and Harjalleh supported by ICRC which provided additional meals to the IDPs in the shelters. It was therefore felt that kitchen coverage in the IDP shelters in Rural Damascus was adequate.

GOPA 4,000 RTE pipeline for East Ghouta it was agreed that GOPA should liaise with SARC could target population inside East Ghouta.

**Responses outside the shelters**

Responses inside East Ghouta, crossing points and rural Damascus include:-
  - 20,720 food parcels to Ain Tarma, Kafr Batna, Hamouria, Saqba and Douma. The delivery in Douma (10,720 food parcels was through IAC).
  - 3,300 Bread packs/day to Saqba, Hamuriyeh and other areas.
  - 3,000 canned food parcels and 3,000 bread packs/day to Harasta.
  - 36mt of date bars at the crossing point.

**Community Kitchens for IDPs in East Ghoutta 5 April 2018** ([download](#))
Tal Refaat and Afrin

Tal Refaat:
- 137,000 IDPs Tal Refaat and to Nubul and Zahraa
- The IDPs accommodated in villages surrounding Tal Refaat are less served by humanitarian actors. The main gaps identified include availability of water, latrines and hygiene kits, food assistance, support for people with disability, clothing kits for adults.
- Relocation of IDPs from Nubul and Zahraa to Tal Refaat.

Afrin
- More than 15,000 IDPs (60,000 by the estimates of local authorities) are hosted in schools, mosques and empty houses and in the open. Apart from SARC who is distributing bread, there is no humanitarian actors nor assistance to the area from Aleppo hub.
- Some multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance were reported delivered from Qamishly.
- Establishment of a new camp, currently 500 tents, plans to erect more tents to reach 2,000 tents to accommodate IDPs without shelter.

Main concerns
- Main FAS concerns is NGO capacity to respond.

Needs
The Food and Agriculture Sector strategy considers all incoming IDPs as individuals facing acute food insecurity and as being in need of immediate food assistance.

Responses
The sector response aims to reach the displaced within 72 hours of the onset of a crisis to cover a minimum of one to four weeks of their immediate food needs. When the IDPs have access to cooking facilities, regular monthly food assistance will be provided.
- The immediate response that has been provided by the sector and other humanitarian partners to the IDPs is as follows: 22,750 ready-to-eat food rations; 3,000 canned food parcels; 5,000 food rations; 7,000 bread bundle per day; 31,200 litres of milk; 15,000 bread packs daily and hot meals for 20,000 (started on 30th March 2018 on the assumption that additional funding would be available to ensure continuity).

North West
- WFP prepositioned 2,000 RTEs in Hama with additional 3,000 RTERs to be dispatched.
- Food rations distribution are ongoing in Suran and Maardis on a regular basis for IDPs and returnees.
- Coordination underway to start distributions in Tibat Alimam.

Sector observations and Recommendations
- Response through existing capacities for immediate food needs in East Ghouta has been overall adequate.
- There is need to go beyond immediate food need and explore short-term/quick impact livelihood assistance particularly in Tal Refaat (displacement into villages) and inside East ghouta (area with high agricultural potential).
NB: The observation from operation partners indicates that displacement in Tal Refaat appears to be temporal and situation is fluid therefore it seems too early to think of livelihood responses. Inside East Ghouta however several partners are planning livelihood responses once the situation stabilizes however this will be preceded by assessments.

**Raqqa assessment mission updates**
- Interagency mission was undertaken on the 1st April 2018 by agencies including team from Damascus, Aleppo and Qamishly.
- Raqqa City council have opened offices for different sectors including education, health etc. City councils has issued different cards to returnees based on vulnerabilities.
- Over 100,000 people estimated to have returned and the increasing.
- Observations indicate that estimated 10-15% of the returnees are food secure and the rest are food insecure because of low purchasing power.
- Market is fully functional (retail and wholesale shops are open with products from Turkey, Qamishly, Syria and Iran) and prices are reasonable (equal to Damascus) therefore INGOs are already implementing cash based interventions feasible.
- The need for agricultural support (rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and provision of inputs) is of high priority for the returnees.
- Water availability for irrigation it is adequate but for domestic use is limited.
- Bakeries functional and bread is widely available from locally produced wheat flour sold at SYP 145 per bread bundle and while bread produced from Turkish wheat flour are sold at SYP 140). Most households are buying on credit (about 50%).
- WFP plan start distribution of food for 30,000 in Raqqa city.

**SHF Reserve allocation**
- Allocation strategy prioritized immediate food needs especially hot meals
- Six partners applied for SHF under reserve allocation for both Afrin and East Ghouta
- Technical review committee conducted on 3 March 2018
- Outcome of the allocation being awaited from SHF unit

**Observations and advocacy on kitchen**
- Kitchen preparation/capacity
- Quality standards (minimum hygiene and sanitation, transportation of meals, distribution, diversity of meals)
- Suggested way for improvement include improvement in distribution points to be dignified and safe; complementary fresh food quality control; need to ensure quality during food preparation and improve transportation and coordinate with cluster especially logistics, NFI, WaSH and ERL to complement (see attached presentation).
- Partners supporting the kitchen noted that observation and advocacy message for improvement is applicable to all kitchen but addressing them may not be feasible but the situation keeps improving as the management structure of the shelter get established.
Cash working group updates

Outcome of CWG Meeting held on 18 March 2018

Discussions focused mainly on “Assessments” conducted by sub-groups as follows:
- Financial Sector
- Money Transfer Company
- Takamol IT Company
- SMEB (Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket)

Way forward for SMEB:
- Preparatory work including sharing with other sectors for inputs.
- Defining Methodology.
- Testing/verification.
- Discussion on programmatic implications.
- Documentation.

Overall Action points:
- The next meeting should review the presentations so as to draw out the key strategic issues
- The sector coordinators will reach out to the Intersector group to discuss on how the non-food elements of the SMEB can be reviewed and updated.
- Contacting ministries regarding Takamol to get further information
- There is need to review the Co-chair role taking into account discussions at the WoS Cash workshop scheduled for 26 March.

Gaps/Coverage Analysis:

Sector Objective 1 Response – Syria Hub – Feb 18
Sector Objectiv2&3 Plan – Syria Hub – Apr 18

Sector Objectiv1 – Syria Hub – Feb 18 – Actual Vs Plan
AOB:
Partners were requested to contribute to GBV mainstreaming through nomination of some facilitators to work with sector in rolling out the training which will be coordinated by Ruba (Information Manager) FAS sector.

Next Meeting: To be held on 8th May 2019 at Syria – Damascus – Four Season Hotel – Palmyra