Food and Agriculture Sector Meeting Report

Minutes of 12 December 2017

Chairs: Joseph ONEKA and Bernard MREWA

Venue: Syria - Damascus - Ar Rawda Square – ICRC Office (10:00 – 12:00)

Agenda:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Agency Presenting</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introductions (of agenda and participants)</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>5 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review and approval of previous minutes</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>5 min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alerts/ongoing emergency response:</td>
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<tr>
<td>东-古塔更新/情况及响应</td>
<td>WFP- VAM</td>
<td>10 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>罗卡更新</td>
<td>Coordinators/OCHA</td>
<td>20 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deir-ez-Zor更新</td>
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<tr>
<td>更新协调员对阿勒颇的使命 (27 Nov- 2 Dec)</td>
<td>Coordinators</td>
<td>10 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sector update</td>
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<tr>
<td>10月实际情况地图</td>
<td>IMOs/All</td>
<td>10 min</td>
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<td>1月计划</td>
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<tr>
<td>SHF-allocation - Process and Results</td>
<td>Coordinators</td>
<td>10 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBT group update TORs and structure</td>
<td>Coordinators/UNRWA/OXFAM, COOPI and NRC</td>
<td>20 min</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integration strategy roll-out</td>
<td>Coordinators</td>
<td>10 min</td>
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**ACTION POINTS:**

- Partners to provide inputs on the CBT working group TOR by 19 December 2017.
- Partners to share plans as well as responses to the NES outside the regular 4Ws reporting cycle (i.e. immediately at the end of each month) so that these responses can be integrated as part of the NES situation report which is consolidated at Whole of Syria level.
- Partners who are planning on livelihood projects to reach out to the sector secretariat so that they can get information on the households currently targeted via food assistance; and priorities such households in line with the integration strategy. Whenever programmatically necessary, partners can also provide food assistance to households targeted through livelihood activities; prior to livelihood projects providing incomes and/or food.
- Partners recommended for funding under the recent SHF allocation need to share, with the sector, detailed plans (target locations, modalities, duration etc.) as soon as they have signed the necessary funding agreements.
- There is need to further review the possibility of supporting the livestock sector with vaccines in the E. Ghouta enclave via Inter-agency convoys.

**Food and Agriculture Response and Plans Updates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>Notes/highlights</th>
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| **ACF** | **November**
- Throughout November AAH distributed wheat seeds (300kg per family) to 1,300 households in Latakia, Daraa, Rural Damascus, Hassakeh and rural Aleppo. Related crop production community sessions were facilitated for the beneficiaries.
- 17 water harvesting units are being installed in Hassakeh, 18 in Daraa and 15 in Rural Damascus.

| **ACF** | **December**
- In December, AAH planned to distribute fodder (barley and processed fodder) to 1,300 households in Latakia, Hassakeh, Daraa, Rural Damascus and rural Aleppo (500 kg per household) – community sessions on herd management will be facilitated and to distribute 600 home-gardening kits to be distributed to as many households in Hassakeh, Daraa, Rural Damascus and rural Aleppo.

| **NRC** | **November 2017**
- Ongoing fodder distributions in Wadi Barada (Barhaliya, Afra, Horayra) and Dimas/Yabous, for planned 260 HHS and extra 270 HHS, totaling 530 HHS receiving 500 Kg of barley each.
- Planned vegetable seeds and tools distributions cancelled, Az-Zabdani, 145 HHs. The reason was that seeds suppliers were not interested in participating in our tender due to rapid variations in the USD/SYP exchange ratio, and uncertainty about its evolution; thus preferring not to do business at this stage.
- It has been agreed with MAAR to increase fodder beneficiaries (extra 270 HHs above) and areas.

| **MSJN** | **November 2017**
- Distributed 5000 hot meals and 5000 bread bundle to 5000 family 5 days a week every month and 22,600 individuals were served in Southern rural Aleppo (al-Waha and 20 villages until Deir Hafer) and Eastern rural Aleppo (al-Khafseh and 50 villages until Tadef) funded by PLC.
- Distributed 5000 hot meals, around 31554 individuals were served in Der Zor city funded by PLC.
- Distributed 24 tons of potatoes and 450 food rations to al-Qusayr.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AKF</th>
<th>November Achievements:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- 30 biogas unit were established in Hama, Homs, Latakia, Tartous and Rural Damascus.</td>
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<td>- 30 trainees have capacity building regarding training of trainers for veterinarians, the subject of training was: (Diagnostic techniques of animal viral diseases, Diagnostic techniques of animal bacterial diseases, Diagnostic techniques of animal parasites, Diagnostic techniques of poultry diseases, Animal diseases epidemiology, Molecular technology, Food safety) in Hama Governorate (Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Hama).</td>
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<td>- 50 trainees have capacity building regarding training of trainers for water Management (How to put scientific and accurate programs based on latest techniques to calculate water needs) in Homs.</td>
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<td>- Poultry kits were distributed to 900 households in Homs, Hama, Latakia and Tartous governorates. Each kit included 45 egg-laying hens, 5 roosters, 200 kg of feed, and a two by three meter-coop provided in collaboration with UNHCR. FAO also provided technical training on poultry production to recipient households.</td>
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<td>- 2700 HHs received winter vegetable seeds packages (2700 HHs, sets of manual vegetable farming tools, olive saplings 25000, and shredders for composting (1 /District = 4 shredders)-irrigation kits for 42 HHs.</td>
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<th>Plan for Dec 2017;</th>
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<td>- Continue serve people in our new Kitchen in Deir Ezzor</td>
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<td>- A convoy to Hassakeh with a milk factory, 2000 food parcels, Winterization, and 1000 hygiene kits. Swedish INGO's and1000 food parcels to Tabqa in Al-Raqa city.</td>
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<td><strong>Dec – Jan Plan:</strong></td>
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<td>• 35 school will have a small garden to improve the knowledge for school children and their teachers regarding nutrition sensitive agriculture</td>
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<td>• 25 households will have a Silkworm Breeding as an income generating activities in Tartous.</td>
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<td>• 500 households will have support and building capacity for beehive and honey production and 250 will have vegetable packages in Aleppo.</td>
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<td>• 3400 Households will be provided with Mushroom Production tools in Aleppo</td>
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<td>• 50 HHs will be provided with Soap production tools as an income generating activities.</td>
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<td>• Distributing 2000 vegetable packages in Homs and Rural Damascus in cooperation with UNFPA.</td>
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**November 2017 Update (ICRC-SARC joint activities)**

- In November, about **0.7 million beneficiaries** were reached with food parcels, canned food parcels, bulk food and bread packs.
- Vegetable seeds/fertilizers/tools packages, distribution of kits started in November. This project is targeting 18'000 HHs in Syria with vegetable seeds/fertilizers/tools packages across 9 governorates.
- Cereal seeds and fertilizers, completed the delivery of TSP fertilizers to 6 governorates, i.e. Aleppo, Rural Damascus, Sweida, Quneitra, Homs and Hama. Delivery of fertilizers to Hassakeh will be completed in December. Distribution of wheat/barely seeds and fertilizers will commence in December. This project is targeting 12'000 HHs in Syria with wheat/barely seeds and fertilizers in 7 governorates.

**ICRC-SARC Plan for DEC 2017:**

- Cover about 1 million beneficiaries with various food packages per month.
- Complete the distribution of agricultural inputs (30'000 HHs/10 Governorates), combining vegetable and cereal seeds/fertilizer kits
- Launch Post Distribution Monitoring of Agro program
- Supporting bakeries and flour mills with new production lines and generators - 6 structural support (production lines - Rural Damascus, Homs, Aleppo) continues

**IFRC/SARC**

**October**

- Distribution of 20.000 Kg of brand wheat and 20.000 kg of barley in Al Hsn Community, Rural Homs
- Distribution of 13.438 food parcels in Deir Er Zor, Damascus and Homs.
- Finalised the tender for livestock distribution for 550 HHs in Rural Hama and Rural Jableh
- Endline questionnaires finalised for the livestock distribution projects in Al Haffah District and Al Hsn Community started in October 2016

**November – December**

- Finalise the distribution of 6,000 vegetables packets in 6 Governorates
- Finalise the distribution of livestock and feed from 550 HHs in Lattakia and Hama
- Finalise the monitoring system for the backyard production kits
- Distribution of 20,000 food parcels according to the needs requested by SARC

**COOPI**

- 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.
- Budgeted in 200,000 $ for the summer and winter kits + tools + fertilizers
- **Key concern**: 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.
| TDH | • Carrying on the food vouchers distributing in Aleppo 510 vouchers, and 850 vouchers in Jaramana, Qatana.  
• Procurement of 18500 food parcels ongoing: to distributed in Rural Damascus, Homs, Lattakia and Aleppo. |
| UNRWA | Food and NFI  
A total number 42,692 food baskets and 15,242 Hygiene kits were distributed to Palestine refugees  
Cash Assistance  
35,267 Palestine refugees received cash assistance in June. Each person received USD 64. |
| WFP | During September, **588,605** FRs distributed to **2,943,025** beneficiaries out of planned 3.8 million.  
For October, WFP dispatched **712,922** food rations enough for **3,564,610** Beneficiaries (94% of the plan). This include **7,073** MT of Wheat Flour  
Overall, the operational plan for the period Sep/Nov 17 has been reduced to **3.8** million beneficiaries. Additional reduction is expected by Dec 17 up to **3.3** million. The operational plan for **2018 will target only 2.8** million. This is a reduced plan based on resources availability.  
For Nov Cycle is targeting **reach 3.8 million people including IACs**.  
For Oct WFP delivered 14,000 bags of WHF to DZ for direct distribution to beneficiaries especially in Rural Areas and still waiting for SARC request to distribute normal rations and RTEs when needed.  
WFP warehouse in Aleppo is functioning now with the aim to cover Aleppo’s allocation from this central warehouse and covers the north east in the future. |

**Cash Working Group – Damascus, Syria**

- The Cash Working Group (CWG) for Damascus is a technical working group set up within the Food and Agriculture Sector (FAS) to ensure cash-based interventions (CBIs) in Syria are coordinated and follow a common rationale and approach. CBIs use local markets and services to meet the needs of persons affected by crisis and cover a variety of programs, including vouchers, unconditional and conditional cash transfers. The CWG was established in December 2017 and is actively attended by over X members, including NGOs, UN Agencies, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement, and donors. The working group is chaired by UNRWA. The CWG reports to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) through the FAS.

- The mandate, as endorsed in this **Terms of Reference**, is to promote cash-based interventions, where appropriate, and enhance the quality in design and implementation of cash and voucher programs throughout humanitarian response for Syria.

- The objectives of the Cash Working Group are:  
  **1. Advocacy**  
  Develop and promote shared positions on cash and voucher transfer programming through advocacy, lobbying, influencing key stakeholders and policy formulation.

  **2. Coordination**  
  Consolidate, harmonize and promote the use of more appropriate and efficient cash and voucher delivery mechanisms through coordination, information sharing and dissemination; coordinate Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) across Syria, including representation at the Food and Agriculture Sector (FAS); actively supporting sub-national Cash Working Groups, where needed.
3. **Harmonization**
Establish standards and common approaches to ensure effective and complementary approaches in cash and voucher transfer programming.

4. **Information management**
Establish standards for information management within the Cash Working Group, including 3/4Ws, Activity Info, post distribution monitoring, and regular CWG products (maps, dashboards, SitReps).

5. **Guidance/best practice**
Support FAS and other sectors in selecting, designing and utilizing appropriate cash/voucher options for response to populations affected by conflict (displaced, returnees, host communities, etc.); develop and update guidance products for cash actors on MPCA, based on current experience and best practice.

6. **Humanitarian Planning**
Responsible for formulation and defense of the multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) strategy and chapter in the HRP; support development of a cash based response strategy within the HRP and contingency plans; lead the CWG in humanitarian pooled fund processes and in CERF applications.

7. **Exit strategy**
Investigate linkages between cash-based responses in humanitarian programming and social safety nets/development programming/protection systems/other forms of assistance, where appropriate.

- **Participation:**
  UN Agencies, NGOs, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Movement, and donors active or interested in the area of cash and voucher programming are invited to participate in the Cash Working Group.

- **The Cash Working Group is chaired by UNRWA:**
  1. There is no limit on the number of members in the CWG – all organizations currently implementing or planning to implement CBIs in Syria are encouraged to participate.
  2. The CWG meetings will take place monthly on the Xth Xday of the month, where possible, with ad-hoc meetings to be scheduled where necessary.
  3. Decision-making is based on agreement among the majority of CWG partners.
  4. An agenda for the CWG meeting as well as the previous meeting minutes will be shared on the X day prior to the meeting.
  5. Based on needs and interest, training activities will be organized by the CWG.

- **Responsibilities:**
The chair is the key focal point for the CWG. The chair is responsible to facilitate the working group and encourage wide participation from humanitarian actors. Key tasks include:
  1. Ensuring the CWG meetings are relevant and add value to humanitarian CBIs in Syria;
  2. Establishing dialogue with authorities on cash for delivery of humanitarian assistance;
  3. Formally represent the CWG in the FAS, HRP and humanitarian pooled fund processes;
  4. Provide active support to sub-national Cash Working Groups;
  5. Regular updates of the Syria FAS online portal (www.link here), including: Sharing of lessons learned and best practice of past and ongoing CBIs in Syria; relevant research/assessments on CBIs; 3/4Ws, Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB), maps and other CWG products; updated contact details for Chair; meeting minutes; planned training activities; any other information pertinent to the humanitarian community.
  6. Support working group members to explore key thematic areas related to CBIs in Syria;
  7. Support the humanitarian community in harmonization of methods and tools (assessments, targeting, market, price tracking, post-distribution monitoring, MEB).
Members of the CWG:
Members of the CWG are to provide technical support to other members and humanitarian actors, where possible and applicable. This can include, but is not limited to, recommendations on modalities and cash amounts. Members commit to consider the recommendations of the CWG and follow the agreed upon recommendations, where possible. Members agree to:
1. Actively contribute to the CWG agenda and actively participate in CWG meetings;
2. Proactively share information on on-going and planned activities (3Ws, Sit Rep, Activity Info, etc.), including assessments and analysis;
3. Operate in an inclusive manner and involve other partners whenever possible in surveys and assessments;
4. Actively engage and participate in temporary taskforces when their experience adds value;
5. Respond within 72 hours to queries on duplication;
6. Commit to mainstream protection and gender in their program delivery;
7. Participate in actions that specifically improve accountability to affected populations.

Duma Inter Agency Assessment

SYRIA - Duma Inter Agency Assessment
Food Security Update: November 21, 2017

KEY POINTS

- The intensification of the siege has significantly impacted the food security situation in Duma (Eastern Ghouta). Since September 2017, cases of severe malnutrition and mortality among children have been reported including a child who took his own life due to hunger.
- The very limited food sources in the besieged area, skyrocketing food prices and weak purchasing power are eroding people’s livelihoods and resilience impairing their ability to deal with future shocks. Since September, adoption of emergency livelihood and consumption coping strategies have dramatically increased. This includes consuming against food, animal fodder and refuse, spending days without eating, begging and engaging in high risk activities to get food. Moreover, many hunger-induced farming episodes have been reported among school children and teachers.
- Due to the scarce food stock in markets and the total block of commercial supply routes, food prices have been increasing rapidly on a daily basis. For example, by mid-November 2017 a 700 grams bundle of bread was 35 times more expensive in Eastern Ghouta than in Damascus, located just 15 km away. In August 2017 the same bundle of bread was 24 times more expensive in Eastern Ghouta than Damascus.
- The majority of the besieged population in Eastern Ghouta is heavily dependent on food assistance. The content of the food basket was reported to be the only source of food that many female headed and destitute households survive on.
- The escalation of fighting (including aerial bombings) that started on 14 November is expected to further deteriorate the dire food security situation of the 400,000 besieged people in Eastern Ghouta. In particular a storehouse in Duma was destroyed during the fighting, leaving enough food rations to feed 99,600 member households for a month.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- As a result of the worsening food security situation in Eastern Ghouta and the inability for the local population to access food on markets outside Eastern Ghouta, WFP is recommending that blanket general food distributions be provided till the end of the lean season (April 2018) to improve and stabilize the food security situation in the besieged area, including Duma.
- Due to lack of cooking fuel, food assistance in Eastern Ghouta is recommended to include Ready to Eat rations (RTE).
- Targeted nutritious food interventions need to be provided for those people found to be acutely malnourished in addition to school feeding programs.
- WFP is advocating for untaxed commercial trade into the besieged area of Eastern Ghouta to be resumed as soon as possible. There is also need for food agriculture inputs (seeds, livestock and agricultural tools) and technical assistance such as improved farming techniques and irrigation.
NES Food assistance Responses - November

A total of 420,186 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)---breakdown is below:

- In Ar Raqqa, **302,196 beneficiaries** were reached by WFP and 5 XB INGOs in Ar-Raqqa Governorate, in Ar-Raqqa, Karama, Mansura, Ein Issa, Jurneyyeh, Ath-Thawrah, Maadan, Sabka, Tell Abiad and Suluk sub-districts with Food Assistance.

- 80,667 beneficiaries were reached by WFP and 6 XB INGOs in Al-Hasakeh Governorate, in Ras Al-Ain, Areesheh and Al-Hol sub-districts respectively in Mabruka, Areesheh and Al-Hol Camps

- 30,818 beneficiaries were reached in Der ez-Zor Governorate by WFP and 3 XB INGO, in Kisreh sub-district in Abu Khashab, Allkede and Jazaret Elbuheimde camps, Malha informal settlement and other neighborhoods

- A total of 6,505 beneficiaries were reached by 2 XB INGOs in Aleppo Governorate in Menbij and Ain Al-Arab sub-districts.

NES Response Gaps and Challenges

- Presence of explosive hazards contaminations.
- Conscription concerns in Menbij.
- The interruption of WFP distributions for almost two week.
- Limited coverage in Kisreh sub-district.

Ar-Raqqa Responses - November
**SHF:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Code</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Project title</th>
<th>Type of Org</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Original Budget</th>
<th>Recommended budget</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SYR-17/DDA-3558/NE Standard Allocation/FSA/NGO/7469</td>
<td>Al Wasei (Al Wasei Association)</td>
<td>Distributing Emergency packages of food on IDPs in Mabrouka and Ain Issa camps</td>
<td>NNGO</td>
<td>Food Security and Agriculture</td>
<td>$422,889.68</td>
<td>$422,889.68</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYR-17/DDA-3556/NE Standard Allocation/FSA/NGO/7499</td>
<td>GOPA (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and all the East)</td>
<td>Emergency food parcels for Syrian IDPs and affected people in Al-Hassakeh Camps in Syria.</td>
<td>NNGO</td>
<td>Food Security and Agriculture</td>
<td>$446,607.30</td>
<td>$446,607.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYR-17/DDA-3556/NE Standard Allocation/FSA/NGO/7537</td>
<td>SYCA (Syria Al Yamama Charity Association)</td>
<td>Distribute Emergency food kits to the IDPs in Al Arisha camp and in formal sites</td>
<td>NNGO</td>
<td>Food Security and Agriculture</td>
<td>$498,406.00</td>
<td>$498,406.00</td>
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Food Security and Agriculture Total: $1,367,902.98

**Gaps/Coverage Analysis:**

![Gaps/Coverage Analysis Image]
- OBJ1 Map Link: https://goo.gl/CXnv9m
- OBJ2&3 Map Link: https://goo.gl/4pKcCe
- Integration Map Link: https://goo.gl/yJ9keV

Next Meeting: To be held on 16 Jan 2018 - Syria – Damascus – Four Season Hotel – Palmyra Venue – (10:00 – 12:00)