Food Security Cluster Meeting in Erbil, Iraq

Date: 02/03/2016
Venue: NCCI Office, Ainkawa, Erbil
Time: 11:00 – 12:00
Attendance: WFP, IRCs, FAO, RFSAN, INTERSOS, OCHA, UPP, Mercy Corps, Afkar, WV, IRW, Mercy Hands, MCC, NCCI, Oxfam, ASA, UIMS, TGH, SAAD, Al Naaber, and REACH Initiative

Agenda:
1. Round of introductions
2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting
3. Updates on Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Funds (IHPF)
4. Introduction of Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) III - by REACH Initiative
5. Oxfam/IRC Pre-Crisis Market Analysis (PCMA) preliminary findings - by Oxfam
6. Updates from Regional Food Security Analysis Network (RFSAN)
7. Updates from partners
8. AOB

ACTION POINTS:
1. The Cluster team to share the Oxfam/IRC PCMA presentation PowerPoint and relevant resources.
2. (Previous action point) The Cluster to acquire more information from WFP about quality assessment of PDS

1. Round of introductions

2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting
   • The minutes of the previous meeting was approved.
   • Action point follow-up:
     o The Cluster team to share the contact information of WFP Focal Point for RRM: DONE.
     o The Cluster team to share contingency plan presentation: DONE.
     o The Cluster team to share IDP Information Centre January Report: DONE.
     o (Previous action point) The Cluster to acquire more information from WFP about quality assessment of PDS: Pending.

3. Updates on Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Funds (IHPF)
   • As per the tentative time table in the draft allocation paper, the final allocation strategy paper (approved by the IHPF Advisory Board led by HC) has not yet been released (tentative release date: 02 or 03 March).
   • The first-round standard allocation of the 2016 Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPF), administered by OCHA. The total available funding for this round of standard allocation is 32,698,232.21 USD. Additional 5,000,000 USD has been set aside for an emergency reserve intended for rapid and flexible allocations in the event of unforeseen emergencies, or contextually relevant needs. The allocation which is for the NNGOs—the reserve allocation—will be run separately and not concurrently with this Standard Allocation.
At the HCT, it was noted that the priorities in the paper may become more detailed with the meeting of the Advisory Board. No major changes are expected, aside from potential addition of details to the priorities.

The Food Security Cluster welcomes submission (through online GMS) of food security/agriculture/livestock livelihoods related proposals. The OCHA online Grant Management System (GMS) will be used to administer this allocation (online proposal submission, review of proposals and submission of reports). And the FSC strongly encouraged partners to familiarize themselves with the GMS website. (An email on GMS has been circulated. Partners could practice and learn more about GMS at [http://gms.unocha.org/support](http://gms.unocha.org/support).

Regarding eligibility, UN agencies and NGOs are both eligible to apply for funds, however, NGOs (no matter international or national) would be prioritized due to the limited size of the allocation. In particular, the FSC strongly encouraged national NGOs who have the outreach and capacity to apply to address the critical needs in hard-to-reach areas.

The FSC will share further guidance, including FSC-specific prioritization for food security projects, in the second week of March. Meanwhile, if partners have any question or need any kind of support, please do not hesitate to contact the FSC team.

GenCap Advisor has highlighted the importance of integrating gender in projects and take into account gender segregated data.

### 4. Introduction of Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) III - by REACH Initiatives

- REACH Initiative are glad to announce that data collection for the next Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment (MCNA) is scheduled between mid-March and end of April 2016. Preliminary findings will be available in early May.
- The MCNA program is a cluster-led initiative that provides a comprehensive multi-sectoral understanding of humanitarian needs as reported by the internally displaced population living outside camps in Iraq. It is aligned with the HRP cycle in order to better inform the humanitarian community and enable effective prioritization of assistance.
- The MCNA III will be the second MCNA conducted across all accessible areas of Iraq, and the third of its kind in the KRI. Prior data collection rounds were held in May-June 2015 (MCNA II) and October 2014 (MCNA I); this allows for the robust comparative longitudinal analysis between these assessments and the MCNA III.
- MCNA III will focus on district-level analysis. The coverage of this round of study will extend to Baghdad and Ninewa. The inclusion of Fallujah is still pending.
- In order to ensure the MCNA III reflects the needs of FSC, partners were asked to provide feedback on the MCNA indicators by 03 March (email has been circulated by the Cluster).
- Partners suggest that the study could take into account summarization in data collection as the data collection period is not the period when IDPs are the most vulnerable. In addition, the need of capturing information related to access to PDS is also highlighted.
- Please see below REACH Initiative’s presentation PPT:

  ![REACH MCNAIII 2016_FSC.pdf](https://example.com/REACH_MCNAIII_2016_FSC.pdf)

### 5. Oxfam/IRC Pre-Crisis Market Analysis (PCMA) preliminary findings - by Oxfam

- Wheat flour market system – Preliminary findings:
Target groups access wheat flour mostly from the Iraq Public Distribution System (PDS), but also from aid agencies and local traders. Due to the poor quality of the local wheat, however, imported wheat flour is needed to bake bread at bakeries and at the household level. Some IDP communities prefer to bake bread at home but may lack the equipment to do so.

With the current economic crisis, the PDS capacity in country is already overstretched, with delays in registering new IDPs and incomplete baskets being distributed. An increase in demand may well result in an increase in the price of wheat flour overall.

The Government of Iraq buys the vast majority of wheat produced in country from farmers; however, these local farmers have virtually not been paid for the harvested crops they sold over the last two harvests, resulting in a high level of debt.

Traders (importers, wholesalers, local traders) seem to be able to increase their level of supply as long as the border with Turkey remains open.

Analysis findings suggest the following recommendations for preparedness activities:
- Support wheat storage system at local level
- Support bakers (loans or grants to increase their rolling stock of wheat flour).

Recommendations for emergency response:
- Support establishment of bakeries in host communities and in camps (investigate opportunities to link with existing or new savings groups);
- Provide vouchers for bread or wheat flour to affected households (depending on local communities preferences);
- Support private sector millers (fuel vouchers or grants/loans to transport wheat from the silos);
- Support bakeries (loans / grants to increase their rolling stock of wheat flour).

Please find the presentation PPT and PCMA toolkit at the following link: https://oxfam.box.com/s/ws7mgy9c9lrft8vje4fz14z2zwazudp

If any partners are interested in conducting similar market assessments, please do not hesitate to contact Corrie Sissons from Oxfam at CSissons@oxfam.org.uk for more information and resources.

6. Updates from Regional Food Security Analysis Network (RFSAN)
- RFSAN updated partners on the upcoming trainings that will be provided to the FSC partners in April 2016 in addition to the e-learning courses (in Arabic).
- RFSAN sought partners’ feedback on possible FS-related thematic areas, geographic areas, and potential information gaps that need to be taken into consideration in its upcoming RFSAN Food Security and Livelihood Assessments (still at planning stage). Partners are encouraged to share their feedback and assessment plans/findings with Basima Abdulrahman of FAO/RFSAN at Basima.AbdulRahman@fao.org
- While RFSAN has been focusing more on Syrian crisis in 2015, it is planning to produce Quarterly Food Security Bulletin for Iraq to provide general FS updates. A questionnaire will be circulated through the FSC to consult partners about what type of information this communication should include.
- RFSAN website link: http://rfasan.info

7. Updates from partners
- Iraqi Red Crescent Society:
  - 200 food parcels were distributed to IDPs in Erbil.

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• Bread distribution in IDP camps in Erbil on a daily basis.
  • SAAD and Al Naaber
    o Food distribution was conducted in Shaqlawa for IDP families from Salah al Din.
  • WFP:
    o Refugee operations:
      ▪ In Domiz and Qushtapa will transit to e-voucher system while the value of
        vouchers remains unchanged.
    o IDP operations:
      ▪ Pilot cash distribution was completed in Akre. The next round will take place in
        March.
      ▪ Voucher system has change from individual vouchers into family vouchers (1
        vouchers for 5 persons).
    o WFP encouraged FSC partners to share their food basket content and their list of
      beneficiaries to the FSC to avoid duplication.

8. AOB
• Reminder for Activity Info reporting (due on 05 March).
• GOAL will present the findings of GOAL and Big Heart’s Agricultural Market Assessment carried
  out in Rabia and Zakho in January 2016 in next FSC meeting in Erbil.

NEXT MEETING: 16 March (Wednesday), 11am, NCCI Office, Erbil