Food Security Cluster Meeting in Erbil, Iraq

Date: 13/04/2016
Venue: NCCI Office, Ainkawa, Erbil
Time: 11:00 – 12:00
Attendance: CRS, SCI, IRCS, FAO, WFP, INTERSOS, REACH Iraq, ARO, GOAL, ZOA, UIMS, PUI, TGH, WVI, ACF, Cordaid, OCHA, IRW, ASDHR, RRM (WFP)

Agenda:
1. Round of introductions
2. Approval of minutes of the last meeting
3. Makhmur response updates
4. Updates on Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPF)
5. Updates from partners
6. FSC reporting tools
7. AOB
   I. RRM coverage and coordination
   II. Ramadan preparation

NEXT MEETING: 27 April (Wed.), 11am at NCCI Office, Erbil

ACTION POINTS:
1. The Cluster team to share SCOPE presentation and accompanying notes.
2. The Cluster to follow up with the WFP SCOPE team in regards to SCOPE data for partners’ Activity Info reporting during 1st-5th of every month.
3. The Cluster to share GOAL/Big Heart Agricultural Market Assessment in Al Shikhan, Ninewa
4. (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
   • Approved; action points follow-up:
     o The Cluster team to share the Mainstreaming Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) presentation: DONE.
     o All partners to enter Activity Info Reporting between 1st-5th April: DONE.
     o The Cluster team to share SCOPE presentation and accompanying notes: Pending.
     o (Previous action point) The Cluster to acquire more information from WFP about quality assessment of PDS: Pending.

3. Makhmur response updates
   • Since the 25 March, there has been influx of IDPs to Makhmour, which have now been relocated to Debaga Camp. As of 12 April, approximately 2,237 individuals in Debaga. The figure changes on a daily basis as new families arrive and some families leave the camp with sponsorship to Kirkuk and Baghdad.
   • Food assistance: BCF, IRCS, KAR (a private oil company) and KRCS have provided hot meals and other food items. WFP Immediate Response Rations were provided (by NRC) to newly
arrival families. These families were later provided with Family Food Rations by WFP (through BCF) in Debaga camp. Families also received cooking stoves (IOM), kitchen sets and kerosene (UNHCR).

**Key concerns:**
- The congested situation in Debaga camp has been the main concern. ERC and UNHCR are in the process of identifying available space near the camp for a new site and following relocation.
- In general, the food needs is currently covered. The FSC reminds partners to please liaise with ERC and relevant clusters for any on site assessments/visits and assistance.
- Erbil Inter-Cluster Coordination Group is looking at preparedness for potential additional displacement to the same area. From FSC side, RRM (WFP) has more than 20,000 IRRs in stock in KRI.

**Lessons learned from the ongoing Makhmur response:**
- The importance of addressing protection concerns and filling the gaps in a systematic manner between RRM (72 hours) and continued food assistance in areas of need is highlighted. Moving forward, the FSC is looking towards a comprehensive response approach, whereby consensus over protection issues is reached with guidance, and clusters and actors are coordinated to provide multi-sector assistance, including protection, food, NFI items for cooking, and water.
- For partners designing future activities and projects, it is important to consider all aspects of the project – not only availability/access to food (in-kind dry food distribution) but also the components for food preparation, including but not limited to water access, cooking stoves/fuel, kitchen sets; and the modality of communal/mobile kitchens.
- The capacity of ERC in leading the response and the coordination between humanitarians and government counterparts is highlighted.

### 4. Updates on Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPF)

- For this round of IHPF (IHPF 2016 Standard Allocation 1), FSC received 16 proposals with a total amount of $14 million.
- On the 30th of March, the FSC Strategic Review Team (comprising of the FSC Coordinator, Co-Coordinator, and one representative each from WFP (UN), FAO (UN), Caritas (INGO), UIMS (NNGO), as well as OCHA and NCCI as observers) met to analyse the submitted projects to be included in the FSC portfolio and recommended to the IHPF Advisory Board. 40% of FSC’s portfolio (8 projects with a total amount of 5.9 million USD) is comprised of national NGOs, and 7 out of 8 projects included partnership or direct implementation of national NGOs.
- Following the cluster defence to the IHPF Advisory Board on the 6th of April, the Advisory Board has allocated 2.5 million USD for the overall ask of the FS cluster (5.9 million USD) and provided the following feedback:
  - Direct instruction from the AB to remove the livestock project as it is second-line and not first-line life-saving.
  - AB requested the FSC to ensure that its portfolio does not create a parallel pipeline with WFP’s programming (though the FSC has justified/clarified during the defence regarding how the projects target hard-to-reach areas and complement to WFP programming), and there is no overlap or duplication of efforts.
  - Due to the limited amount of funding, the allocation has prioritized Health and WASH and S/NFI clusters’ life-saving assistance.
Based on the defence outcome, 5 proposals (5 partners) were selected by the FSC in the end. Three of the 5 selected partners are national NGOs. The prioritized activities include:

- Distribution of ready-to-eat emergency food rations to vulnerable families on the move or stranded near frontlines – Anbar, Salah al-Din and Kirkuk.
- Distribution of family food parcels and vouchers (where functional markets exist) to the most vulnerable families – Anbar and Salah al-Din.
- Cash for work opportunities to support agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation – Ninewa.

All partners that did apply should have received a notification email from the FSC informing whether their projects are selected (or not) and relevant feedback as well as from the GMS. Please contact the FSC if you would like any further bilateral feedback.

5. Updates from partners

- **WFP**
  - For IDP operation: starting to collect fingerprint of 12,000 families in Erbil city with the plan of moving towards cash distribution in July (To be confirmed).
  - For refugee operation: WFP has started a new assessment in camps to gain an understanding of vulnerability in the camps and improving the current targeting.

- **GOAL**
  - GOAL/Big Heart have conducted an Agricultural Market Assessment in Al Shikhan, Ninewa. The report has been finalized and will be shared with all partners through the FSC.

- **World Vision**
  - Started the April cycle of WFP voucher distribution for 31,444 households. Nearly 5,000 complaints regarding targeting have been collected, resulting in over 2,000 families being reconsidered and re-registered in the programme. The distribution is planned to be finished by 26 April.

- **INTERSOS**
  - The WFP SCOPE system has been implemented in the refugee camps.

- **IRCS**
  - 120 food packages, kitchen sets were distributed to families with autistic children on 02 April.

- **ACF**
  - Reached 75,663 individuals through WFP food vouchers in the Zakho district for a total value of 732,444 USD.
  - Reached 31,835 individuals through the distribution of 193 MTs of WFP family food rations in Shiekhan, Tilkaif, Telafar and Zakho districts.

- **Food Security Cluster**
  - In response to WFP ongoing roll-out of its targeting criteria to focus the resources on supporting vulnerable families who cannot meet their food needs, from FSC side, the Cluster is connecting non-WFP partners with the caseloads that are not eligible for WFP assistance to fill the gaps.

6. FSC reporting tools

- **5W**
  - This is a FSC initiative to capture more details on the activities themselves and where partners are located.
• Partners whose activities are funded by WFP and/or FAO do NOT need to submit their inputs as the FSC directly obtains the information from WFP and FAO.

Activity Info (AI)
• During 1-5 of each month all partners must report their previous month’s achievements in Activity Info.
• Partners whose activities are funded by WFP and/or FAO HAVE TO report in the AI system as the data entry for each organization could only be accessed/completed by partners themselves.
• For partners who do not have access to the AI system, please contact Michelle Hsu (michelle.hsu@wfp.org) and/or Craig Browne (craig.browne@wfp.org) for further information and assistance.

7. AOB
• RRM coverage and coordination
  • For Anbar response, RRM partners in Anbar are assisting the new arrivals from Heet with emergency read-to-eat rations. There are approx. 1,200 families in Kilo 18/7 and 1,400 families in Kilo 60/Al Waffa. On 12 April, 700 families arrived in Al Waffa and will be assisted.
  • Map for RRM coverage has been shared by the FSC. If any partners hear of any displacement, please contact WFP RRM focal point, Celine Bracq (celine.bracq@wfp.org), who will share these alerts with RRM partners operating in the areas.
• Ramadan preparation
  • Starting in June, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in ad hoc food distributions due to Ramadan. Partners are encouraged to share any information on any planned Ramadan distributions by any actors to facilitate coordination and ensure effective use of resources.