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|  | Meeting Minutes   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Location: | Erbil/virtual | | Date: | March 31, 2020 | |

# Participants

TGH, PLC, SEDO, ACF, WV, DCA, GOAL Global, DAA, ICRC, PLC, ZOA, ASB, FAO, WFP, Mercy Corps, FRC, Mercy Hands

# Action points (and responsible person)

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| # | Action Item | Focal Point/Organization | Timeframe |
| 1. | Submit COVID-specific activities in modified 3W mapping Excel document (see attached) | All members | April 2, 2020 |
| 2. | Complete the “Partner Inputs and Challenges” Excel document (see attached) | All members | April 2, 2020 |
| 3. | Review draft Joint Response Plan (to be sent on Thursday, April 2nd) | FSC Coordinator/All members | April 7, 2020 |
| 4. | FSC to ensure coordination between PLC, WFP and other camp actors for assistance distribution | FSC/WFP/PLC | -- |

# Discussion

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| Introduction | All members introduced themselves on the chat |
| FSC Updates | *Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security*. Please see the attached document for full details. First, import restrictions may affect food availability, although until now food is still moving across the borders. Second, populations may have difficulty accessing food – certain vulnerable groups may not be able to move outside the camps and beneficiaries who depend upon shops for their livelihoods may face difficulties. There will be potential impacts on import restrictions, access issues, food utilization, and combined pressure of other natural disasters.  *Global COVID-19 HRP.* Iraq is one of the priority countries as there is already an active HPC cycle under implementation. The targeted populations under the HRP and 3RP appeals do not change. The global COVID-19 HRP will allow partners to include new populations and expand activities. There is an ongoing discussion with OCHA about how to operationalize this plan. For example, will the priority districts remain the same as the current HRP, or will the new COVID HRP allow partners to target non-HRP prioritized districts as not all the COVID affected districts are included in the 64 prioritized districts in the HRP? The HCT and ICCG are discussing this matter – the FSC will send updates as it receives them. UN Agencies are highlighted in the plan, with specific needs/situation and response monitoring indicators already identified for WFP and FAO.  *COVID 3W.* There is a need to understand where FSC is targeting activities, coordinate the response and understand the requirements in terms of partner presence, stock capacity and access. Therefore, we will be using the same dashboard Excel spreadsheet that many partners have already used, adding a column to indicate if it is a COVID response. Please add to this dashboard and we will upload to the dashboard so partners can track where organizations’ are focusing their activities.  *FSC Response Plan*. In order to ensure streamlined messaging from the FSC partners, there is a need to have consistent key messages, plus integration of gender concerns and accountability to affected populations. The FSC asked if partners would like to actively work in groups to develop these elements of a Joint Response Plan, without any response. Therefore, the FSC coordinator will take the lead in drafting a proposal, which will be sent to partners for their feedback/input/edits. The endorsed key messages will then be shared with relevant clusters for collaboration and joint key messaging.  *CCPM Workshop.* The results from the partner survey compiled – thanks to everyone who responded. This workshop should have been held in March; however, due to the current circumstances it has been postponed until the end of April. If lockdown has been lifted, the workshop will be in person; otherwise the FSC will hold a virtual “brainstorming” session.  *Upcoming Meetings*. If the situation continues to devolve, we will start having biweekly meetings. We will plan to have a meeting at the end of April; however, monitor your inbox for updates and if we have a meeting sooner. |
| Partner Updates | *BCF.* Operating a hotline for all individuals (originally set up more for host community members); however, 50% of callers are out-of-camp IDPs and Syrian refugees. The need is large and in response, BCF did a food basket distribution to more than 9,000 households to IDPs, refugees and host community members. They have also done a distribution to roughly 1,300 families in Sebiran district, as the whole district is under lockdown and quarantine. BCF will work to provide data from the hotline to see where there is need within KRG – i.e. tracking received calls. Partners can coordinate with BCF if they have distributions in those districts.    Cluster partners are asked to coordinate out camp food distribution activities in Sulaymaniyah, Duhok, Erbil, Halabja and Garmyan with BCF.  *World Vision.* With WFP, have done cash-out and distribution to in-camp populations. The transfer values are now in beneficiary wallets, although they are facing challenges with the Financial Service Providers. MoMD has distributed double rations in all camps (44.5kg per family) – this is a positive sign given that other assistance is facing challenges. For the refugees, they have done distribution in Badarash camp. MTA company has been contracted to distribute the money – similar to the IDP response, lockdown and bank closures have been major challenges.  *DCA.* Have a community center in Mosul and Daratu. They ran a small scale needs assessment as part of their COVID19 response planning, and they found that food security is becoming a central issue as families lose their source of income. DCA are operating through a national partner in Mosul – they transferred money prior to the closures, so that has allowed them to continue cash distributions. They are now redirected funds more to food security (previously it was more mine action and education). There is a need for increased support – DCA will be providing assistance through direct cash as markets in their areas of activity are still running. They are trying to be flexible on the amount provided (i.e. 100 USD per family, up to 500 USD for larger families). They are also seeing that the poorer communities are facing more intense restrictions than the urban centers (specific reference to Erbil). Although DCA is a small NGO, they are open to coordination so please feel free to get in touch.  *DAA*. Food security and access is a critical issue. In the old city of Mosul, there is a desperate need. DAA is willing to coordinate with partners. They are able to provide volunteers to distribute to households around Mosul, the district and the Nineveh governorate in general (i.e. Bashiqa, Al Hamdaniya, etc.). They are also providing the Civil Defense and Health Department in Mosul city with disinfection sprayers. They send the money by AsiaHawala (you can transfer 2 million IQD per day).  *FAO.* WFP and FAO are in the process of conducting a joint food security study/assessment. In order to gather information from partners, colleagues from those organizations may be reaching out to partners to gain insight on their activities and challenges to ensure that the study captures information required for partners. The study will be the building block for a monitoring system to track the food security situation in the country. Additionally, if partners hear that farmers are having access issues to their land, please let FAO know. FAO is in communication with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources about this issue and will share information as it arises. In KRI, there are emergency phone numbers that farmers can call if they are experiencing issues. Please see the list of numbers attached.  *PLC*. PLC are distributing in-kind food for camp populations as a response to COVID, even though they previously switched to livelihood programming. These are weeklong food packages. PLC are planning to extend their distribution to Domiz 1 and 2, Muthanna and Duhok governorates. PLC will coordinate with WFP to select a list of most vulnerable households in the camps for their activity.  *Mercy Hands*. Teams completed eVoucher distributions in three camps in Ninewa, reaching 6,250 households. In Anbar, they also completed the eVoucher distributions in HDC and Al Thullajah camps, reaching 1,715 households. No SIM card distribution from Zain. School feeding has stopped in Muthanna and Basrah (based on government decision). Additionally, they have faced access issues at checkpoints – they have reached out to OCHA to try to resolve these access issues.  *ZOA.* They have responded to floods in Mosul on March 18th, distributing food packages and drinking water to 220 households. They are planning to do more distributions in Mosul, ensuring that they target the most vulnerable households. They have heard that there are food security issues in Badarash camp, so they are planning a response.  *CNSF.* 60 direct beneficiaries and 90 indirect beneficiaries for a greenhouse production activity. Everything is still moving – a company is contracted to supply the materials. Due to the lockdown, they communicate with beneficiaries using social media.  *WFP Dohuk*. Continuing with distributions for northeast Syrian refugees in Badarash and Gawiland camps. MTA distributes direct cash and they are working with UNCHR to start a new cycle. They are also working with the governor’s office to receive permission to distribute cash to all beneficiaries using an AsiaHawala plan. If they get approval and the contract with AsiaHawala signed, they will start work immediately (hopefully today or tomorrow).  *ASB.* Completed the irrigation work in Aljazeera. All other activities, including Farmer Field Schools, agriculture input distributions and others are all on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.  *Human Appeal.* Human Appeal is implementing resilience-building projects for conflict-affected vulnerable rural populations and urban youth to sustain food production and improve livelihoods in Ninewa, with funding support from WFP.  Rehabilitation of Irrigation Aljazirrah canals in Rabia, Ninewa is completed, with 14850 m2of canal cleaned and rehabilitated to restore access to irrigated water supply. Completed the construction of 46 greenhouses at the University of Mosul (40 greenhouses are dedicated to graduated students from the university and 6 for research purposes, with provision of seeds and tools). Also distributed egg incubators with their inputs and tools to 50 female-headed households, beehives to 140 beneficiaries and seeds/agriculture inputs to 500 farmers in Ninewa. 20000 CfW laborers were employed in planting olive trees in Bashiqa. A school feeding project was funded by WFP and implemented in Ninewa (Tal’afar) Anbar (Ana), providing daily meals to students in primary schools for 4 days a week. Due to the recent outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, the Ministry of Education and WFP suspended the school feeding programming in March. Additionally, we are in discussions with WFP to distribute the remaining food items to the vulnerable local communities. Additionally, the official handing over ceremonies of Rabia Canal rehabilitation, The University of Mosul Greenhouses and Nimroud forest greenhouses are delayed. |
| General Comments and Questions | *Are there any other organizations distributing in refugee camps?*  If so, please contact Jessica at PLC.  *Is there a place where can see where organizations are conducting activities?*  Yes, please update the 3W mapping request and we will publish online so everyone can access. We will update this on a regular basis, so please continue to send updates as necessary.  *Is there a way to access bank accounts?*  UN agencies are working on this through OCHA – FSC will raise again to ensure that OCHA knows that banking is a major issue for FSC partners.  Food Security Cluster COVID-19 resources are available online.  Global Food Security Cluster: <https://sites.google.com/view/fsc-covid19/home> |