

FOOD SECURITY SECTOR – oPt

March 29th, 2017 - Minutes of Meeting - Gaza Strip

Date, venue: March 29th, 10:00-12:00, MoA in Gaza Strip – Training Center

Facilitators: Anas Musallam, Nabil Abu Shammalah

Agenda:

1. MoA update:
 - a. Priorities to respond in the agricultural sector
 - b. FMD update
2. MoSD update about food assistance during emergencies
3. HRP 2017 info-graphic and basic coordination
4. ICRC brief about safe agricultural practice and ARA interventions
5. Advocacy activities - 50 years of occupation
6. HPF funding – FSS priorities for next call
7. Partners corner
8. AoB

Attachments:

1. FMD presentation
2. FMD precautions bulletin
3. HRP-2017 info graphics for Gaza Strip and West Bank
4. FSS Advocacy presentation
5. PFESP presentation

- Nabil Abu Shammalah opened the meeting by welcoming all the participants. He stressed on the importance of such meetings to enhance coordination in general, and highlighted the important role of coordination between the organizations and the MoA in order to capture all efforts planned and/or implemented on the ground.

1. MoA Update:

- **Priorities to respond in the agricultural sector:**
 - The director of NGOs department stressed the importance of the coordination with MoA for the implementation of projects.
 - Starting from 2017, the MoA has developed a form for NGOs aiming to implement any agricultural intervention in Gaza Strip. This form needs to be filled out by the intervening local and international organizations accordingly, as a first step to select beneficiaries. The MoA will provide feedback based on their database. This process is particular relevant for any new projects. The form is available from the MoA and the FSS.

- MoA aims at having a mapping and assessing the priorities of interventions.
- MoA is willing to support the implementation of the current strategy for the development of agriculture sector in Gaza in order to unify the efforts on this issue.
- FSS stressed on the high importance of coordination amongst all actors and illustrated the role of the FSS in this field, suggesting to conduct an ad-hoc FSS meeting in the near future to deeply discuss the coordination matter.

- **FMD update:**

- The veterinary services department (VSD) of the MoA presented the role of the VSD in control of epidemiological diseases in general, stressing the necessity of securing vaccines for different diseases in order to avoid any infection outbreak like what happened few weeks ago with FMD.
- One of the main reasons of the FMD outbreak is the weak response to secure enough quantities of FMD vaccines. However, once the vaccines were received, VSD started large campaign for vaccinating cattle farms
- Despite the FMD outbreak is now under control, the VSD highlighted that it is possible to have further occurrences of the FMD, because new infections could happen and could cause a new outbreak. This is why the VSD is asking all organizations as well as FAO and MoA in Ramallah to assist in providing additional FMD vaccine doses beside other diseases' vaccines. In this regard, VSD communicated with the private sector to work on securing vaccines as a preparedness measurement of such a crisis.
- FSS distributed a leaflet on FMD awareness and precautions procedures prepared by the Animal Department of the MoA.

2. MoSD update about food assistance during emergencies

- As a part of the ICCG contingency planning, FSS has elaborated the procedure for providing food assistance in close coordination with MoSD and with the main food suppliers WFP and UNRWA as well as the FSS partners having food assistance emergencies intervention capacity.
- In case of large scale emergency, some 70 schools (50 UNRWA schools + 20 PA schools) will be used as designated emergency shelters (DES) to host people who might be displaced. UNRWA and WFP are coordinating efforts to support IDPs inside DESs providing food assistance based on food availability realizing the fact that the Government (MoSD) is the main food supplier during emergencies, and WFP will support MoSD based on the request for this support and availability of resources.
- FSS realize that many partners have/will have same plans to assist affected people. A capacity assessment of FSS partners (members of Food Assistance Working Group) is regularly updated to assist FSS team better coordinate efforts in times of emergencies.
- In order to capture and coordinating all efforts in this regard, FSS and MoSD met with the ministry of religious affairs (MoRA) and Local and Islamic NGOs. In the meetings it was explained the status of the plan, what has been done and what efforts are required to provide a high-level assistance and avoid any duplication of services, ensuring coordination with these important players.

- Any organization who plan to provide food assistance during emergencies is invited to communicate with the FSS team and update its capacity for potential type and size of intervention.

3. HRP 2017 info-graphic and basic coordination

- Graphical information of the HRP 2017 are products from the FSS visual representations of information, data, about the FSS HRP 2017.
- The product contain a collection of information elaborated from data extracted from the projects matrix that was sent among FSS partners at the time of developing the FSS HRP 2017 projects.
- The product was designed in a manner that enable partners to easily understand data and facts for planning, coordination on the ground, advocacy and analysis.
- Both info-graphics for the West Bank and Gaza Strip are available at the FSS website:
 - Gaza HRP map: <http://fscluster.org/state-of-palestine/document/fss-gz-map-hrp-2017>
 - WB HRP map: <http://fscluster.org/state-of-palestine/document/fss-wb-map-hrp-2017>

4. ICRC brief about safe agricultural practice and ARA interventions

- The ICRC is focusing its agricultural activities inside the 1 km border area. The activities aim to provide access to and rehabilitation of agricultural land up to 100 m from the border, which improves access to up to 10% more productive agricultural land in Gaza. The ICRC rehabilitates conflict-affected infrastructure, establishes ecological/sustainable agriculture methods and inputs to address soil salinity/water shortages, and provides conditional cash grants, as well as micro-economic initiatives (MEI) to persons with physical disabilities. The ICRC builds the capacity of PRCS volunteers to improve their competencies and tools to deliver appropriate and timely emergency assistance.
 - **Land clearance/ levelling, ploughing and sowing in the border area**
 - ✓ Improved seed varieties of wheat, peas and green fodder as well as chemical and organic fertilizers were provided to farmers in the border area (100 m – 1 Km). In addition, through the project, accessibility to their land in the border area was increased (5,580 dunums of border area agricultural lands (1,080 dunum of peas, 3,500 dunums and 1,000 dunums of fodders).
 - ✓ 1,260 farming households close to the border area were supported and could increase their income by 20% by distributing fertilizers and drought tolerant seeds
 - **Agricultural and livelihood support to farmers in the border area**
 - ✓ 200 vulnerable farming households in the border area affected by the 2014 conflict were assisted in producing cash crops, *a movie was presented and available on the following link* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcqn0cYlpAc>).

- ✓ Drought tolerant almond seedlings were provided and 112 farming households in the border area were supported in producing new improved almond varieties, covering 130 dunums.
 - ✓ In support of the biological protection of date palm trees against the red palm weevil, 1,100 pheromone traps are maintained all over Gaza Strip on a monthly basis, and the population of insects is reduced by at least 30,000 per month.
 - ✓ Pilot project to encourage **safe farming** as sustainable and resilience building intervention. The ICRC will integrate the principle of safe farming and environmental protection in all its agricultural interventions.
- **Agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation**
- ✓ Rehabilitation of 13 km of agricultural roads between 300 – 1,500 m from the fence with Israel, in the middle area and the South, which improved around 998 farmer’s access to agricultural land.
 - ✓ Rainwater collection systems from the roofs of 4 hectares of greenhouses and 1,400 m³ of storage ponds providing water for more than 8 hectares of agricultural land benefiting 126 individuals
 - ✓ Two water storage facilities providing 475 m³ to 150 HHs and 30 hectares of agricultural land
 - ✓ Undertook an innovative and detailed study to consider options to dam Wadi(s) in Gaza in order to provide fresh water to farmers in the border areas
 - ✓ 88 affected greenhouses (GH) east of Salah Eddin road were rehabilitated and became productive.

5. Advocacy activities/ 50 years of occupation.

- The FSS advocacy focal point from PUI briefly presented this year initiatives about the plan for better advocacy coordination. The HCT (Humanitarian Country Team) members plan to engage in a series of coordinated and joint advocacy initiatives to mark 50 Years of Israeli Occupation (5th to 10th of June, 1967 Six- Days war) and 10 years of blockade (4th of June 2007) on Gaza Strip. The initiatives is coordinated through the HCT Advocacy Working Group, in coordination with local and international NGOs associations.
- The main objectives of the 50 Years of Occupation’ Advocacy initiative are as follows:
 1. **Raise awareness regarding the impact of ‘occupation’** for Palestinians in real-life human terms in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank
 2. **Highlight** the occupying power’s prolonged regime with regard to the oPt and the **fundamental concerns** regarding the incompatibility with IHL and IHRL
 3. **Contribute to mobilizing international support** and action towards ending the occupation and ensuring respect for international law.
- The campaign will revolve around two themes and two related hashtags. Agencies are encouraged to use these hashtags when spreading their advocacy materials on social media.
 - ✓ [#thisisoccupation](#)

- Spread stories, highlighting the humanitarian impact of the occupation on Palestinians in very human terms. The aim is to increase public understanding of what it means to live under this form of prolonged occupation, in all its facets. As stated in the 2017 HNO for the oPt, the humanitarian needs stem from the effects of protracted occupation. Partners are encouraged to use the hashtag as of now.

✓ [#endtheoccupation](#)

- This element of the campaign will encourage international action towards a global call to end the occupation, which is characterized by chronic IHL and IHRL violations that create the oPt's significant humanitarian needs. This segment of the campaign and the related hashtag will be launched as of May 2017.
- The HCT will not try to outline how the occupation should end or what political solution would need to happen. Rather the emphasis will be that from a humanitarian and moral standpoint, it needs to end. This will enable Palestinians to undertake self-sustaining livelihoods, thereby removing need for international humanitarian assistance.
- Suggested advocacy activities include:
 - Coordinated op-eds by the HC and other Heads of Agency;
 - Centralized and shared online platform (i.e. web portal/landing page) for campaign; joint social media support, joint messaging
 - Targeted information towards particularly the EU and MS;
 - 2 actual events (Brussels & UNGA) *tbc*

6. HPF funding-FSS priorities for next call

- Humanitarian Pooled Fund conducts funding allocations to support the delivery of strategic priorities within the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)
- There are currently around US\$5 million with the HPF which will be made available for the first allocation. The target date for the launch of the allocation is end of March 2017.
- As the first step, sectors/cluster have to prepare a list of priority activities that should be considered for funding in this allocation in closer coordination with line ministries.
- Within the Country Strategic Objective 3, the FSS in coordination with MoA has defined specific priorities. For this round of HPF allocation, projects should contribute to restore and enhance the productive capacity of vulnerable and affected households, to protect their livelihoods and assets, and increase their resilience.
- In **Gaza Strip**, Priority is given to projects addressing water and land, compounding the positive effects of improved water availability and rehabilitation/improvement of agricultural land.
- Better and more sustainable agricultural production is key to preserve vulnerable livelihoods of small farmers. Summary of activities:
 - ✓ Agricultural water wells rehabilitation
 - ✓ Agricultural water carriers
 - ✓ Land rehabilitation

- In addition to good practices and principles of implementation of humanitarian projects, implementing partners should promote cash for work modality of implementation, rather than contracting companies.

7. Partners' corner

- N/A

8. AOB

- **PFESP:**
 - The PFESP (Palestinian Fund for Employment and Social Protection) representative gave an introduction about PFESP. It was established according to a presidential decree in 2003, and its work was activated in the West Bank in 2011, while in the Gaza Strip it started to work in 2015.
 - PFESP aims to provide the national umbrella for employment and job creation programs in Palestine. Currently, PFESP seeks employing 2,500 graduates. This component's fund amounts to 5 million US Dollars, provided by the Islamic Development Bank. Through the project there has been coordination with organizations working in the field of employment such as Islamic Relief and CRS.
 - PFESP supports the establishment of small businesses through micro finances. This component is funded with 20 million US Dollars.
 - PFESP is the lead of the Local Employment and TVET (LET) Council in the Gaza Strip.

Action Points:

- FSS will coordinate an ad hoc FSS meeting with FSS partners and other different organizations, in close coordination with MoA, for establishing a mechanism of coordination and communication with the MoA in the phases of planning and implementation of NGOs projects.

List of Participants:

N°	Name	Organization
Gaza Strip		
1.	Anas Musallam	FSS
2.	Nabil Abu Shammala	MoA
3.	Husam Al-Khateeb	MoA
4.	Taher Abu Hamad	MoA – Animal Department
5.	Zakarya Al-Kafarnah	MoA – VSD
6.	Hasan Azzam	MoA – VSD
7.	Ibrahim Miqdad	MoA – VSD

8.	Ala'a Nofal	MoA
9.	Azza Al-Hayek	FAO
10.	Ahmed Abu Shaaban	Al-Azhar University
11.	Claudia Flores	UNRWA
12.	Samah Abdel-Rahman	UNRWA
13.	Usama Mukhallalati	ICRC
14.	Rami Mahani	IRPAL
15.	Mohammed Al-Agha	IRPAL
16.	Fida'a Al-Sinwar	Qatar Charity
17.	Razan Abu Dayya	ACF
18.	Heba Abu-Kmail	We Effect
19.	Nour Habib	PFESP
20.	Fida'a Shurrab	PFESP
21.	Munther Abdel-Hadi	NDC
22.	Mahmoud Majdalawi	ACTED
23.	Laila Abu Nada	CARE
24.	Ahmed Sourani	Oxfam
25.	Waseem Ashour	Oxfam
26.	Waseem Mushtaha	Oxfam
27.	Ragheb Bsaiso	NPA
28.	Muneer Murtaja	PUI
29.	Hana Abu Eyada	SIF
30.	Hazem Abu-Karesh	CRS
31.	Musab Al-Hindi	MAAN
32.	Mohammed Al-Bakri	UAWC
33.	Ali Derbashi	ESDC
34.	Nida'a Abu Al-Atta	PARC
35.	Maysara Al-Kafarnah	ACAD
36.	Riyad Junainah	PHG
37.	Yasmin Mahmoud Bashir	ASDPD
38.	Khalid Abu Zer	GUPP
39.	Hussam El-Atrash	FAFD
40.	Ahed Al-Agha	KACS
41.	Azzam Farhat	Al-Mawassi
42.	Abdallah Al-Farra	Al-Nakheel
43.	Mohammed Mousa	Al-Sahel Assoc.
44.	Mohammed Al-Jaja	Society of Women Graduates (SWG)
45.	Hala Al-Shareef	SYFS
46.	Tareq Jourani	PFA
47.	Khalid AL-Massri	NDF
48.	Nesma Al-Sallaq	IDCO
49.	Rajeh Abbas	JCP

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