



FOOD SECURITY SECTOR – Palestine

May 18th, 2020 - Minutes of Meeting- Gaza Strip

Date & venue: May 18th, 13:00-14:30, ZOOM - Gaza Strip

Facilitators: Marco Ferloni, Anas Musallam

Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New vulnerabilities and available response capacity 2. Operational challenges 3. Assessments and surveys 4. Updates and reporting systems 5. AoB
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- This is the first virtual meeting for all partners conducted by the FSS under the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the FSS continued operations through coordination meetings with representatives from both PNGO and AIDA, as well as bilaterally with some FSS partners.

1. New vulnerabilities and available response capacity

- Partners were asked to provide any assessed or noticed negative impacts on some subsectors that may show new vulnerabilities due to COVID-19 crisis, and that may need a specific response in order to support impacted livelihoods.
- With regard to small-scale farmers, it was reported that local production has increased availability of products on the local market, resulting in some retail prices to drop. Export flows plays a role in this regard.
- Food processing cooperatives reports significant decrease of employees, although the month of Ramadan has brought some relief.
- Nothing was reported by participants regarding, fishers, livestock, dairy

2. Operational challenges

- **AAH:**
 - AAH faced problems in the disbursement of cash assistance to their beneficiaries. AAH explored alternative payment mechanisms and ended up signing a new agreement with Bank of Palestine (BoP) for the new payment mechanism through ATM card. AAH is expecting to have the ATM cards ASAP before the next payment scheduled in the second half of June.
 - AAH faced another challenge regarding the delivery of awareness sessions in the HF ongoing project. Whereas gathering people is not an option under the context of COVID-19, an alternative working modality was proposed in order to resume activities, considering the continued restrictions related to COVID-19. This may include using of social media.
- **Oxfam:**

- Oxfam/MAAN are WFP’s implementing partners for in-kind food distribution, and are adapting the distribution SoPs to fit with COVID-19 measures. Distributions will take place with increased safety measures, which entails additional costs and expected delays. It will be conducted after Eid Holiday. Lessons learned will be documented.
- **CRS:**
 - CRS adapt the procedures of the e-vouchers project in order to cope with COVID-19 situation. These measures included the following:
 - ✓ Distribute leaflet about COVID-19 to all the beneficiaries.
 - ✓ Using the vendors shops as central places to distribute cards and project booklets.
 - ✓ Sent SMS to beneficiaries to inform them about the project, instead of meeting them face to face.
 - ✓ Top-up beneficiaries’ cards divided into small groups, in order to decrease the overcrowdings inside the supermarkets.
 - Also, CRS faced challenge in terms of the need for more time and efforts to start-up a new cash learning project to find alternative cash distribution methods and mixed e-vouchers approach, as the banking system is not ready to fulfil their role under the current circumstances.

3. Assessments and surveys

- **Oxfam** has carried out some quick assessment on women cooperatives and small businesses and found that most of them had to cut their staff in half due to the change in the demand during the current crisis of COVID-19 pandemic. They were unable to cover the costs for their production and were not able to market their products. Some improvements came during Ramadan, but they are still worried that after Ramadan things might worsen again.
- **AAH** carried out an assessment conducted with the two food processing cooperatives in Rafah and Middle Area. In general, they were significantly affected by the consequences of the COVID-19 restrictions, especially when it comes to the demand on their products as well as the income, which sharply dropped. One of the cooperatives reported that they had to move to the house of one of the members to work from there after being not able to pay the rent of the business premises.

4. Updates and reporting systems

- FSS developed a simple spreadsheet to track all kinds of study/survey/assessment related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The sheet was previously shared with the partners and few records were entered. FSS encourages all partners to use the sheet to register any relevant assessment or study, and share the sheet with the FSS team in order to update and consolidate it.
- The [google-drive spreadsheet](#) is opened to partners on view-only mode, so partners can also track what is done in this regard.
- FSS has been providing weekly [situation reports](#) on the food security and livelihoods situations on weekly basis; partners are invited to contribute and provide their inputs at any time during the week. This is an open time activity. However, FSS will not issue the sitrep due to Eid holidays, and possible to make the sitreps biweekly or monthly, as needed.
- FSS invited partners to continue updating the [online 5Ws system](#) to track all activities related to COVID-19 on weekly basis.
- In order to properly track the commitment and disbursement of funds related to COVID-19 response under the FSS. partners were asked to fill out another simple and user-friendly

spreadsheet. This is different than reporting to the common FTS; it is only meant to financially track the COVID-19 related activities. However, it is not only linked to the activities eligible in the COVID-19 Country Response Plan (CRP). It is an open process too. and partners are free to report to this financial tracking at any time.

- The activated channels of coordination and communication with the FSS team are always open.

5. AoB

- Nothing to report

List of Participants:

N°	Name	Organization
Gaza Strip		
1.	Marco Ferloni	FSS
2.	Anas Musallam	FSS
3.	Hana Salah	FAO
4.	Husam Abu Se'eda	MoA
5.	Mohammed Saaed Rasheed	IRPAL
6.	Muneer Murtaja	AIDA
7.	Mahmoud Hamada	PNGO
8.	Amjad Shawwa	PNGO
9.	Usama Mukhallalati	ICRC
10.	Nidal Hamdouna	DCA
11.	Miki Yoshida	UNRWA
12.	Amal Al-Khateed	UNRWA
13.	Najla Shawa	Oxfam
14.	Waseem Ashour	Oxfam
15.	Muhsen Abu Ramadan	ACAD
16.	Maryam Ashour	FAFD
17.	Nida'a Abu Al-Atta	PARC
18.	Nidal Al-Musallami	BLDA
19.	Hazem Al-Madhoun	Action Against Hunger
20.	Olivia Falkowitz	Action Against Hunger
21.	Jihad Hassan	PUI
22.	Xavier Grosset	PUI
23.	Deya Al-Baba	CRS
24.	Hazem Abu Karesh	CRS
25.	Francesca Favini	Xxxxxxxxxx
26.	Sara Alves	We World-GVC
27.	Khalid Al-Naouq	SCI
28.	Hussein Qanou	SCI
29.	Mariam Ashour	FAFD
30.	Jihad Al-Khateeb	SIF
31.	Nisreen Al-Madhoun	OCHA
32.	Hamada Bayyari	OCHA
33.	Abdel Razzak Gherbawi	NRC
34.	Ramiz Younis	NRC

35.	Raed Hanania	GC
36.	Rana Saqer	GC
37.	Osama Jouda	ACTED
38.	Tareq Al-Jourani	BAYADER
39.	Haytham Saleh	IOCC
40.	Abdallah Al-Farra	Al-Nakheel Assoc.
41.	Aisha Salem	ESDC

END