

Food Security & Agriculture Sector National Working Group – Meeting Minutes February 8, 2022

Agenda

1. Food Security and Markets Situation Analysis (RAM - WFP)
2. LCRP Updates
3. Updated Terms of References of the Food Security Sector
4. Updates on Reporting and on Cash Mapping Exercise
5. AoB

PARTNERS ATTENDING: 49 participants from 32 agencies including the Sector Coordination team ACF Spain, ADRA, AICA, Ajialouna, ANERA, Arcenciel, AUB, CCP Japan, Echo, FAO, GVC, Hariri Foundation, Insan Association, ISWA, Jafra, Makhzoumi Foundation, MCC, MDF, Merath, missioneast, MoA, Nusaned, PARCIC, PCPM, Ret Liban, Sboverseas, SCI, ShareQ, UK Red Cross, WFP, WHH, WVI.

1- WFP – RAM: Food Security and Markets Updates

- Food imports: A decrease of 12 percent is registered when comparing 2021 figures to 2020 and 27 percent decrease when comparing them to 2019 figures.
- Stock level remain stable at the beginning of 2022.
- Informal market rate previously breached the LBP 33,000 level for the first-time mid January.
- Food SMEB recorded a 13% increase between December and January, at LBP 659,916.
- Sardine, tomato paste and eggs registered the highest price increase between December 2021 and January 2022 (19 percent).
- Central Bank kept the coverage of gasoline imports requirement in USD at 85 percent at “Sayrafa” rate. Further decrease in the percentage expected in the future.

2- LCRP Updates

Key contributions of the sector to LCRP outcome and impacts in 2021

Under **SO1 of the LCRP** – ensure protection of vulnerable people –

The Sector contributed to the development of a safe protective environment for vulnerable populations through the systems put in place by partners on accountability to affected populations, grievance redress mechanisms, community feedback mechanisms and referrals to ensure the safe, dignified delivery of assistance and do no harm approaches.

Under **SO2 of the LCRP** – provide immediate assistance to vulnerable people –

The Sector met the urgent food and nutritional needs of vulnerable groups through the provision cash-based food assistance that empowered participants while supporting local markets; in-kind assistance as a complement to cash-based food assistance and contingency for ad-hoc/time-bound emergencies; and

through the enhancement of agricultural livelihoods and income opportunities, while mitigating the risk of malnutrition through the promotion of optimal nutritional, food safety and quality practices.

Under **SO3 of the LCRP** – support service provision through national systems –

The Sector ensured that vulnerable populations have access to improved services and programmes through strengthened national systems. The Sector supported government institutions, at the national and decentralized levels, to enhance their service delivery capacities in food security, agriculture and social protection through strategic guidance, technical assistance and policy and operational support to improve current and future interventions.

Under **SO4 of the LCRP** - reinforce Lebanon's economic, social, and environmental stability

- The Sector strengthened households' income and food security by scaling up its cash transfers support, contributing to mitigating the deterioration of vulnerable group's economic condition and the erosion of inter-communal social stability.
- Agriculture and income-generating interventions also supported local production, generated employment opportunities, thus boosting households' resilience, and served as an enabler for individual participation in livelihood activities, which contributed to enhancing social cohesion through the creation of spaces for intergroup contact between Lebanese and Syrian communities.

Activity Info Update (January 2021):

Please refer to the PowerPoint slides or check the online [dashboard](#).

3- Updated Terms of References of the Food Security Sector

National and Regional Working Groups

- The National Working Group is managed by the Sector Coordinator (WFP), Co-Coordinator (FAO) and Information Management Officer (WFP), under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The National Working Group may also be supported by a co-lead organisation elected on an annual basis through a participatory process involving members of the working group.
- The co-lead is chosen from a nongovernmental organisation (national or international) with (a) recognised technical expertise in the Sector, (b) operational capacity in the Sector, and (c) the willingness and capacity to commit time and resources to fulfill co-lead responsibilities.

Structure of the Working Group:

At the regional level the Sector provides coordination and information management support through three Regional Working Groups:

1. North (including T5 and Akkar)
2. Bekaa
3. Beirut, Mount Lebanon and the South.

Responsibilities of the Working Group:

- Establishment and maintenance of appropriate sectoral coordination mechanisms
- Planning, assessments and strategy development
- Attention to cross-sectoral priorities
- Information Management, monitoring and reporting
- Communication, advocacy and resource mobilization
- Emergency preparedness
- Inclusion of key humanitarian and development partners

4- Updates on the Reporting and on Cash Mapping Exercise

2021 End of Year Reporting & 2022 reporting:

- 2021 databases locked and data Extracted
- Data cleaned and verified (80% done)
- Initial draft written by Francesca, to be revised and completed
- Partners' presence map to be developed
- 2022 databases created based on the new logframe
- The sector conduct two training sessions
- January deadline is on Friday 18th (exceptionally)

Cash Mapping Exercise:

- The cash-mapping exercise is due to be finalised on 31 January. RC/OCHA will consolidate the information obtained from partners and provide guidance on next steps.
- Sector sent a reminder to all partners to submit their figures

5- AOB

- Upcoming National meeting: March 8 at 11:00 – 13:00
- Upcoming North Regional meeting: March 29 at 11:00 – 13:00
- Upcoming Bekaa Regional meeting: February 30 at 11:00 – 13:00
- Upcoming BML-South Regional meeting: February 31 at 11:00 – 13:00