

Wednesday , 14 October 18:00– 19:30

Sheikh Zayed Centre

Women in protracted crises: Syrian realities and CFS FFA for food security and nutrition in protracted crises #26

ORGANIZERS

Women Representatives' Gender Network

WFP

European Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI

Women's United Nations Report Network (WUNRN)

Abstract: Syrian women will speak about their realities, their challenges and their hopes for peace, focus on food insecurity, malnutrition and human rights violations. The dialogue will link the Syrian experiences with the CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (FFA, to be endorsed in CFS 42). The objective of the FFA is to improve the food security and nutrition of populations affected by, or at risk of, protracted crises, and to contribute to the right to food. In order to do so, evidence is necessary. The event will capture the challenges of protracted crises through the lens of Syrian women and humanitarian experts. No one in Syria has escaped the impact of four years of civil war, and Syrian women have experienced profound violations of their right to food. Their experience is relevant also for other protracted crises. In many areas of Syria, food security is deteriorating because of the continuing conflict, disrupted food production, and hikes in domestic fuel and food prices. 9.8 million people are considered to be food insecure, of which 6.8 million are severely, and three million moderately food insecure. The dialogue will be interactive, and the audience will be able to participate actively. Dialogue panel.

Ms. Lama Kannout – Syrian Feminist Lobby, Ms. Salma Yousef Jalkhi – Syrian Feminist Lobby, Mr. Carlo Scaramella - World Food Programme, Ms. Elizabeth Kvitashvili - Co-chair for CFS FFA Negotiation on Food Security & Nutrition in Protracted Crises, Video greetings by H.E. Staffan de Mistura, UN-Secretary-General's Special Envoy to Syria Slide show by Ms. Lois Herman, Women's UN Report Network. Moderators: Ambassador Nomatamba Tambo and Ms. Margot Skarpeteig, Co-chairs of Rome Gender Network

KEYWORDS: Protracted crises , CFS Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises , Women's rights and gender equality , The right to food

Languages: EN, AR

Refreshments

Summary: The panel aimed to enhance the understanding of the situation in Syria for women and to provide concrete recommendations for the implementation of the CFS FFA, particularly from a gender perspective. The panel was addressed/opened by Mr Staffan de Mistura, who in his video speech stressed the importance of exerting all efforts towards finding a political solution of the Syrian crises, and expressed his and the UN commitment to include Syrian women's rights activists in the peace negotiations. Lois Herman from WUNRN gave a medial presentation on women – food security- conflict & peace. The panel had three rounds. In the first round, we discussed realities and challenges from the ground. In the first round, the two Syrian guest panelists, Ms. Kannout and Ms. Hakin, explained the challenges that Syrian women face every day and their coping mechanisms related to food insecurity in the Syrian protracted crisis. Ms. Kannout discussed the major challenges for women's rights activists face in their work in Syria and how they organise as actors to change this situation. Ms. Hakim told that Syrian women face enormous challenges every day in securing meals for their families, and discussed coping mechanisms that women have created in order to cope with the challenges. Ms. Lilian Halls French of the Euromed Feminist Initiative stressed the importance of global solidarity with Syrian human rights and peace activists. The WFP representative Mr. Scaramella explained the key challenges particularly related to women/gender that humanitarian agency face every day in Syria and WFP's strategies to tackle the challenges. In the second round, Ms. Elisabeth Kvitashvili presented the FFA and the gender principle. She gave a brief overview of the FFA and addressed the importance of addressing gender in protracted crises situations. She said that the framework is relevant also for Syria. The overall objective of the CFS-FFA is to improve the food security and nutrition of populations affected by, or at risk of, protracted crises in a way that addresses the underlying causes, thus contributing to the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security. The fifth principle of the FFA is dedicated to women's empowerment and gender equality. In the last round, we tried to connect the realities from the ground with global action. The panelists looked at the usefulness of the FFA and the way forward to implement it. Towards the end, there were questions from the floor and interaction took place with the audience. All panelists looked at the FFA from a field perspective, and concluded that FFA is fit for purpose and should be made active use of. The panelists gave concrete recommendations for the way forward. Recommendations by the panel In the implementation of the FFA, it is important to ensure that: 1. there are greater coordination and collaboration among UN implementing agencies and other actors, among them civil society organizations, so that humanitarian and human rights actions and reports don't overlook the gender aspect. Thereby, reinforcing a more integrated and holistic response 2. the international community not only tackle recommendations by human rights resolutions, security council resolutions and humanitarian resolutions but also take care of their implementation. 3. the international community acknowledges the important role women can play as leaders and participants in peace negotiations. 4. there are predictable resources for the humanitarian agencies 5. the international community works more closely with local communities and engage /involve local women in aid operations to ensure assistance is tailored appropriately for local populations especially the most vulnerable among them 6. the international community targets marginalized and discriminated populations and individuals, 7. aid and assistance operators ensure the health and safety of the food distributed 8. the international community does not leave out women's knowledge, as stressed in the FFA 9 because of the complexity of the context, we not only focus on gender issues but also on other important elements, such as the root causes of the crises 10. the international community work together with the appropriate UN Agencies to lift the siege in affected areas and stop the financing of the same.