



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
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in collaboration with:



WHOLE OF SYRIA (WoS)
FOOD SECURITY SECTOR
Strengthening Humanitarian Response



Global
NUTRITION
CLUSTER

Building capacities in multi-sectoral programming for nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture

Training Workshop: 14-16 March 2016 Hotel Kempiski, Amman, Jordan

Rationale

Sector assessments conducted in 2015 show that food insecurity has reached alarming heights in Syria. Key factors contributing to food insecurity in Syria include, but are not limited to: conflict, displacements, depletion of (productive) assets, lack of agriculture inputs, dampened purchasing power, fragmented markets and infrastructure, lack of employment opportunities, rising prices of food, fuel and agricultural inputs, and soaring inflation.

An estimated 8.7 million people are in need of a range of food security related assistance. The most vulnerable groups are internally displaced people and returnees, households dependent on gift, assistance and unskilled labour, small-scale farmers and herders, female headed households, people with disabilities, and Palestine refugees.

Of the 8.7 million people in need, at least 6.3 million people (category one) have food consumption gaps, suffer from significant loss of livelihood assets, and are resorting to negative or sometimes irreversible coping strategies (such as selling of assets). The remaining 2.4 million people (category two) are able to maintain minimally adequate food consumption only by engaging in negative coping strategies, and if not assisted will quickly, slip into the first category.

It is estimated that 3.16 million children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women in Syria are at risk of malnutrition and are in need of preventative and curative nutrition services in 2016. Further, 86,000 children aged 6-59 months are suffering from malnutrition, with over 600,000 children of the same age group suffering from micro-nutrient deficiencies. Infant and young children feeding practices are also an issue in the context where pre-exclusive breastfeeding rate before the crisis was low (43%) and widespread donations and untargeted distributions of breastmilk substitutes (BMS) are current.

There is an agreed need to think more holistically about nutrition response in the context of resilience building, based on an assessment of needs looking beyond acute malnutrition. Preventing increase in malnutrition rates requires to base interventions on a comprehensive understanding the multi-sectoral causes of malnutrition, and to work across sectors. This is specifically relevant while focusing on restoring the agriculture sector. People need not only to be able to access to local sources of food but rely on nutritious and diversified food to attain a complete and adequate diet.

While there is huge will, challenges remain due to limited technical capacities at field level for multi-sectoral and nutrition-sensitive programming within international and local /Syrian NGOs partners on the ground. National and international relief and development actors should be put in the condition

to plan, implement and monitor their interventions, notably in agriculture, taking into consideration both food security and nutrition aspects. Previous discussions with nutrition and food security (agriculture working group) members have also led to the identification of specific capacity-development needs related to integration of food security and nutrition programming, coordination, indicators for M&E, key approaches and tools to build resilience, food security and nutrition; response analysis; needs of population in conflict and insecurity.

To address the identified capacity gaps, FAO in close collaboration with the food security (including the agriculture working group) and nutrition clusters will facilitate a training workshop entitled **Building capacities in multi-sectoral programming for nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture**

Overall goal of the training workshop:

Building capacity of food security and nutrition partners on how to better integrate nutrition in food security and agriculture programming in order to maximize the nutritional benefits of resilience-building interventions in the context of the Syrian crisis

Proposed date and location

 **14-16 March 2016 (3 days) – venue TBC, Amman, Jordan**

Training workshop specific objectives and results

The training workshop intends to address the gaps and challenges that are being faced by partners in integrating nutrition in food security and agriculture in the context of the response to the current Syrian crisis, including the need to build resilience. More specifically, it is expected that, by the end of the training workshop, the participants will have:

- 1) A shared understanding of the linkages between nutrition, food security and agriculture, and identified opportunities for collaboration across sectors
- 2) Strengthened skills in needs assessment, design, implementation and, monitoring and evaluation of nutrition-sensitive food security and agriculture interventions
- 3) Learn from experiences on successful (and unsuccessful) practice in integrating nutrition in food security and agriculture interventions in the Syrian context

Workshop content and methodology

To achieve these objectives, the training workshop agenda will include the following themes:

- Guidance on how to conduct joint programming between nutrition and food security and agriculture, and on how to identify relevant nutritional objectives and indicators
- Case studies presented by stakeholders highlighting “what worked” and “what did not work”
- Guidance on relevant indicators for monitoring and evaluating nutrition-sensitive food security and agriculture interventions
- Discussions on ways forward and identification of follow-up actions (how can current projects be adapted, transformed to maximize their nutritional impacts? What are the opportunities in the region for piloting and monitoring nutrition-sensitive food security and agriculture programmes?)

The workshop will alternate between plenary and group work sessions. Emphasis will be given on maximizing the sharing of experiences between participants from different sectors (i.e. nutrition and food security/agriculture), the sharing of technical knowledge and practical guidance. This will be done through:

- Participatory planning exercise (see FAO (2013) Agreeing on causes of malnutrition for joint action guidelines)
- Presentations of case studies by participants
- Presentations by technical experts

Every participant will receive complete workshop documentation including the set of presentations made by participants, practitioners and technical experts during the workshop, and guidance to access key resources to go further on the topic.

Proposed participants

The training workshop will gather cluster partners from nutrition and food security sectors. This includes professionals working in agriculture, livelihoods, livestock, fisheries, nutrition and health. Professionals from the Water and Sanitation sector or professionals engaged in M&E are also encouraged to participate in the workshop.

Workshop process

The workshop is being organized in collaboration with Food Security Sector – Whole of Syria and Nutrition Clusters. Cluster members will be consulted prior to the workshop to assess their specific needs and expectations toward this kind of technical workshop.

This will be an expansion of the training workshop that took place at Gaziantep on 19 November 2015, extending to the other hubs including Damascus, Amman and other locations.

Participants

In order to keep the training workshop very interactive and to allow group work sessions, the training workshop will be limited to 25-30 participants.

Humanitarian organizations, clusters/sector coordination groups as well as academics and individuals working on nutrition and/or on food security and agriculture are invited to attend the workshop.

The training workshop is facilitated by:

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