



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Building capacities in multisectoral programming for nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture

Training Workshop: 23th -25th November 2015
Tugcan hotel, Gaziantep, Turkey

Rationale

In total, some 9.8 million people in Syria are estimated to be food insecure, with 6.8 million of these severely food insecure with extreme food consumption gaps¹ - a level of need that requires external food assistance. The remaining 2.6 million people can maintain their food needs but at the cost of irreversible coping strategies, forcing them in to the more extreme category.

Since January this year alone, more than half a million people have been displaced. The conflict continues to seriously disrupt agricultural activities and food markets, according to the FAO-WFP report. Syria's relative food security resilience so far is largely due to the country's well-developed farming sector before the crisis. However, the longer the crisis lasts, the bigger the losses to the country's well-developed farming infrastructure, with a sharp contraction in yields that will turn the country into a net importer of many basic food items that were previously produced locally.

While acute malnutrition remains to date fairly marginal, chronic malnutrition is widespread (23%). There is no sign of short-term solution to the conflict and destitution is on the increase in many areas. It is therefore essential to prevent likely increases in malnutrition rates, including for micronutrient deficiencies. Infant and young children practice is also an issue at stake 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 are also restrictions of complementary foods as well as concern about the poor micronutrient content of food intakes.

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 multisectoral 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.

However, 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. Priority attention should be then given to build capacity of local government and field staff in terms of joint planning for food security, nutrition and livelihoods. 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

¹ 2015 Syria Strategic Response Plan


nutrition aspects. Previous discussions with nutrition and food security (agriculture working group) members in Gaziantep 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 multisectoral 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:

 **23rd to 25th November 2015 (2,5 days) – Tugcan hotel, Gaziantep, Turkey**

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) Enhanced knowledge of the existing tools and manuals in order to support integrated and nutrition-sensitive approaches,
- 4) 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 from the region 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 & Livelihoods (FSL) and Nutrition Clusters (including the agriculture working group). Cluster members have been consulted prior to the workshop to assess their specific needs and expectations toward this kind of technical workshop.

This *technical workshop* will build on a first joint *Advocacy workshop* between Food Security & Livelihoods and Nutrition Clusters which will take place on the 19th of November at the Tugcan Hotel, Gaziantep, in order to discuss the current portfolio of FSL programmes in Syria and discuss the potential for improving the integration of nutrition within current and future programmes.

Participant:

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:

with the financial support of:

