



FOOD SECURITY

Lead Ministry: Ministry of Agriculture (MoA)

Coordinating Agencies: WFP and FAO

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PEOPLE IN NEED



1,401,721

PEOPLE TARGETED



1,109,832

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



473.5 million

OF PARTNERS



30

GENDER MARKER

1



SECTOR OUTCOMES

OUTCOME 1: Promote food availability.



\$45.2 m

OUTCOME 2: Promote food accessibility.



\$416.6 m

OUTCOME 3: Promote food utilization.



\$7.7 m

OUTCOME 4: Promote stabilization.



\$4 m

INDICATORS

of individuals (including adolescents and youth) receiving in-kind food assistance

of individuals receiving food assistance [cash-based transfers for food]

of farmers with enhanced farming production

of agricultural institutions supported for agricultural livelihoods

of individuals employed in the agriculture sector

of individuals supported for improved nutritional practices



PRIORITY INTERVENTIONS

- 1: Provide direct and critical food assistance to ensure improved food availability through in-kind food assistance (e.g. food parcels, community kitchens) and improved food access through cash-based transfers for food (e.g. e-cards, food vouchers) for vulnerable individuals.
- 2: Improve agriculture livelihood by increasing capacity of production of vulnerable small-scale farmers and by increasing employability in the food and agriculture sector.
- 3: Improve nutritional practices and household dietary diversity.
- 4: Strengthen food security information systems and coordination mechanisms.



1. Situation analysis and context

Food security in Lebanon has been severely affected by the Syrian crisis. Consequently, the food security situation of vulnerable populations, including Lebanese, displaced Syrians and Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS), has significantly worsened in 2015. For displaced Syrians, moderate food insecurity has doubled since 2014, affecting one quarter of householdsⁱ, and dietary diversity has remained a serious concern for the displaced populations for three consecutive years^{1, ii}. At the same time, the number of vulnerable Lebanese is increasing and PRS are increasingly employing negative food-related coping strategies.

In 2015, the Food Security Sector (FSS) has provided food assistance and support to the agriculture sector targeting vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians and PRS. However, limited funding and other constraints have prevented the FSS from meeting critical food security needs. Moreover, food assistance activities have been reduced, while needs have remained the same and/or have increased. In January, funding shortfalls forced the World Food Programme (WFP) to reduce the e-card value from US\$27 to US\$19 per person per month. Between July and September, WFP was only able to provide \$13.50 per person due to severe funding shortages. From October, WFP began providing \$21.60 per person (capped at 5 members per targeted household). In focus group discussions, displaced Syrians have indicated that they have resorted to negative coping mechanisms to mitigate the impact of the reduced assistance such as fewer daily meals and reliance on less expensive food commodities. Funding constraints also prohibited the implementation of non-food assistance activities, which could reduce the reliance on food assistance by supporting sustainable food production and agricultural livelihoods.

Assessment of Needs:

Available data shows a decline in food security for all vulnerable groups. Below is a breakdown by cohort.

Displaced Syrians: The 2015 Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian Refugees (VASyR) shows a significant worsening in overall food security since 2014. Moderate food security has doubled, affecting one quarter of households while food secure households have fallen from 25 percent to 11 percentⁱⁱⁱ. This decline could be attributed to a high dependence on food assistance, limited access to income and the overall decline in the amount of food assistance provided. According to VASyR 2015, 54 percent of displaced Syrians depend on e-card food assistance as their main livelihood source, a 14 percent increase from 2014. This issue has been further exacerbated by limited implementation of non-food assistance activities.

This decline in food security can be seen when applying the food assistance formula of the multi sectoral targeting exercise against the VASyR household sample². An estimated

(1) Assessments suggest that vitamin A and iron intake are insufficient while protein intake is decreasing. According to VASyR 2015, over 70 percent of households have not consumed any vitamin A rich food.

(2) The 2015 VASyR data is based on a representative sample of displaced Syrians households (4,105) throughout Lebanon.

57 percent of the households are found to be highly and severely vulnerable to food insecurity, and 20 percent moderately vulnerable³.

The VASyR 2015 shows that twice as many households adopted severe and crisis coping strategies (61 percent) compared to 2014 (28 percent) with 85% households relying on borrowing money. The number of households that are unable to cover the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (US\$435/month for a household of five) has doubled since 2014, reaching 52 percent⁴ in 2015, while 70 percent fall below the poverty line (US\$3.84/person/day), an increase of 20 percent from 2014. Consumption of nutrient-rich healthy food groups, including vegetables, dairy products and eggs, has fallen and was replaced by a higher consumption of fats and sugar. Infants and young child feeding practices continue to remain inadequate for almost all children (96 percent). These issues of dietary diversity have been detected over the last three years, resulting in increasing concerns of large-scale micronutrient deficiencies amongst displaced populations^{iv}. The governorates of Akkar, North and Bekaa have the highest proportion of food insecure households⁵.

Vulnerable Lebanese: The 2015 Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA)⁶ has provided a baseline of information on Lebanese household food security, indicating that 10 percent present vulnerability to food insecurity^v. These households tend to be headed by widowed/divorced/separated individuals. Akkar is the most vulnerable governorate, where 20 percent of households have borderline or poor food consumption scores, with inadequate dietary diversity and/or insufficient food intake. To cope with the shortfall, 56 percent of Lebanese households reported employing food consumption related coping strategies, including 5 percent which relied heavily on coping strategies. On average, Lebanese households reported a 50 percent reduction in income over the last two years, of which 24 percent is spent on food. This has led to over 50 percent of households incurring debt, mainly to purchase food (43 percent, with the highest percentage in Akkar at 61.5 percent); and to buy agricultural inputs (32.5 percent, with the highest percentage in Bekaa at 62 percent). Due to a lack of resources, 49 percent of Lebanese interviewed reported worrying about not having enough food, with 38 percent reporting eating few kinds of foods, and 31 percent unable to access healthy and nutritious food.

Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS): The UNRWA-AUB socio-economic survey conducted in June 2015 targeting PRS revealed that 94.5 percent of the total population are food insecure (63.2 percent severely food insecure and 31.3 percent moderately food insecure)^{vi}. This reflects an increase

(3) Considering the representativeness of the VASyR household sample, WFP applied the food assistance vulnerability formula to determine the percentage of households falling under each vulnerability category.

(4) While preliminary 2014 results indicated 29 percent, the final results of VASyR 2014, released in May 2015, indicated that 26 percent were unable to cover the minimum survival expenditure basket.

(5) Food insecurity varies significantly by district within the same region.

(6) For further information on geographical focus and scope, please refer to Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment of Lebanese host communities, 2015. Available from <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/download.php?id=9122>. Sample: 855 Lebanese households interviewed.

of food insecurity by 3.5 percent from the vulnerability assessment conducted in 2014. The household dietary diversity score was lower at all levels, and the most commonly employed coping mechanism is eating a lesser quantity of food, followed by eating the same quantity, but cheaper food. The food insecure particularly tend to compromise on meat, chicken, vegetables, fruit, milk and dairy⁷.

Agriculture and Environment – Impact of Crisis:

The FSLA 2015 has demonstrated that 37 percent of interviewed households have agriculture as their primary income source. The majority of assessed Lebanese have access to outdoor spaces, where three-quarters plant fruit trees and vegetables: 80 percent use the crops for consumption, and 60 percent for income generation. (It is worth noting, however, that 37 percent of those identified as food insecure do not have access to outdoor space.) Most farmers (72 percent) reported the need for support, mainly for fertilizers, machinery and seeds for agricultural production, and for cattle, poultry and fodder for livestock production.

The economic repercussions and the unstable security situation have impacted the agricultural economy and food production capacity all over Lebanon^{vii}. Farmers who have traditionally relied on agricultural inputs and services at subsidized/cheaper rates from Syria currently face an increase in input costs, and are struggling to keep up production. Furthermore, farmers and pastoralists are unable to cope with the escalating feed prices and decreasing prices of their animals and animal products, and are facing a high risk of outbreaks of pest and livestock contagious diseases. Farmers' income is also affected by the disruption of trade routes (closure of border points), and the increased cost of processing, storing and transporting goods to markets^{viii}. In addition, especially in areas where large displaced settlements are established, there is evidence of environmental concerns including natural resource depletion, water pollution, land degradation and habitat destruction of indigenous fauna and flora^{ix}. The agricultural sector needs investment support to enable small and medium farmers to boost production and to foster temporary job creation in the agriculture labour market which complies with Lebanese laws and regulations. Initiatives are emerging to respond to the investment need in creating a win-win approach where private Lebanese farmers could benefit from investment and displaced Syrians benefit from temporary employment opportunities⁸. Moreover, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) Strategy 2015-2019^x has identified needs for support of infrastructure rehabilitation and capacity-building to improve its provision of services, as well as its ability to respond to the impact of the crisis.

To address the evident food security needs, international

(7) Regarding Palestine Refugees from Lebanon (PRL): UNRWA has a social safety net program (SSNP) which provides 61,709 PRL with food assistance in the form of food in-kind and cash. The targeting approach, value, type and frequency of assistance, and distribution modality of SSNP is different from what is being applied in the case of PRS, therefore PRLs have not been included under food assistance in the food security sector although exceptions may be made based on vulnerability levels.

(8) For example: the MOFA Subsidized Temporary Employment Project STEP from MoFA pending discussions on further elaboration and development of such initiatives, and FAO support to the MoA Green Plan.

and national organizations and institutions, in coordination with line ministries MoA and Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA), have provided food assistance to nearly a million people⁹, and intensive support to the agriculture sector during 2015 under the coordination of the FSS¹⁰. In 2015, the food security sector secured only 57 percent of its funding appeal. With the demonstrated increasing levels of vulnerability and agricultural needs, additional budgetary requirements will be needed to address food insecurity in 2016.

2. Overall sector strategy

The food security sector seeks to align its objectives to the strategies of MoA and MoSA, which focus on insuring needs-based interventions, taking into account humanitarian principles.

In light of the worsening food security situation and subsequent increase in needs, the sector will continue to address food insecurity through targeted programmes which enhance direct access to food for the most vulnerable, combined with activities promoting dietary diversity, sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods, to respond to all food security aspects according to the standard four pillars: availability, access, utilization and stability¹¹. The sector recognizes that, in a protracted crisis, a combination of (1) direct food assistance responding to immediate short-term humanitarian needs, with (2) sustainable food production and improved agricultural livelihood activities is required to achieve food security.

Therefore, direct and critical food assistance (through cash-based transfers for food and also in-kind assistance where appropriate¹²) will remain a priority in the sector's support for highly vulnerable groups among the large population of displaced Syrians, but also PRS and Lebanese in 2016. However, in 2016, the FSS will increasingly support the overall sector development agenda. Support to private agriculture investment for sustainable production and the creation of temporary income-generating opportunities in agriculture will be key to achieving sustainable food security.

Considering the high level of dependence on food assistance, there is a need to introduce alternative complementary activities to reduce the risk of future shocks. The sector will therefore promote seasonal and casual agricultural livelihoods opportunities to support Lebanese private

(9) This includes in-kind food parcels and cash transfers for food (food vouchers and e-cards). March 2015 saw the highest number of individuals: 995,000 assisted. On average, 91.5% are displaced Syrians, 5% Palestinians and 3.5% affected Lebanese.

(10) Details can be found in the latest dashboard of the Food Security Working Group, available from http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/working_group.php?Page=Country&LocationId=122&Id=48

(11) Food availability: the availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through sustainable agricultural domestic production, food value chain and marketing or imports, including in-kind food assistance. Food access: access to adequate resources for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. Utilization: utilization of food through adequate diet and clean water by promoting diversified and quality foods to improve food safety and nutritional practices. Food security activities should be nutrition-sensitive. Stability: access to adequate food at all times without the risk of losing access to food as a consequence of sudden shocks or cyclical events. The concept of stability requires enhancing information on food security, coordination of agriculture activities and supporting national policy formulations.

(12) For example food parcels on arrival, community kitchens and distribution of locally produced fresh food or for one off distributions such as winterization or Ramadan assistance.

agriculture investment. These activities will be carried out in accordance with Lebanese law, and in consideration of the demands of the local agriculture businesses.

This will lead the sector into its transition towards the 2017-2020 strategy by emphasizing sustainable interventions to achieve stabilized a food security response. This transition is embedded within the 2016 plan, where activities leading to sustainable agriculture investment interventions and income-generating opportunities will be initiated, and be part of the 2017-2020 planning.

The FSS plans to continue using the electronic voucher system (e-cards) when market conditions are appropriate, to ensure efficiency and accountability of both food and non-food sector interventions¹³. The FSS will continue to invest in readiness for e-voucher transfers in contingency planning and preparedness.

The sector activities are in line with the MoA Strategy 2015-2019¹⁴, as particular focus has been given to building capacities of farmers, promoting agricultural livelihoods, and enhancing capacities of national and local agricultural institutions (i.e. the Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute/LARI, technical agriculture schools, and so forth).

Close collaboration with MoA and MoSA is critical to achieve the sector's objectives, which include a longer-term strategy for sharing and handing over responsibilities. The sector will more deeply engage with local actors in planning and service delivery. The role of MoA Centres and Offices, Offices of the National Poverty Targeting Program (NPTP), Social Development Centres and Municipalities is also crucial at the field level for the coordination, implementation and planning of seasonal, regular and contingency interventions.

While the FSS plays a predominantly humanitarian role to ensure availability and access to food for the most vulnerable through the provision of cash-based transfers or in-kind assistance, its role is also to contribute to the stabilization of the country by supporting sustainable food production and promoting agriculture investment. Small and medium entrepreneurs within food and agriculture will help the local economy, and will provide job opportunities for the most vulnerable. The agriculture sector represents an important opportunity to support all communities in working together in a peaceful environment.



Photo: UNDP

(13) E-voucher transfers for food has allowed for the injection of over US\$600 million into the local Lebanese economy through a network of some 410 WFP-contracted shops across the country.

3. Sector outcomes, outputs and indicators

The sector's overarching aim continues to be increased food security for all in Lebanon and improved resilience of the agricultural sector against food shocks. This is carried out targeting the most vulnerable Lebanese, displaced Syrians and PRS, as well as with an eye to supporting the stabilization of Lebanon.

The sector will achieve the overall objective through activities which contribute to the four outcomes and outputs below, all of which reflect a continuation of the 2015 sector strategy. The FSS outcomes also reflect the four pillars of food security.

Outcome 1 - FOOD AVAILABILITY: Food availability improved through in-kind food assistance and the development of sustainable food value chains¹⁴.

This will be achieved through the following outputs:

1. Provision of in-kind food assistance to the most vulnerable (when appropriate) through distribution of food parcels and community kitchens.
2. Enhancement of Lebanese small-scale and family-farming production, adoption of climate-smart technologies through the promotion of sustainable agricultural and livestock production, water use efficiency and conservation, and energy saving farming practices.
3. Improvements in marketing of small-scale and family farms through the promotion of food transformation and preservation, the creation and reinforcement of linkages between small-scale producers and local markets (e.g. community kitchens, WFP shops), and the distribution of unsold/unmarketed quality food from producer/retailer to local markets.
4. Reduction of food wastage and losses by improving post-harvest management and working on valorization of organic waste and least valued products (e.g. composting, awareness).
5. Control of trans-boundary animal and plant diseases through support to the monitoring and early warning systems for plants and animal diseases, and interventions to control the spread of transboundary diseases during emergencies.

Outcome 2 - FOOD ACCESS: Improved food accessibility through food assistance and agricultural livelihoods.

This will be achieved through the following outputs:

1. Improvement of direct access to food through cash-

(14) For details on sustainable food value chains, refer to the FAO publication Developing sustainable food value chains – Guiding principles, 2014. Available from <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i3953e.pdf>.

- based transfers for food such as e-cards and food vouchers for highly vulnerable populations, including displaced Syrians, PRS and vulnerable Lebanese¹⁵.
2. Support of the efforts of agricultural institutions to improve agriculture sector livelihoods, targeting agricultural associations, cooperatives, markets and government institutions (capacity-building: financial, training, materials, etc.).
 3. Support of private investment in agriculture through financial and technical support (e.g. access and utilization of unproductive land, irrigation/water management), and promotion of innovative credit/loan schemes for Lebanese, and/or provision of agricultural inputs such as seeds, livestock and equipment when more appropriate.
 4. Strengthening of the agricultural labour market (in compliance with Lebanese labour laws) by supporting the most vulnerable individuals in access to agricultural seasonal labour, casual labour to rehabilitate agricultural infrastructure (e.g. irrigation canals, rural roads, reforestation, forest clean-ups) through trainings and improved education programmes, as well as supporting the Lebanese small-scale agriculture businesses.

Outcome 3 - FOOD UTILIZATION: Improved food safety and nutrition practices through the promotion of consumption of diversified and quality food.

This will be achieved through the following outputs:

1. Improvement of nutrition-related behaviour and practices and food diversity for vulnerable households, through the promotion of school, backyard and roof micro-gardens and promotion of food preservation/transformation technologies at the household level.
2. Enhancement of food safety measures and policies by assisting the Government in improving the food inspection and safety measures, promoting Integrated Pest Management and Good Agriculture Practices and Standards, and conducting value chains in regard to food safety.

Outcome 4 - STABILIZATION: Stabilization promoted through enhanced information on food security, coordination of agriculture activities and support of national institutions.

This will be achieved through the following outputs:

1. Collection and analysis of data on food security, and dissemination of information to monitor and report on the situation of food security in Lebanon for preparedness and long-term stabilization.

(15) Sector members are encouraged to provide direct food assistance through the "OneCard" platform, which is cost effective and allows for good coordination of assistance.

2. Support of national institutions involved in food security on safety nets, monitoring, analysis and information management.

4. Identification of sector needs and targets at the individual, institutional and geographical level

The proposed targeting is flexible in order to accommodate unexpected needs that may arise and supplementary needs identified by sector partners in the field¹⁶.

Displaced Syrians: Of the displaced Syrian population, 89 percent (959,721 individuals) have demonstrated some level of food insecurity^{xii}. The food security sector aims to target households that present vulnerability to food insecurity. When applying the food assistance formula of the multisectoral targeting exercise against the representative VASyR 2015 household sample, 57 percent of households fall into the categories of severely and highly vulnerable, and 20 percent in the moderately vulnerable category¹⁷. Between 2013 and 2015, there has been a trend of deteriorating food security status^{xiii}, and considering the increasing levels of vulnerability, the risk is that, without assistance, these households would slip deeper into food insecurity. The sector will therefore target for food assistance 77 percent of registered displaced Syrians (830,320 individuals), that are moderately, highly and severely vulnerable to food insecurity, through improved availability (in-kind food) and access (cash-based transfers for food). Of the 830,320 most vulnerable Syrians, 40,200 will be targeted through food availability programmes (in-kind)¹⁸ and 790,120 will be targeted through food access programmes (cash-based transfers for food)¹⁹. The food security sector will continue to advocate for cash-based interventions, however, based on the level of in-kind food assistance in 2015 and on partner capacity, in-kind assistance will continue, in order to cover gaps not covered by cash-based interventions. The sector will also aim to provide food assistance to unregistered Syrians with proven vulnerability. Regionally, Akkar, North and Bekaa have the highest proportion of food-insecure households, while at the district level, the highest proportions of food insecure displaced Syrian households (reaching one-third) are found in Zgharta, Hermel, Koura, Chouf and Baalbek, with the lowest in Jezzine, Baabda and Beint-Jbeil. For food assistance, building on the household assessment conducted throughout 2015 and VASyR data, the sector is currently developing a desk formula to identify beneficiaries presenting vulnerabilities to food insecurity. This formula

(16) The sector will liaise with its partners to develop a contingency plan as a response to unforeseen shocks and funding shortfalls.

(17) Considering the representativeness of the VASyR household sample, WFP applied the food assistance vulnerability formula to determine the percentage of displaced Syrians falling under each vulnerability category.

(18) Although the sector will target 40,200 displaced Syrians for regular in-kind assistance, it is understood that there will be variations to this target based on seasonal or one-off assistance addressing temporary needs. During winter and Ramadan, for example, the number of displaced Syrians receiving in-kind food assistance increases (with partners providing food parcels, hot meals, dates, etc.), however, this is not reflected in the target for regular in-kind assistance.

(19) Based on the required food basket, WFP and partners provide \$27 per person/month through the "OneCard" platform.

is being developed in close coordination with the Basic Assistance sector to continue the joint targeting process and ensure complementarity of assistance. The formula will also allow for a tiered approach to food assistance based on level of need.

Information from the last three VASyR reports (2013, 2014, and 2015) indicate limited consumption of nutritious vitamin-rich food items and very poor child feeding practices²⁰. The continued poor nutrition practices are increasing the concern for the well-being of the general displaced population, especially for women and the overall development of children living under these conditions. Therefore, based on partner capacity, the FSS will target at least 10,000 individuals to promote good nutritional practices.

Palestine Refugees from Syria (PRS): 94.5 percent of the entire PRS population is food insecure (63.2 percent severely and 31.3 percent moderately), representing an increase of food insecurity by 3.5 percent (1,935 persons) over 2014. The FSS will target 42,000 vulnerable PRS with food assistance, of which all will receive cash-based transfers to cover food needs, and 5,000 of those will be targeted for complementary in-kind food assistance based on partner capacity²¹. Ongoing needs will be monitored through post-distribution surveys, a population headcount and regular monitoring of the beneficiary population by UNRWA. Pending government approval, activities promoting self-sufficiency production of leafy vegetables could support the diversification of alimentation and improve nutrition within the Palestinian camps²².

Palestine Refugees in Lebanon (PRL): The FSS will also aim to target PRL with proven vulnerability, mainly on food utilization (through promotion of good nutritional practices through awareness sessions and diversified food) and food access (through support to access to agriculture labour market).

Vulnerable Lebanese: While 85,562 vulnerable Lebanese households are eligible for NPTP benefits, NPTP has prioritized the most vulnerable utilizing the World Bank Proxy Means Testing formula to assess poverty, and food assistance (cash-based transfers²³) will be provided only to the poorest 9,500 households (57,000 individuals, based on NPTP calculations of six persons per household). Additional in-kind assistance (mainly through community kitchens) will also be provided to 5,000 vulnerable Lebanese by other FSS partners²⁴. The majority of vulnerable Lebanese targeted for

food assistance are located in the North, Akkar and Baalbek-Herme²⁵.

As for the vulnerable Lebanese host communities, targeting was done according to the MoA 2010 census^{xv}. Activities will vary according to the size of the farm: production activities for farms less than 2 dunums²⁵; marketing support for farms between 2 and 5 dunums; food waste and post-harvest loss for farms between 5 and 10 dunums; agriculture investment for farms greater than 10 dunums; and pest and disease control for all farms. According to the FSLA, 72 percent of the farmers across all categories are in need of assistance, and the type of support is also prioritized. The food security sector will link with MoSA/NPTP to identify potential beneficiaries from the NPTP list. Since most activities will be based on cash transfers, even activities primarily benefiting Lebanese will indirectly support the displaced community either by making food available/accessible or by producing temporary income-generating opportunities.

Overall: In order to prevent dependency on food assistance and to ensure good nutrition practices, the FSS will target vulnerable Lebanese, and other vulnerable groups²⁶, subject to MoA approval, for micro-gardening and innovative food security activities.

Institutions: The FSS will continue to provide institutional capacity building- for example through training of NTPT/SDC social workers and MoA service providers to farmers. The FSS will continue to provide technical assistance to line ministries at the central and local levels for the delivery of food security assistance. Additionally, the FSS will continue to build the capacity for food security analysis, including joint food security and vulnerability analysis, monitoring and readiness for cash transfers for local contingency planning, and preparedness.

Geography: As reflected in the situation analysis, the sector is aware of the regional disparities, however, the FSS will seek a balanced approach in responding to the needs throughout the regions.

Information Gap: There is a significant gap in available food security data for all population cohorts, which should be updated on a yearly basis²⁷.

(20) VASyR 2014 reported that only 4% of children had acceptable diets according to WHO standards.

(21) Although the sector will target 5,000 PRS for regular in-kind assistance, it is understood that there will be variations to this target based on seasonal or one-off assistance addressing temporary needs. During winter and Ramadan, for example, the number of PRS receiving in-kind food assistance increases (with partners providing food parcels, hot meals, dates, etc.), however, this is not reflected in the target for regular in-kind assistance.

(22) The FSS will also aim to target to PRL with proven vulnerability

(23) NPTP provides US\$30 per person/month and this level of assistance is planned for 2016. The monthly value was based on 2014 WFP calculations of the required food basket. Whereas in 2015 WFP revised the food basket requirement to US\$27 per person/month for displaced Syrians, NPTP remained at US\$30 for vulnerable Lebanese.

(24) Although the sector will target 5,000 Lebanese for regular in-kind assistance, it is understood that there will be variations to this target based on seasonal or one-off assistance addressing temporary needs. During winter and Ramadan, for example, the number of Lebanese receiving in-kind food assistance increases (with partners providing

food parcels, hot meals, dates, etc.), however, this is not reflected in the target for regular in-kind assistance.

(25) One dunum is equivalent to 1,000 square meters, or 0.1 hectares.

(26) Including Syrian displaced, PRS and PRL with proven vulnerability.

(27) The FSS has identified the following information gaps in Lebanon within food security: 1) Broader Market Assessment Data for Food Sector, 2) Food consumption patterns, 3) Food security seasonal data, 4) Food price monitoring, 5) Non-Food Price Monitoring (included service, transport costs, energy, etc.), 6) Food waste and losses, 7) Rural poverty, 8) Agricultural labour, 9) Nutrition assessment and 10) Good agricultural practices in crop production.

Total sector needs and targets:

Category	Total population in need	Targeted Population		
		Total	Male	Female
Displaced Syrians	959,721 ²⁸	836,320 ²⁹	401,434	434,886
Palestine Refugees from Syria	42,000	42,000 ³⁰	20,580	21,420
Palestine Refugees in Lebanon	42,189 ³¹			
Vulnerable Lebanese	400,000	232,000 ³²	115,136	116,376
Total	1.4 million	1.1 million		

Communities

Governorates	All
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Institutions

Ministry of Agriculture Offices and Centres	7 offices and 27 centres
Municipality	To be confirmed
Social Development Centres	60 SDCs ³³

Targets by Population Cohort and Governorate

Governorate	Displaced Syrians	PRS	Lebanese
Akkar	108,220		54,402
Baalbek-Hermel	104,780	2,672	27,271
Beirut	22,940	6,173	500
Bekaa	203,900	4,560	14,380
Nabatieh	45,860	519	27,148
Mount Lebanon	185,620	895	32,424
North	104,500	6,803	51,042
South	60,500	20,378	24,345
Total: 1,109,832	836,320	42,000	231,512

(28) According to the final VASyR results, 89% of Syrian Displaced (1,078,338 individuals registered with UNHCR as of September 30th 2015) have demonstrated some level of food insecurity with only 11% of Syrian displaced HHs being food secure

(29) In accordance with UNHCR registration as of 31 September, the breakdown used is Female = 52%, Male = 48%.

(30) In accordance with UNWRA data, the breakdown is Female = 51%, Male = 49%.

(31) As per the updated November 2015 UNWRA figures

(32) The sector will target 169,512 agricultural holders and 62,000 for food assistance (57,000 NPTP + 5,000 in-kind). The sector will target more women than registered as agricultural holders (50-50), as it is assumed that the actual individuals involved in the agricultural activities are the women within the household and not the head of households, under which farms are generally registered. For assistance through the NPTP, in accordance with NPTP data, the breakdown used is Female = 51%, Male = 49%.

(33) Staff in at least 60 SDCs will be targeted for capacity-building under the NPTP programme.



5. Mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity, gender, youth, people with special needs (PWSN) and environment:

Conflict Sensitivity:

The FSS activities, especially those promoting self-support of the displaced population through agricultural interventions, must be designed in consideration of the concerns of the host population and authorities. Therefore, the sector strategy will not promote competition for existing stressed resources. Instead, the FSS will aim to promote the creation of new resources and efficient management of scarce resources. Moreover, the choice of food vouchers as a modality of food assistance is conflict-sensitive as it supports the local Lebanese economy. In order to respond to the needs of different groups, the work of the sector to strengthen the NPTP and provide food voucher assistance to vulnerable Lebanese (in addition to support provided to Lebanese farmers) will also reduce tensions related to the perception of unbalanced assistance.

Gender, Youth, People with Specific Needs:

Gender: Given the concerns surrounding the diets of the displaced population, the FSS will use an exclusive dietary diversity indicator for women in reproductive age. This will help agencies monitor the impact of their interventions on an especially vulnerable population, especially to Vitamin A deficiency. The sector will also actively improve engagement and consultations with women in the programmes through focus group discussions and prioritization of women in some activities. Sector partners will continue to conduct separate focus group discussions for women and men, accounting for the role that women play in household-level decision-making, in order to get an accurate understanding of the situation and thoughts of women. In addition, although only 9 percent of agricultural title holders in Lebanon are women, the actual labour force participation rate is much higher. As such, the sector will make sure, when possible, that agricultural projects target women and men equally.

Youth and children: The vast majority of working youth are either employees or casual workers, with half of them having achieved no more than elementary education. More than half of young displaced Syrians in the workforce are employed, with around 45 percent as daily and/or seasonal workers in the sectors that have traditionally used Syrian labour, such as agriculture (both males and females, especially in rural areas close to the border with Syria). The sector will engage youth (ages 15-20) in activities by: a) enrolling vulnerable youth in agriculture technical schools; b) providing youth field workers with skills training linked to the agricultural area in which they work; c) providing youth workers with basic literacy, numeracy and life-skills education where

needed; and d) providing technical educational support to the agricultural schools. This is in line with MoA's 2015-2019 strategy, which clearly states that agricultural livelihoods should be promoted among youth and women^{xvi}. The FSS partners are using the MoA 2015-2019 strategy as a reference document in preparing their interventions targeting the agricultural sector. Recreational activities teaching micro-gardening techniques will be promoted in schools to raise awareness of nutrition issues and to teach simple botanical principles. These activities will also bring the different communities together as a conflict mitigation initiative.

In addition to the existing problem of street-based children, child labour incidence in agriculture has reportedly substantially increased^{xvii}, consequently children are exposed to worrisome occupational safety, health risks and social abuse. This will require urgent attention to address child labour concerns, and in parallel coping strategies to make education available for all, consequently income-generating activities for adults should be facilitated.

People with specific needs: The distributions conducted for the food assistance activities are currently, and should continue to be, organized in order to overcome potential barriers to access faced by persons with specific needs (whether due to disability, chronic disease, old age or other). Special attention will be given to ensure the inclusion of people with disabilities into the agricultural livelihood activities. The sector moreover takes into consideration the increased vulnerability of people with specific needs when targeting for food assistance.

Environment

Given the negative impact of Syrian crisis on natural resources and the close relationship between agriculture and environment, FSS will coordinate through MoA and Ministry of Environment on forestry issues, pesticide use and wetland management, as well as on the importation of live genetic material (such as seeds and livestock).

6. Inter-sector linkages

• **Basic Assistance:** FSS co-chairs the targeting sub-working group with Basic Assistance, which is contributing to the cash modalities used under both sectors. The FSS will continue collaboration within this group to refine and align targeting exercises. Under the targeting sub-working group the sectors will coordinate on referrals and information exchange on household profiles, and collaborate for harmonization of impact monitoring tools (for example, to ensure food consumption scores are accurately captured). The sectors will continue coordination on overlapping or complementary activities (for example Ramadan and winterization food parcel distribution).

• **Education:** Food security activities such as school gardening (to increase nutrition awareness and knowledge

of gardening and agriculture practices) will be planned and implemented in direct collaboration with the Education sector. School feeding, aimed at ensuring enrolment and retention, will be implemented and reported under Education sector in coordination with FSS.

- **Health:** The sectors are coordinating through the jointly-chaired nutrition technical sub-working group. Both sectors will promote the use of nutrition sensitive indicators such as Minimum Dietary Diversity for Women (MDD-W) and Individual Dietary Diversity (IDDS). Agriculture, by definition, is closely linked to health through the quality (in terms of safety and nutritional value) of agricultural produce. The “one health” approach (promoted by WHO, OIE, FAO and others) which looks at the interconnections between the health of animals, humans and ecosystems, especially zoonoses and food safety, will also be implemented in collaboration with the Health Sector.

- **Livelihoods:** Complementary approaches exist between the sectors regarding the food value chain, with the common understanding that partners appeal for funding under the sector which represents the objective of the activity they plan to implement under LCRP 2016. Although food and agriculture activities are centred in the food security sector, employment and economic development initiatives in the agricultural sector also fit into the livelihoods sector. Therefore, coordination will need to be strengthened to ensure that information on agriculture livelihoods activities will be adequately shared and reported in both sectors. The interaction between the two sectors is an ongoing exercise and will continue along the development of the 2017-2020 plan.

- **Social Stability:** FSS activities have elements of conflict sensitivity, focusing either on alleviating the pressure on

host communities or directly assisting vulnerable Lebanese. Moreover, the FSS is working with the social stability sector on the issue of tracking social tensions. Through monitoring, the FSS is incorporating questions related to social stability to highlight the impact of food assistance in this area. This will help capture any changes in social tensions related to variations in assistance, in collaboration with the social stability sector.

- **Protection:** Although the Lebanese legal framework clearly bans child labour, it is a growing concern in the displaced Syrian population in the agricultural sector^{xviii}. Therefore, joint assessments will be undertaken between the FS and Protection sectors. In addition, awareness campaigns on hazardous labour (particularly for children, but also for other vulnerable groups) in agriculture, and training to different stakeholders (including training of trainers) on the safe use of pesticides and proper disposal will be jointly undertaken by ILO/FAO/UNICEF. Special attention will be given to protection mainstreaming and enhancing child protection mechanisms, to ensure that the design of agriculture projects does not promote school dropout. The FSS will report activities related to social protection issues (including child protection in agriculture) under the protection sector.

- **Energy & Water:** As the primary irrigation canal network is under the responsibility of the Ministry of Energy and Water (and related field offices) leading the EW sector, all activities which fall into this sector will be implemented and reported under EW. As for the secondary sector irrigation canal network, these activities fall under the MoA (and related field offices) which leads the FSS, and therefore such activities will be implemented and reported under the FSS. As necessary, an ad hoc joint technical irrigation group with the EW sector can be formed to look at the national irrigation plan.



PARTNERS PER OUTPUT:

Food Security Sector Partners: AVSI, DCA - Saida, DRC, FAO, IOCC, UNICEF, RI, QRC, MoSA, WVI, CLMC, ACF, OXFAM, CONCERN, NPA, Dorcas, SCI, PU-AMI, UNRWA, WFP, Solidarités, ACTED, SIF, ANERA, IRW, CCP JAPAN, MoA, SHEILD, MSD, ADRA

OUTCOME/OUTPUT	PARTNERS
OUTCOME 1: Promote food availability	
Output-1.1: In-kind food assistance provided to the most vulnerable	ACTED, ANERA, AVSI, CCP JAPAN, DCA - Saida, Dorcas, IOCC, IRW, MSD, PU-AMI, QRC, SHEILD, SIF
Output-1.2: Enhance small scale and family farming production and adoption of climate smart technologies	ACF, ACTED, CONCERN, FAO, MoA, OXFAM, PU-AMI, RI, SHEILD, SIF, Solidarités
Output-1.3: Marketing of small scale and family farming supported	ACF, ACTED, CONCERN, DRC, FAO, MoA, OXFAM, PU-AMI, SCI, SHEILD
Output-1.4: Reduced food wastage and losses	ACTED, CONCERN, FAO, MoA, OXFAM, PU-AMI
Output-1.5: Control of trans-boundary animal & plant diseases supported	FAO, MoA
OUTCOME 2: Promote food accessibility	
Output-2.1: Improve direct access to food	ACF, ADRA, CLMC, CONCERN, Dorcas, MoSA, MSD, NPA, PU-AMI, UNRWA, WFP, WVI
Output-2.2: Support agricultural institutions for agricultural livelihoods	ACF, ACTED, AVSI, CONCERN, DRC, FAO, MoA, PU-AMI, RI, SCI, SHEILD
Output-2.3: Support to private agriculture investment	ACF, ACTED, CONCERN, FAO, NPA, PU-AMI, SCI, SHEILD, Solidarités
Output-2.4: Agriculture labor market strengthened	ACF, ACTED, CONCERN, FAO, DRC, OXFAM, PU-AMI, SCI, SHEILD, Solidarités, UNICEF
OUTCOME 3: Promote food utilization	
Output-3.1: Improved good nutritional practices	ACF, ACTED, CONCERN, DRC, FAO, NPA, OXFAM, PU-AMI, RI, WVI
Output-3.2: Food safety measures and policies enhanced	ACF, ACTED, CONCERN, FAO, MoA, PU-AMI
OUTCOME 4: Promote stabilization	
Output-4.1: Food security data and information collected, analyzed and disseminated	ACTED, CONCERN, FAO, PU-AMI, WFP
Output-4.2: National institutions involved in food security supported	FAO, MoA, OXFAM, WFP

ENDNOTES

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- xviii. Ibid.