

REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER – LIBYA CRISIS

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

DATE Thursday 9 June
TIME 14:00 Cairo & Benghazi Time
13:00 Zarzis Time
VENUE WFP Office, Benghazi
OCHA Office, Zarzis
WFP Office, Hadayek el Maadi, Cairo

CAIRO

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▪ AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes from previous meeting minutes
2. Assessments:
 - East Libya
 - CESVI Proposal for Market data collection in Libya
 - Misrata Mission
 - Rapid Assessment in Nafusa Mountains
 - Tripoli UN Mission
 - Tunisia assessments
3. Humanitarian Forum:
 - Working Group Outcomes
4. 3W / 4W Mapping
5. Information sharing:
 - Targeting / Distributions / Updates
6. AOB/Next meeting
 - Humanitarian Pause

1. Approval of the minutes from previous meeting minutes

No comments from any of the teams; the minutes from the FS&LC meeting on 2 June 2011 were adopted.

1.1 League of Arab States

The cluster coordinator welcomed the representative of the League of Arab States (LAS), attending the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster meeting for the first time. LAS provided a brief overview of their activities since the beginning of the Libya crisis:

- LAS initially provided two containers with food, medicine and medical equipment based on the needs of the Libyan people as per the information available from the weekly OIC report and from their partners from civil society in Libya such as Human Appeal. The assistance was handed over to Libyan Red Crescent and representatives from the Local NGOs in Libya Human Appeal.
- The joint mission between LAS and OIC launched a second convoy from Salloum to Misrata carrying three containers with medicine, medical supplies and first aid kits and four containers carrying food (baby milk, rice, pasta, dry food, oil and flour) as well as an ambulance.
- Currently the LAS Department of Health and Humanitarian Aid is preparing a third convoy of food trucks – particularly baby milk given the urgent need – to enter Libya in the next couple of weeks.
- LAS welcome partnerships with all associations and civil society institutions and emphasized their interest in coordinating the humanitarian assistance to Libya.

2. Assessments

■ **East Libya - EFSA:** WFP VAM Regional Officer in Cairo explained that the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) at household (HH) level has been completed, covering a total of 400 households – 100 in each of following four categories: HHs in Benghazi, urban poor HHs in Benghazi, returnee HHs in Ajdabiya, Host families in Benghazi.

The electronic data has been brought to Cairo by the VAM Officer overseeing the work in Benghazi and the data processing will be taking place in the next few days. A final review of the data will be completed with FAO next week.

■ **Cesvi Proposal for Market Data Collection:** Cesvi has proposed to monitor the prices of basic food commodities in 14 cities across Libya and report back on a weekly or fortnightly basis – if any agency is interested in partnering up with Cesvi on this task, they are encouraged to contact Cesvi or WFP in Benghazi and the Regional VAM Officer in Cairo (asif.niazi@wfp.org). FAO advised they were interested.

WFP Regional VAM Officer noted that the Emergency Market Mapping Analysis (EMMA) undertaken by IRC and focusing on the wheat and tomato supply chains should be ready by the end of next week.

■ **Tunisia assessments:** It is estimated that conflict in Libya has resulted in the movement of around 50,000 Libyan nationals to Tunisia with sizeable concentrations in four governorates: Sfax, Gabes, Medenine and Tataouine. WFP, in partnership with UNHCR, is planning a rapid assessment of the food security and protection status of the refugees. Danish Relief Committee is currently working on a detailed profiling exercise with the results expected to be available by end of August 2011 however, the rapid assessment will provide necessary information on the status of the refugees and their needs. Staff from WFP regional VAM unit in Cairo as well as from HQ in Rome will participate along with WFP Zarzis and UNHCR Zarzis and Tunis.

WFP Zarzis noted that they were working on the Terms of Reference for the multi sector rapid assessment, which is expected to cover health and education in addition to food security. WFP Regional VAM Officer clarified the planned breakdown of activities – WFP is responsible for the cost of translators and transport whilst UNHCR is responsible for identifying key informants and setting up interviews as well as identifying refugees for focus group discussion and interviews. WFP Tunis highlighted that several high-level Government contacts might be able to assist though it was confirmed that these will be qualitative assessments which will rely on key staff members doing their own interview sessions rather than having enumerators. Only translators will be required for this assessment. Any support from the Government would be welcome, however the need to complete the assessment quickly was emphasized.

■ Misrata UN Assessment Mission

The cluster coordinator provided a brief update on the Misrata (multi sector) mission, which took place from 31 May – 3 June. The mission came to the following conclusions on the food security situation:

- The Misrata Relief Committee was found to be very well organized; an effective system of registering beneficiaries and delivery of food aid has been established with both Non-Libyans and IDPs being included on the beneficiary lists. At present, 50,000 families have been registered.
- Food availability is a problem and food distributions have not been regular with little food (commercial or relief) coming into Misrata however, the problem of food access is also growing due to the collapse of the financial system, which means that people are unable to access their money. The

majority of bakeries are not functioning due to unavailability of wheat flour and electricity, and those that are functioning are facing difficulties in accessing baking ingredients (yeast, salt, oil). Both the flour mills in Misrata and the macaroni factory are not functioning due to war damage and unavailability of electricity and lack of wheat grain. The authorities reckon they need 3000 MT of wheat flour a month to cover basic food requirements. There has been little damage to the harbour in Misrata and therefore, it is possible to send in commodities – the following has been requested: macaroni, pulses, vegetable oil, salt, sugar and tomato paste. Wheat flour will be distributed directly (via Libyan Red Crescent) to the bakeries under an agreement between WFP and ACTED on bread baking project.

- At the time, it was also agreed that a 1) UN base should be established in Misrata and that 2) a buffer stock of stock of food NFI for eventual distribution in case of further displacement (from Zlitan, for example) should be established.

WFP Benghazi questioned whether it would be possible to transfer some of the UN ceiling from Tubruk to Misrata. WFP Cairo will follow up and advise.

ACTION POINT: The information management officer (IMO) to share the official mission report and WFP Cairo to follow up on UN ceiling.

■ **Tripoli UN Mission:** An inter-agency mission, with WFP leading on food, logistics and communications was undertaken from 29 May – 4 June:

- The mission had several helpful meetings with the Government on for example the impact of sanctions and they were able to visit Al Khums, Zlitan and Gharyan in the Nafusa Mountain area:

- It was found that sanctions are starting to have a negative effect on the food security situation however, the situation was not yet dire. Sugar and vegetable oil were in short supply although a ship carrying 6000 MT of sugar (from a pre-conflict agreement) was unloading during the mission's visit to Al Khums and four ships with flour were seen in Tripoli harbour. It is estimated that 4-5 weeks' worth of food stock remains in West Libya though it is likely that some resupply will take place during this period.

- IDPs are being well lodged in hotels or resorts (even receiving the full restaurant service in the hotels) and the Government has promised payment to IDP families of 500 Libyan dinar – though no family encountered by the mission had received more than 100 dinar so far. It was noted that Government employees have received their salaries for March but that payment of salaries to private employees has been erratic since the onset of the crisis.

- Some food assistance is taking place and bread is currently provided by the Government. The mission found a clear need for further assistance and though wheat flour is sufficient, pasta, tomato paste and pulses are required. There have also been reports from IDPs that people in Misrata who were not supporting the anti Government fight may not have been receiving assistance; a claim which needs further investigating.

- There is a serious petrol shortage with queues of up to 8.5 km and people waiting in line for up to 4 days. Diesel remains available and trucks therefore can move around. However, the food distribution system in Libya relies heavily on small petrol driven lorries doing the majority of the secondary transport of food from main storage points.

- In addition to the issue of food availability, food access remains a problem and the food security situation is affected by the fact that many people are too scared to leave their houses to go to the markets.

- The port in Al Khums was found to be operational and was identified as a potential future logistic hub. The Libyan Red Crescent representatives in Zlitan and Al Khums were moreover found to be very competent.

ACTION POINT: IMO to share the official mission report.

WFP Tunis clarified that more than 300 MT has crossed into Nafusa Mountains from Tunisia in three different convoys and the remaining 100 MT are currently being prepared. The diaspora groups in Nafusa Mountains have informed WFP that there is a total lack of vegetable oil so there is a need for more oil as well as of pasta, which is already in pipeline.

3. Humanitarian Partnership Forum:

The information management officer (IMO) provided a brief overview of the food working group outcomes from the Humanitarian Partnership Forum held in Cairo on 6 June.

■ Coordination Mechanisms:

To ensure stronger coordination, the following was agreed:

- Need to include a larger number of entities into the communication/coordination system
- Two main structures—(1) Humanitarian Charity Forum and (2) the Food Security Cluster (ID focal points for participation)

- Find an appropriate coordination mechanism with Arab League in Cairo
- Encourage more members to join in all 3 hubs
- Will share existing 3W, link and update with new partners information

■ **Partnerships:**

It was agreed that the cluster should aim to assist with 1) Capacity building for NGOs, civil society for planning, monitoring and reporting and, 2) should aim to harmonize assessment tools and techniques; share and train more widely.

■ **Future Planning:**

It was agreed that planning for medium term interventions, should focus on:

- Support to the public distribution mechanisms and other social safety nets
- Food safety augmentation
- Agriculture, animal health, technical institutions
- Rehabilitation of public and commercial infrastructure for food production, importation and transportation

4. 3W / 4W Mapping:

Based on the information gathered in the cluster 4W matrix (Who, What, Where and When), the IMO shared a map illustrating all known completed, ongoing and planned activities. It was emphasised that a vast amount of diaspora and bilateral assistance, which still remains unknown to the cluster, is missing from the map.

WFP Benghazi emphasized the importance of continuing to share information on a bilateral level and the cluster coordinator advised that OCHA is planning on having talks with the Qatari and Emirati Red Crescents, who prefers to communicate bilaterally rather than in a large forum.

All three hubs agreed to continue to follow up with actors not currently participating in the cluster coordination efforts and the cluster coordinator encouraged all partners to share their views on how the cluster can ensure better coordination and to better meet the needs at field level.

5. Information sharing: WFP Egypt have, over the past week, had a team supported by the regional VAM unit undertaking focus groups interviews covering 100 Households in three villages in the Sohag governorate in Upper Egypt, with a focus on the returnees from Libya benefitting from WFP's food for training programme and vulnerable families. The results will be shared once available.

6. AOB/Next meeting

■ **Humanitarian Pause** It was noted by the cluster coordinator that since there has been no endorsement of the humanitarian pause at New York level, all agencies will have to return to normal planning. Moreover, it was noted that there has been increasing interest in "pre planning" activities focussing on planning for the "next stage" whenever this may happen and for whatever reason – this will be discussed bilaterally with Zarzis and Benghazi in order for them to review this with their respective groups. WFP Zarzis requested more information and details on requirements in this respect.

ACTION POINT: WFP Cairo to follow up.

■ **Animal Health:** FAO reminded all partners to include animal health in addition to animal fodder when discussing food security in the pre-planning activities.

■ **Transport of Commodities into Libya:** LAS requested detailed information of transport of commodities across the Egyptian and Tunisian borders as well as of which areas were in most need. WFP and LAS agreed to discuss this further bilaterally.

Next Meeting, Date and Venue: 16 June at WFP Office/Cairo (14:00), UN Compound/Benghazi (14:00) and OCHA Office/Zarzis (13:00).

FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER CONTACTS:

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