

DRAFT

Sector Midterm Review Report

Sector: Food Security

Reporting period: January 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009

A) OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS UNCT OUTCOME

UNCT OUTCOME			
● Include the UNCT Outcome as it is stated in the SOT Results Matrix			
Suggested Indicators	Baseline	Target	Status as of 3/2009
●
●
●
<p><i>Narrative Analysis of progress:</i></p> <p>Malnutrition in Iraq is intergenerational and affects many women and children. Malnutrition rates among children under 5 years, although improving, remain a critical concern. According to the 2008 CFSVA report, stunting among children under five is estimated at 21.4 percent and wasting at 4.7 percent. 9.1 percent of this population is underweight.</p>			

B) ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS SECTOR OUTCOMES

SECTOR OUTCOME 1			
● Include the sector outcome as it is stated in the SOT Results Matrix			
Improved food security situation for vulnerable groups.			
Outcome Indicators (as per SOT Matrix)	Baseline	Target	Status as of 3/2009
● 1.1.1 No. of targeted IDPs receiving food assistance to cover the gap	0	750,000 people	667,416
● 1.1.2 Amount of food distributed under IDP food assistance to cover the gap	0	69,750 mt	36,980 mt
● 1.1.3 Percentage of women and girl IDPs receiving food to cover the gap		51%	50%
● 1.2.1 Percentage of children under 5 with acute malnutrition	9%	8%	5%
●			
<p><i>Narrative Analysis of progress:</i></p> <p>Food insecurity has improved dramatically, falling from 15.4% to 3.1% of the population. Similarly, the nutrition situation has improved significantly. During the reporting period, WFP distributed 36,980 metric tons of food to 667,416 IDP beneficiaries while IOM distributed a one-time food package to 187,944 IDPs havin a total volume of 1879.4 metric tons. Additionally, local and International NGOs provided food assistance to 85,267 individuals under the ERF programme.</p>			

Suggested Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Target	Status as of 3/2009
NEW - Additional groups identified as vulnerable, including vulnerable school children receive food assistance	Groups served as of end Q1/09	396,000 IDPs; 576,800 other vulnerable people, 172,000 primary school children	This component began Q2/09
NEW 1.1.2 Amount of food distributed to vulnerable groups	Metric tonnage of food distributed to beneficiaries as of end Q1/09	37,840 metric tons	This component began in Q2/09

SECTOR OUTCOME 2

Include the sector outcome as it is stated in the SOT Results Matrix

The GoI has the capacity needed to establish and manage national food assistance and hunger-reduction programmes

Outcome Indicators (as per SOT matrix)	Baseline	Target	Status as of 3/2009
2.1.1 Number of enhanced food security units	1	18	18
2.1.2 The Post-food Distribution Monitoring System (PDS) includes a gender component and is installed in each governorate	0	18	18
2.1.3 Number of food security unit staff trained to undertake food security assessments, utilizing a gender approach	350	450	450
2.2.1 Contingency plan reviewed in coordination with GoI and local authorities	N	Y	Y
2.2.2 Amount of food delivered in response to emergencies	0	100% of needs	100% of needs
2.3.1 Number of new MoT staff trained in supply-chain management	0	As per need identified	0, activity is under revision with GoI counterparts

Narrative Analysis of progress:

Progress was made in regard to supporting and working with Government counterparts in line with the sector's goals. Food security units have been established in each of the 18 governments under the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation, as planned. These food security units are equipped with a Post-Food Distribution Monitoring System which monitors the impact of WFP food distributions in all the governorates. Capacity building of Ministry of Trade staff in order to enhance the PDS has not yet taken place as the Government of Iraq announced plans in 2008 its intentions to reform the PDS. As a result, this exercise (and the indicators for this exercise) will be integrated into technical assistance to the GoI for PDS reform.

WFP has been an active partner in supporting the GoI to develop contingency and emergency response planning during the reporting period.

WFP and IOM also provided 544.2 metric tons of food commodities in emergency assistance to affected populations during military operations in Sadr City and Basrah city. Beneficiaries also included vulnerable persons affected by violence in other areas in Iraq.

Suggested Outcome Indicators	Baseline	Target	Status as of 3/2009
GoI is able to participate in a broader strategy of food assistance.	No plans	Agreed plans in place	ongoing
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C) RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS IN UNCT AND/ OR SECTOR OUTCOMES (WITH RATIONALE)

Relevant indicators for the UNCT outcome to be developed.

D) KEY ASSUMPTIONS, RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

During the reporting period, food assistance reached intended beneficiaries across all 18 governorates. This was accomplished through the efforts of more than 60 experienced, agency field staff placed strategically across Iraq. Having good coordination mechanisms in place with the local authorities, cooperating partners, and transporters also played essential roles. The Food Security SOT strategy was elaborated under the assumption that access to all 18 governorates of Iraq to provide food assistance was possible. Nevertheless, insecurity in Iraq presents ongoing threats to timely and targeted food delivery.

Throughout much of 2008, the security situation improved, allowing more accessibility to IDP and returnee communities within Iraq. This has allowed sector partners to shift towards direct implementation activities, using more staff in the field and, in the longer term, provide a more cost-efficient approach to implementation. IOM believes that this shift will improve the delivery of services to the most vulnerable populations. Additionally, some activities will continue to be implemented by Iraqi and international NGO partners.

During the reporting period, warehouses maintained in key locations across the country enabled fast, effective response to emergency situations such as civil uprisings and natural disasters. In 2008, IOM had five warehouses, in Anbar, Erbil, Baghdad, Thi-Qar and Qadissiya, all of which stored several thousand food and non-food items baskets at any time. Thus, IOM Iraq was one of the first organizations to be able to respond to the conflict between Mehdi militia and Iraqi Security Forces in Sadr City and Basrah in April 2008. IOM was similarly able to provide relief to Christian families displaced from Mosul City to parts of Ninewa, Dahuk and Erbil in October 2008, and to families displaced during bombing of border areas in KRG by Turkey in December and January 2008. Gradually shifting away from food distributions the sector focus is now moving more towards NFI (non-food items) distribution, and preparedness for distributing food items in times of crisis. IOM has now closed down the warehouses in Anbar and Qadissiya. Warehouses in Baghdad and Thi Qar will close at the end of June 2009 and a small emergency stock of non-food items will remain in Erbil during the next reporting period..

In 2008, nationwide monitoring of IDPs focused on identifying IDP communities and defining a detailed cross-section on their needs, including food. In 2009, sector partners will be shifting their focus to identify and serve the returnee populations in Iraq, as well as vulnerable host communities who do not receive rations through the PDS. All beneficiary groups will be assessed against IOM household vulnerability criteria, on a family by family basis.

In conjunction with monitoring and evaluation conducted by IOM staff, external companies and agencies will also undertake project monitoring and evaluation. This provides a two-tier monitoring and evaluation system, which has demonstrated the best results in analyzing the efficacy of IOM projects.

E) JOINT PROGRAMMES, UN CONVERGENCE AND SYNERGIES

Coordination of assistance is facilitated through regular Food Security SOT meetings. Targeting of beneficiaries ensures that different Food Security SOT member organizations are reaching a variety of vulnerable groups and that there is no duplication. For example, WFP, (in cooperation with the MoDM), targets only registered IDPs for food assistance while IOM provides food to IDPs not yet registered by

MoDM. Complementarities with the Agriculture and Health & Nutrition sector member agencies are also maintained through strong coordination and linkages.

The WFP Regional Emergency Operation (EMOP 10717.0) began operations in March 2008 with a mandate to supply complementary food rations to approximately 750,000 food-insecure persons in Iraq who had crossed governorate boundaries in response to civil strife and did not have access to their Public Distribution System (PDS) rations. Approximately 362,000 displaced Iraqis in Syria also benefit. In Iraq, the EMOP does not replace the PDS, but acts as a stop-gap measure to meet the immediate needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) before they are able to access the PDS in their place of displacement. The priority for assistance goes to IDPs in camps or camp-like settlements. According to the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports, 510,000 beneficiaries were assisted during the last three distribution cycles (December 2008, January 2009, February 2009), with food assistance playing a vital role in ensuring adequate food consumption and improved dietary diversity.

WFP is the task manager for Food Security under the Food Security and Agriculture Sector Team established by the UN Iraq Country Team, and is an active member of the SOTs on education, health, and protection of IDPs and refugees. Close coordination is maintained with UNICEF, WHO, FAO and several partner NGOs. WFP and its partners have also been able to successfully manage food distribution interventions in coordination with GOI partners in other sectors, including the ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Planning and Development Cooperation, and Trade, in Baghdad and KRG

F) LESSONS LEARNED

Targeting of beneficiaries and monitoring of food distribution are dynamic processes that ideally evolve responsively and in accordance with the changing needs of the Government. For example, the Food Security SOT planned a training component for Ministry of Trade staff to enhance the PDS. Subsequently, the Government announced plans to reform the PDS. The Food SOT has adapted its strategy in order to support the needs of an evolving situation. Technical assistance to the GoI for PDS reform will be incorporated into sector work plans and training plans adjusted to accommodate priorities.

Issues emerging during the reporting period which have impacted sector members' delivery include the following:

1. Weak capacities of implementing partners
2. Health certificate compliance issues at the Federal and Governorate levels leading to delays in shipments.
3. Selection of beneficiaries in cooperation with relevant local authorities and drawing up of eligible beneficiary lists has been a very time consuming process in some governorates and particularly, in Baghdad and Mosul.
4. A need to strengthen dialogue between MODM/DDM and /or relevant Ministries in Iraq remains in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the project.
5. Reporting can be made more streamlined than it currently is.
6. The Food Sector should consider a developing a standard food basket and recommending it to the ERF partners who often distribute food baskets. Consistency in delivery would ensure more satisfaction among beneficiaries and possibly avoid post-distribution difficulties. Other sectors, such as WATSAN have already recommended a standardized hygiene kit and the shelter SOT has a standardized household NFI package.