

## UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TWG ON FOOD SECURITY

### 1) Food Security Coordination and information sharing meeting organized on 22 May.

The main objective of the meeting was to review and discuss the most important drivers of food insecurity in region. Members of the TWG who attended the meeting included, ESCWA, FAO, WFP, UNDP, UNOCHA and, UNFPA. IFPRI also attended. Summary of the agenda items discussed and key outcome are attached here.

The key outcomes/messages/list of items from TWG on Food Security coordination meeting for the attention of the RCM include:

- The name of the group to be changed to the Thematic Working Group on Food Security and Nutrition.
  - While the region continues to suffer from the multiple effects of the conflict, resource and funding for humanitarian support remains minimal.
  - It is urgently needed to provide support to countries in the region in establishing/strengthening the food security and nutrition information systems. This would help availability and access to evidence based information and analysis which can influence policies and programming for food security and better nutrition.
  - There is a high malnutrition rate in the region which calls for strong advocacy for improved access to diversified food at household level in the post MDG; Malnutrition has a negative implications for maternal and children health as well as for the human and economic capitals, and needs to be addressed with the right resources including policy change. It is important to address the double burden of malnutrition.
  - Update the 2009 document by WB, FAO and IFAD (***Improving food security in Arab countries***). Steering committee whose members include FAO, World Bank, ESCWA and IFAD was formed to work on the document and update it.
- 2) FAO and ESCWA in collaboration with IFAD and the World Bank are planning to organize expert meeting to discuss the draft report on food security in the region. The meeting which will take place on 23-24 of October (before the next RCM meeting) will be organized within the framework of the RCM TWG on Food Security. Outcome of the meeting will also be shared as soon as it is ready.