

Food Security and Livelihood Cluster Zimbabwe

Meeting Minutes

Date: 24th March 2023

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams at 10:00 –12:00

Agenda

1. Recap and adoption of the last Minutes of Meeting
2. Update on the impact of TS Freddy in Zimbabwe
3. Presentation of the 1st Round Crop and Livestock Assessment Report – Agritex
4. Lean Season Assistance Update
5. 5Ws Update
6. AOB

Participants

34 Participants attended the meeting.

List of organisations present:

ADRA Zimbabwe, Catholic Relief Services, Christian Blind Mission, Cultivating New Frontiers in Agriculture Farmer-to-Farmer(CNFA), DanChurchAid, FAO, FEWS NET, Help from Germany, IFRC, International Organisation for Migration, Lower Guruve Development Association (LGDA), Mercy Corps, Ministry of Agriculture (AGRITEX), Norwegian People's Aid, Plan International Zimbabwe, Students And Youth Working on reproductive Health Action Team, Terre Des Hommes Italia, Trocaire, UNDP, Welthungerhilfe, WFP, Women and Land in Zimbabwe, World Vision Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society.

Discussion

1. Review minutes of the previous meeting on 27th January 2023

Minutes adopted without further alterations.

2. Presentation of the 1st Round Crop, Fisheries and Livestock Assessment Report – Agritex

The Crop, Livestock and Fisheries Assessment was undertaken against the backdrop of the judicious implementation of interventions to under-girdle the transformation of the agriculture sector through the Agriculture and Food Systems Strategy (AFSTS) and the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1).

Main findings:

- Area planted to maize increased slightly by 3% from 1,903,668 ha in 2021/22 season to 1,962,575 ha in 2022/23. Of the 1,962,575 ha under maize, 49% had been planted by the end of November 2022, 42% was planted in December 2022 and 9% was planted in January 2023. The highest area ever planted to maize was 2,096,034 ha achieved in season 2010/2011 season.

- There is a general increase in the area planted for most horticultural crops in the 2022/2023 agricultural season.
- Fisheries And Aquaculture Production: Kapenta production increased from 5 333 tonnes in 2020 to 5 950 in 2021
- The total number of fishponds increased by 29%, from 5,634 in 2022 to 7,247 in 2023. A total of 16,293 204 fingerlings were produced in 2022.
- Crops stages and conditions: Crop establishment was generally good across the country as plantings coincided with the first effective rains in most areas.
- Poor crop establishment was experienced in areas with an erratic rainfall distribution pattern.

Questions:

I noticed in the presentation that there was a 69% decrease in the area covered under rice compared to last year. Will this have any major impact on the availability of this particular commodity?

A: If you look at rice, there will not be much impact as most of the rice consumed in the country is imported. This will not affect the rice balance sheet in the country.

[Link to presentation:](#)

3. Lean Season Assistance Update

WFP and three partners have been contributing to the government's Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy (FDMS), which is intended to respond to the food needs of vulnerable households at the height of the lean season in Zimbabwe.

- WFP provided food assistance to 8 districts, namely: Mudzi, Mt Darwin, Hwedza, Buhera, Chivi, Bikita, Mangwe and Nkayi.
- At its peak, the programme reached 702,227 beneficiaries. Food Distributions were successfully conducted, and all beneficiaries received their entitlements as planned, i.e., cereals 8.5kg, pulses 1.7kg and Oil 0.6kg per person per month.
- Joint monitoring missions were done with representatives from USAID, the Embassy of Japan and government stakeholders at the National, Provincial and District level in Mudzi, Mt Darwin and Hwedza LSA districts as well as Mutoko and Marondera FDMS districts.
- LSA Regional Lessons Learned workshops are ongoing, and preparations are underway for the Joint National lessons Learned Workshop.
- The summary of achievements is in the table below:

Table 1: Summary of 2022/23 LSA distributions

District	Cooperating Partner	October to December 2022 target	Achieved	January- March 2023 target	Achieved
Hwedza	CARITAS	63,658	63,658	46,056	46,056
Mudzi	World Vision	56,450	56,450	72,064	72,064
Mt Darwin	World Vision	91,077	91,077	116,962	116,962
Buhera	World Vision	144,055	144,055	179,515	179,515
Chivi	CARITAS	63,609	63,609	89,053	89,053
Bikita	AQZ	39,980	39,980	79,755	79,755
Mangwe	World Vision	37,304	37,304	43,869	43,869
Nkayi	World Vision	63,195	63,195	74,953	74,953
Total		559,328	559,328	702,227	702,227

4. 5Ws Update

In February 2023, FSLC partners reported delivery of food assistance to 1,082,921 individuals (including refugees) through both cash-based transfers and in-kind interventions. The average cash transfer value per person was US\$12, enabling vulnerable urban and rural households to supplement their food requirements in December. The basic food basket for in-kind interventions had cereals, pulses, oil and corn-soya blend where nutritional interventions were necessary. FSLC will continue to deliver assistance up to the end of the lean season.

Concurrently, FSLC partners reported that 38,685 beneficiaries were supported by agricultural and livelihood assistance. Assistance focused on providing farmers with training to support crop pest management, post-harvest handling, storage and processing. Provision of small livestock and other inputs/materials (e.g., incubators continued to support restocking, improved breeding, and related training.

Lastly, extension officers and farmers received training, extension and advisory services with a focus on good agriculture practices with an emphasis on climate-smart agriculture.

Comments:

- Red Cross did cash distribution in Mwenezi, targeting 850HH, which was around 5,200 people.
- DCA is reaching 12,000 beneficiaries and will share an updated matrix.
- Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) is working with women and land in Zimbabwe, and she will share.
- World Bank is funding Mercy Corps and will reach out so that they contribute to the 5ws.

[Link to dashboard](#)

5. Update on the impact of TS Freddy in Zimbabwe

- In Zimbabwe, at least 53 households (some 212 people) have been affected in two provinces, including Masvingo – Chiredzi (25 HHs), Mwenezi (21 HHs), Bikita (1 HH), Zaka (1 HH), and Mashonaland Central – Mazowe (5 HHs).
- Three people died due to the passage of Tropical Storm Freddy, one in Shamva district and two in Chipinge. Tree fall and crossing flooded rivers.

- Twenty-four schools have been affected through either classroom damage (7), destroyed toilet blocks (6), affected staff quarters (5), blown-off roofs (3), affected tents (2), damaged water facilities (1). Twenty-two of these schools are in Chipinge district, with one in Mazowe and another in Mwenezi.
- In Chiredzi, sugar cane plantations were extensively damaged, to which the extent (size of cropland affected) is still yet to be determined.

Province	District	Sum of affected HH	Sum of affected people	Sum of fatalities	Sum of schools affected
Manicaland	Chipinge	TBC	TBC	2	22
Mashonaland Central	Mazowe	5	20		1
	Shamva			1	
Masvingo	Bikita	1	4		
	Chiredzi	25	100		
	Mwenezi	21	84		1
	Zaka	1	4		
Totals		53	212	3	24

Questions/Comments:

WFP: There is news that the storm is resurfacing again and should be getting into Mozambique and probably getting into Zimbabwe as well. Would you please comment on that?

A: A quick feedback from a brief engagement with MSD is that, officially, Tropical Storm Freddy has expired, which is why weather bureaus are no longer tracking and reporting on TS Freddy. However, since its expiration, there has been some low-pressure area that has developed in the southwestern Indian Ocean. A couple of them have already expired without any concern. The second one never went above 35 km/h and therefore was not named. However, as of this morning, there is no storm activity in our area of concern - the southwestern Indian Ocean.

FEWSNET: Do you have any information regarding the government's possible continued assistance beyond March under the FDMS.

FSLC: At an informal level, we have been informed that there is an intention for the government to possibly extend assistance up to May. However, note that we will ask the Department of Social Development to confirm this position for us. Once they confirm for us, we will also know if it is all the districts across the country or it is just a few districts. Once we have a formal position from DSD, we will inform the group.

AOB

- No other business was raised

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