



BANGLADESH
FOOD SECURITY SECTOR
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

Food Security Sector Meeting

DATE Tuesday, 27th March 2018
TIME 10:00 am – 11:30 am
VENUE IOM Meeting Room, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

AGENDA

1. Introduction and welcome
2. GFD update
3. Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning – Sector and Partners update
4. OXFAM's Fresh Food for the Rohingya Refugees – Presentation and Lesson learned
5. AoB (Livelihoods WG, Agencies update on funding gaps)

DISCUSSION

1- Intro

FSS Coordinator, opened the meeting with a welcome to all, followed by a round of introductions; FSS members who were present at the meeting are: FAO, WVI, MUKTI, EETWG, Agrajattra, CwG, ICRC, ACF, OXFAM, BRAC, WR, SARPV, UNFPA, Solidarites, Caritas, FSS team.

2- GFD update

- **Round 12 of GFD** started on 19th and will run until 29th March. It has reached cumulative 50,780 families (approx. 228,500) as of 24 March. Round 11 completed on 19th March, and reached cumulative 152,316 families (approx. 685,400 people).
- In the month of March, 165,317 people are receiving food assistance through CBT/e-vouchers. Additional e-voucher shops are being constructed. The process of transitioning beneficiaries from in-kind food assistance to e-voucher shops will be a lengthy process. Currently, 165,000 individuals are receiving their food assistance through e-vouchers redeemable at WFP assistance outlets.
- **The process of rehabilitating** the new relocation site, on the western side of the camps, is underway. Works are being undertaken and it is hoped that the new site will have new Distribution Points for food assistance and the planned.

- **Ramadan:** in relation to Preparedness Plan of GFD and provision of hot meals for the coming months, FSS partners will need to factor in the fasting period (Ramadhan will begin around 17 or 18th May): FSS Coordinator highlighted that it is important to share plans and coordinate within the FSS, and not only details around areas of coverage for distribution, volumes/quantities, but also details around the types of foods and whether for example, fresh meat and fish are planned to be part of the basket. Particularly for local NGOs which have, in the past worked in the space of food distribution around Ramadan, such as MUKTI, BRAC, Agrajatra, ACF, TIKA, etc. Care will need to be exercised if fresh food is planned to be distributed, given the lack of conservation facilities, i.e., fridges. Food safety in camps and settlements should be of paramount concern because of the public health implications in case of contamination due to poor hygiene etc.
 - SRPD informed Partners that it has, in the past, distributed supplementary food packages (e.g., supercereals) during the month of Ramadhan and for this year, it has been having bilateral discussions with WFP for partnership possibilities. FD;
 - ICRC will continue its regular pipeline GFD and has no plan to do a special distribution;
 - ACF will update Partners on its plans; OXFAM plans to continue its regular distribution until November; BRAC plans to coordinate with WFP and WR plans to continue to its regular GFD; WVI has no plans yet, but will update FSS if something new is decided.

Other updates on GFD included:

- GFD's graph which shows a breakdown by location has proved useful in that it assists planning for the Monsoon/Cyclone, with clarity on areas/camps which have large populations, and which may need focussed and increased attention from FSS Partners, so that no one is left behind. ICRC requested its distribution programme in Sharmarkul, Unchimprang and Kornaparang. could be reflected in the graphs and charts on next rounds (12 and beyond).

3- Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning – Sector and Partners update

Given that the monsoon season is fast approaching, humanitarian actors are generally of the view that the Preparedness and Response Plan and actions need to speed up: e.g., storage containers, construction of roads and other access and making settlements more resilient and strengthening makeshift dwellings.

- 1. Keeping the GFD distributions ongoing
- 2. Increase cooked meals distribution according to the disaster (e.g. people affected by landslides/flood, isolated groups, etc.) and priority to malnutrition cases (coordination with Nutrition Sector)
- 3. Stockpile emergency rations (fortified biscuits) in case of major event (cyclone) and/or any major access issues
- Plan for porter system and DDR is under discussion and will be scaled up:

- ACF, TIKA, WVI, WFP, IFRC, ICRC, have been invited to attend a Planning Meeting with FSS Coordination Team to update prepositioning, storage, and other priority activities, as part of the Preparedness Plan. Because of its fresh food distribution programme, OXFAM was also invited to the meeting in case vouchers can be used as an emergency response. in Camps 11, 12, and 13 and prepositioning in its shops some ready to eat food items as part of the 72 Hours Response Scenario planning (the thinking to be shared at the Planning Meeting scheduled for Wed 28 March).
 - **On Monsoon and Host Communities:** more clarity is requested from the Local NGOs and other actors on plans, especially if cash (multipurpose cash) is planned. FSS C. reiterated that if support to refugees is envisaged, ensure it is needs-based and must include rohingyas refugees and host communities.
- 4- [OXFAM's Fresh Food for the Rohingya Refugees – Presentation and Lesson learned \(See PPT Presentation\)](#)
- OXFAM's programme was based on the key findings from REVA and OXFAM's study on vulnerabilities;
 - OXFAM offered grants to vendors to move closer to the camps. Porters to bring food to the camps.
 - Other issues: Any issues to do with vulnerabilities? neighbours take food to the most vulnerable.
 - FAO queried: according to PDM findings, what is the overall satisfaction rate for the type of commodities found in shops? Overall there is a good satisfaction from partners, but the amount is not enough they say.
 - Safety/Protection: large crowds, not enough crowd control at the beginning. More staff hired to do ensure some order. Vouchers are distributed on a monthly basis and at the beginning of the month. Given people's perceptions that the programme may not run the following month, this leads beneficiaries to utilise their vouchers straight after receiving them; thanks to training offered to vendors, most beneficiaries said they are treated with respect.

6. [AoB \(Livelihoods WG, Agencies update on funding gaps\)](#)

JRP and HRP

JRP and HRP: FSS Partners need to report on the Sept 2017-March 2018 HRP period. 9 organisations were part of the HRP. There are 23 organisations under the JRP. A matrix will be sent to FSS partners, and FFS C. requested that a special attention be given to the breakdown between food assistance vs livelihoods, secured funding and etc, so that a good funding gap analysis can be undertaken.

- **Livelihoods WG** update:

The meeting is every other Thursday at WFP meeting room; working on the LHs Advocacy Paper. Plan is to include also the information on funds gap from the JRP side.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

- Emergency plan for FSS ongoing and preparedness and response plan: FSS is meeting with a smaller group of partners involved in cooked meals, fresh food programme, and GFD on Wed 28th March.
- FSS Team will share a special RAMADAN 4Ws matrix for Partners who plan to distribute fresh food
- JRP Funding gap matrix will be circulated for partners to be filled;
- Additional matrix to be sent for the funding received under HRP (September 2017 – March 2018)

NEXT MEETING ON 10 April 2018