



BANGLADESH
FOOD SECURITY SECTOR
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

Livelihoods Working Group Meeting

DATE Thursday, 05th April 2018
TIME 09:30 am – 11:00 am
VENUE WFP Meeting Room, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Livelihoods Ongoing activities, funding gaps, advocacy paper update
3. COAST Trust presentation
4. YPSA Presentation
5. LPG/Livelihoods update
6. AoB (monsoon, reporting)

DISCUSSION

1- Intro

The FSS Coordinator opened the meeting with a welcome to all, followed by a round of introductions, noting the presence of new several new FSL focal points.

Participants: ICCO, IFRC, ICRC, NONGOR, ACF, Cash Working Group, WFP, FAO, WVI, Mukti, Christian Aid, YPSA, COAST Trust, EETWG, IOM, UN WOMEN, UNHCR, Solidarités International, OXFAM, CARITAS, PROTTYASHI, Agrajattra, SCI, ISCG.

2- Livelihoods Ongoing Activities, JRP Funding Gap, Advocacy Paper update

JRP update and funding Gap

(See Attached the PPT Presentation by the FSS Coordinator)

- For the Request for Info on JRP Funding Gap, the Coordinator thanked Partners who have responded so far. While we are still in the first month of the JRP (March-Dec 2018), it is important to do a funding gap analysis. It is important to use accurate figures when reporting (to key stakeholders, including GoB, ISCG, etc.) and advocating to donors for resource mobilisation.
- The JRP mainly focus on the two uphazillas of Ukhiya and Teknaf. However ongoing humanitarian support is also being implemented in other areas of Cox's Bazar.
- So far, 9% funded under LHs. However, some organisations have carried over some funds or are working on Livelihoods with their own funds. Some Partners sought clarification whether all the Cash for Work interventions under environmental protection /reforestation projects and initiatives were counted under FSS. Strategic Objective 2 (i.e., Livelihoods, Resilience).
- Reforestation activities are included under the FSS second strategic objective as per JRP

Reporting on 4Ws

- Thursday 05 April is the deadline for the 4Ws template. The FSS C. reminded to existing and new FSL focal points, on the importance of reporting on their organisations' ongoing activities and to stick to fortnightly reporting period. For example, some Partners are reporting on their activities from October up to now, which makes it difficult to do the breakdown. While we all recognise that Livelihoods activities are generally spread on a longer timeframe, unlike Food Assistance ones which may be easier to report on, FSS C. highlighted the importance of accuracy when reporting on numbers, to avoid double counting.
- The need to harmonise the language used when referring to Livelihoods activities for refugees. When reporting on Cash based interventions (CfW), we need to ensure we are not double reporting to more than one sector (e.g., CfW under site management, for a reforestation project – which is also Livelihoods, should be only reported under Site Management or only under LHs/FSS).
- Some partners queried if their activities were included on the analysis (see presentation), and everything reported on 4Ws was included except the latest figures received by few partners that will be included in the Livelihoods advocacy paper.

3- COAST Trust presentation (See PPT Presentation Attached)

- Socio-economic Empowerment with Dignity and Sustainability.
- Working in Ramu, and two other uphazilas; linkage with Gov service providers, training for Capacity Development on different skills and IGs initiatives; Self- reliant group meetings: participatory decision making at grass roots level; Materials distribution: animal vaccination kits and other veterinary services; training in rearing techniques; SRGs and IGAs: cow and goats rearing; poultry, duck and pigeon vaccination; HHs IGAs: 2000 families are involved: salt cultivation and cow rearing, tailoring, and organic fish drying processing techniques and distribution of dryers of fish (e.g., mosquito nets for drying fish). FSS Partners' questions after the presentation were related to value chain: which activities? Ramu uphazila: chicken production. Families would typically sell their chicken meat for 200TKs per kilo. More income can be generated by taking their poultry to CXB city (300TKs). The same applies to vegetables and fruits. COAST is facilitating the connections between farmers, wholesalers and city-based markets.
- The question of cash provision and possible tensions between HCs and RCs. How does COAST involves both communities to build social cohesion aspects of the project, particularly in activities close to Teknaf/Ukhiya. Partners also wanted to know whether there were some lessons to be shared by COAST on impact, sustainability and scalability, and criteria used to target the most vulnerable, etc.
- Agreement by the group to share always a lesson learnt/challenges slide at the end of each presentation

4- YPSA Presentation (See PPT Presentation Attached)

- Provision of LHs support to victims of Human Trafficking. Other Initiatives include: Agricultural support, handicraft, small business, group business, livestock projects and internships and job placements, and trade skills (mason, electrical, computer skills, etc...); Monitoring and Follow up: Emergency Visits in case of natural disasters; ANIRBAN (with trafficking prevention expertise) leaders. Has two major training centres.

- Partners asked the presenter to share his experiences on lessons learned supporting Group Business? Skills are being conducted collectively. 100,000 Tks given to group business in CXB. Beneficiaries are all from Teknaf.
- UNWOMEN asked whether any gender-based data disaggregation was undertaken on beneficiaries and types of businesses. Response was that women are mostly in trading and sewing and small scale agricultural projects, and beauty parlors.
- Partners asked whether the majority of trafficked persons were males or females. The response given was that under their programme, victims of trafficking were 50% male and 50% females.
- Another Partner asked how YPSA cooperated with other key stakeholders in information flows on trafficking, with for example, Law Enforcement Agencies. YPSA clarified that the Programme has several integrated dimensions in response and support, including working with lots of GoB stakeholders. YPSA invited other FSS Partners to visit its Offices and for more details happy to share more next meetings.

5- **LPG/Livelihoods update (See PPT Presentation attached)**

- Coordinator of the EETWG demonstrated the urgency of adopting clean and alternative energy for cooking food in camps and settlements. SAFE Project is currently at the Pilot Phase, but expected to increase the caseload in a couple of months. 11,000 LPG sets will soon be distributed (9000 for RCs and 2000 for households in HCs) by 4 Organisations: IOM (3000) FAO (3000) UNHCR (3000) and IFRC (2000).
- Want to learn lessons before scaling. Monitoring system is common for most of those organisations. Procurement system: common tendering process, led by IOM. Will end in end May and June will decide the winner of the tender. The 4 Partners will not be involved in purchasing cooking stoves, rather all the key processes will be done through the private sector.
- Link with beneficiaries is done via the multi-wallet WFP SCOPE system. Beneficiaries will be provided with a certain amount into their wallet card. The LPG refill will be done on an average every 5 weeks. All transactions will be recorded. The Private Sector company will invoice the Agencies directly. It is an innovation. The plan is to extend the model. Humanitarian organisations will not exercise any form of control or supervision over private sector companies.
- Refugees will receive refills 5 cylinders for 6 months in the present Pilot Phase. The plan is to 180,000 HHs (scale up). The idea is to stop fire wood collection. For prevention of environmental disaster. LPGs will be the safest, cheap, quick, and effective to stop firewood collection and protect the environment. HCS will be provided with initial cooking stoves and cylinders and LHs programmes. This will help them to refill by themselves, for sustainability.
- This project has multi-dimensional impact on FS and LHs. FA: cooking food (GFD) distributed to RCs and security and LHs, a halt on deforestation and some initiatives on reforestation will be undertaken, etc.
- A question was asked on the cash value of the LPG: value of the set per HHs, incl the 5 Refills is around 10,000 Tks for six months. 3,500 TK for the initial set/cylinder. One refill is for 1,100 Tks.
- Partners asked whether analysis was made on feasibility and success factors for HCs, particularly that the project intends to not support continuously HHs in HCs, but instead will support them through LHs initiatives, so that they in turn can assist themselves in sustaining LPG refills. What alternatives have been envisaged, in case this did not occur, rather, HCs continued with reliance on firewood for cooking. The EETWG chair clarified

that there are some unknown factors and that is why the project will start as pilot in order to be re-adjusted afterwards.

- Other questions revolved around safety in camps for HHs with no prior experience with cooking with LPG stoves, and water scarcity in certain areas in camps, and types of training on fuel consumption and safety use of LPG stoves.
- EETWG coordinator specified that among the project activities there are several sets of training on cooking methods, nutrition, fire safety teams, site management and Fire Services before delivering LPG assistance.

6- AOB and Next Steps

- FSS C. suggested that there is a need to produce a guidance note/paper on the impact of Monsoons/Cyclone on Livelihoods, and some recommendations on mitigation and recovery activities; National and Local NGOs with experience in CXB such as MUKTI, YPSA, BRAC, COAST may play a key role in the development of such a paper, which is part of strategic planning, pre and post-disaster. Any one interested can approach the FSS C. to be part of the drafting team.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

- 4Ws sharing on ongoing livelihoods activities with Host communities and resilience activities with refugees;
- Those who did not report yet sharing funding gaps against the JRP
- FSS to finalize the advocacy paper that will include also the funding gap and ongoing support;
- FSS to convene a small group of interested focal points to develop guidance Note with recommendations on Sustainability of Livelihoods Projects in the context of CXB.
- Next FSS meeting: EETWG will present on details of the SAFE + Project, given the high interest expressed by the group
- FSS C. to share details of the EETWG meeting and contact details of the chair: Those interested in LPG can attend the monthly meeting, held on Thursdays, 11:30 – 12:30
- Solidarités International volunteered to give a Presentation on its LHs activities in the next meeting.

Next meeting on **Thursday 19th April.**