YEMEN
FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

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MINUTES OF FSAC NATIONAL COORDINATION MEETING

Date: 22nd August 2017

Venue: WFP Offices, Sana'a

Time: 11:00 AM

Attendance: WFP, NRC, FAO, YDN, ICAN, IRY, RI, YLDF, DRC, ADO, SCI, LMMPO, IOM, RDP, RRD, CSSW, CHR-T, TYF, War Child, FSTS, EU Delegation, NFDHR, ADRA, OXFAM, NFRD, VHI, FEWSNET, QC, PU-AMI, ICRC, YWT, YFCA, DG ECHO, YWU, FHD, ITDC, CARE

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Review of action points emanating from the last meeting
3. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) orientation to FSAC partners – Nutrition Cluster IYCF Advisor
4. Proposed harmonization of Emergency Livelihoods Assistance (Crops, Livestock, Fisheries)
5. Updates from partners on the ongoing famine risk monitoring activities
6. Feedback on the recent IPC and key food security indicators training
7.   AOB

1. Introductions

➢ All FSAC partners present did a round of introduction. The cluster IMO and Sub-cluster coordinators from all the hubs were also introduced to partners.

2. Review of action points emanating from the last meeting

➢ An update was given on the status of the main action points from the last meeting , followed with an endorsement of the meeting minutes.

3. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) orientation to FSAC partners – Nutrition Cluster IYCF Advisor

➢ The SCI /Nutrition Cluster Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Advisor made a presentation on the linkages between IYCF and FSAC activities

➢ The presentation focused on highlighting the importance of IYCF(E):

  • The recommended IYCF practices

- Reporting untargeted distributions of breastmilk substitutes
- Understanding that integration of IYCF in different sectors is crucial due to multi-sectoral causes of malnutrition
- Understanding how FSAC can support IYCF

➢ It underlined the rationale for IYCF and Food Security, Agriculture and Livelihoods Integration

➢ To ensure that most children are protected and provided with vital services, optimal IYCF practices must be in place through comprehensive and appropriate integration of IYCF with FSAC

➢ FSAC Partners sought more clarity on the following:-

- Linkages between IYCF, mortality and morbidity
- Recent IYCF assessments in Yemen
- National IYCF strategy
- Advocacy/awareness raising strategy on IYCF
- Questions were asked by FSAC partners related to the topic and responses were made by the IYCF advisor.
- Untargeted distributions of Breast Milk Substitute (BMS):

Action points:

- ❖ *The presentation and BMS code violation reporting form to be shared with FSAC partners*
- ❖ *ECHO guideline on IYCF in Emergencies to be shared with FSAC partners, courtesy of the DG ECHO Programme Officer*

4. Proposed harmonization of Emergency Livelihoods Assistance (Crops, Livestock, Fisheries)

➢ Based on the need for harmonization/standardization of activities, FSAC shared a draft emergency livelihoods assistance guideline which indicates common approaches on key activities and commodities, and costing for crops, livestock and fisheries interventions.

➢ The aim is to have a minimum emergency livelihoods basket/kit to guide partners in response. It will also come in handy for donors wishing to fund livelihoods related activities.

➢ The draft is based on the existing endorsed cluster policy paper on distinction between emergency livelihoods assistance and livelihoods restoration

➢ The draft will be shared with all FSAC partners for their inputs/ comments, before further discussions in the upcoming FSAC meeting, culminating in the endorsement by all partners.

Send any updates and/or comments to FSAC Coordinator Gordon Dudi <Gordon.Dudi@fao.org>

Action point: The draft guideline to be shared with FSAC partners for their feedback/comments/inputs by COB Tuesday 29th August.

5. Updates from partners on the ongoing famine risk monitoring activities

➢ FSAC highlighted the urgency of the rapid famine risk monitoring data collection being finalized as soon as practically possible

➢ The food security district level data would be the first of its kind in the country

➢ The district level data is critical for the following:

- Monitoring of the evolving situation in the 95 districts at potential risk of famine

- Availing district level data to inform the 2018 HNO and YHRP

- Availing data for the upcoming IPC analysis

- Informing partners district level response priorities/activities, vulnerable groups and priority locations

- Informing partner response and gap analysis

➢ FSAC requested partners facing any challenges related to the rapid famine risk monitoring data collection exercise to raise it with the cluster immediately, so that it can be raised to the HC/HCT/OCHA for support with the relevant authorities.

Action point: Re-circulate the English and Arabic versions of the "FSAC famine risk monitoring guidance documents" to cluster partners.

6. Feedback on the recent IPC and key food security indicators training

➢ FSAC explained to partners the long and cumbersome process of getting authorization for trainings like the recently concluded IPC/key food security training (the process takes approximately 10 working days). Additionally, all trainings must be authorized by authorities well in advance of the training dates, and a list of confirmed participants shared as a prerequisite for the authorization process to be completed.

➢ It is therefore unfair for partners who had confirmed their participation to withdraw at the last minute as their chance cannot be taken up by anyone. On the other hand, other partners did not attend the training for the entire duration, and will thus not be eligible for the certification process.

➢ For future trainings the cluster will prioritize committed partners who were present during the whole IPC/ key food security indicators training. FSAC partners that pulled out at the last minute with no plausible reason will be given second preference.

7. AOB

➢ **WFP to conduct District Level Rapid Famine Monitoring Activities during the Upcoming Nationwide Polio Vaccination Campaign**

Send any updates and/or comments to FSAC Coordinator Gordon Dudi <Gordon.Dudi@fao.org>

- A nation-wide Polio Vaccination Campaign (PVC) is planned to take place at the beginning of September (right after the Eid Holidays). The PVC will be carried out jointly by MoPHP, UNICEF and WHO.

- WFP, UNICEF and WHO have agreed to use this opportunity to collect data on key household food security indicators and information on nutrition situation from all the districts in such a way that the results will be statistically representative at district level.

- FCS, CSI, Women Food Dietary Diversity, and Livelihood Coping Strategies are the modules/indicators for the food security section of the questionnaire, and Rapid MUAC measurement will be used for nutrition assessment

- The findings of the assessment will be used to refine the emergency food assistance targeting & prioritization processes, for better advocacy, raising more funds and rapid mobilization of aid resources for the ongoing humanitarian assistance in Yemen.

- The total duration of the assessment is expected to be one month (September 2017), preliminary results are expected around the first week of October 2017.

Action point: WFP to share a one-pager summary of the aforementioned process

➢ WFP National Market Assessment

- WFP is planning a nation-wide market assessment that will help in giving a detailed overview of the market dynamics within all governorates. WFP will be reaching out to all FSAC partners for support in implementing such an initiative.

➢ FSAC Information Management Update

- The cluster Information Management Officer (IMO) highlighted some minor but critical changes in the FSAC information management reporting tool.

- The changes are:
  - o Drop down menu of all the relevant districts once a specific governorate is selected. Only districts within that governorate will pop up (not all as before) to make it easier for partners to report their monthly achievements. Partners are therefore kindly requested to use the drop down menu and not to manually enter districts
  - o All partners involved in emergency food assistance to specify the composition of the food basket provided, and what percentage of the food ration it provides based on the cluster minimum food basket standards

Action point: All FSAC partners to kindly adhere to the revised FSAC information management reporting template (and get in touch with the Cluster IMO in case they need assistance, support or further clarifications)