

## MEETING MINUTES



**LOCATION:** Kyiv (via Microsoft Teams)

**DATE:** December 17, 2020

**CHAIR:** Charles Hopkins, FSL Cluster Coordinator

- AGENDA:**
1. Self-introduction and review of the previous meeting minutes
  2. FSLC Monthly Update & progress on the revision of the food basket and CBT value
  3. Experience sharing by People in Need (PiN): changing modality based on the context
  4. Presentation on the findings of the Market Monitoring conducted by ACTED
  5. Updates from partners & AOB

### 1. Self-introduction and review of the previous meeting minutes

- Action points of previous cluster meetings were reviewed.
- FSLC has been working closely with the SAG on the food basket and CBT value revision. The FSLC team has shared a second draft to the revised food basket and CBT value with the SAG and hope the final draft is endorsed by the SAG before the end of the year
- FSLC Submitted the final HRP narrative and reviewed the HNO draft shared by OCHA.
- The Agricultural Technical Working Group (ATWG) will be led by Mana Nagashima from FAO.
- FSLC Participated in the UHF proposal review.

#### Action points:

- FSLC team – to send request for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 4W data collection. FSLC partners – share 4W data on actual beneficiaries' coverage for 4<sup>th</sup> quarter by 15<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.
- FSLC and FAO – to conduct the first ATWG meeting at the beginning of 2021.

### 2. FSLC Monthly Update & progress on the revision of the food basket and CBT value

- Following the recommendation of the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) of the Food Security and Livelihood Cluster (FSLC), a review of the food basket content and price changes commenced in September 2020.
- The cluster team conducted a Socio-Economic Analysis and Market Monitoring review to determine the changes in price. Some of key socio-economic trends revealed are:
  - Economic situation in general has been aggravated, what was confirmed by lower indicators of GDP, industrial production, and investment, although retail showed a slight improvement.
  - The number of registered unemployed in August 2020 is 26% higher than in August 2019
  - Unemployment rate (by ILO methodology) in Donetsk (15.0%) and Luhansk GCA (16.0%) remain higher compared with average for Ukraine (9.6%).
  - Social benefits are significantly below the subsistence line (defined by Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine at the level of 3,895 UAH for July 2020).
- Food basket revision:



- Two options of food basket content are recommended: 1) to cover 100% of ration (2100 kcal); 2) to cover 75% of ration (1,575 kcal).
- The changes in comparison with 2018 recommendation are based on the beneficiaries' feedback and consultation with the cluster SAG. It is suggested replaced barley with buckwheat and CSB Super plus with oatmeal.
- Cash-Based Transfer value (CBT) revision.
  - Since the last cash-based transfer (CBT) value revision in September 2018, the food basket (monitored by WFP) has recorded a 12.8% overall increase in price for Ukraine (based on State Statistics Service data).
  - The last CBT value update was provided in September 2018 with the recommended CBT value of 825 UAH to cover 75% of the daily ration.
  - The average monitored basket cost during the last 12 months (November 2019 – October 2020) is 1,129 UAH for Ukraine. Thus, to cover partial ration of 1,575 kcal (75% of full ration), the recommended CBT value as a basis for cash for food and voucher for food assistance is 936 UAH.

### Action points:

- FSLC team – to finalize food basket updates and Cash-Based Transfer value document and to send to the SAG for endorsement.

### 3. Experience sharing by People in Need (PiN): changing modality based on the context

PiN presented the experience in project implementation changing voucher modality to in-kind food assistance.

- Targeting criteria for beneficiaries of Food Security project are being adjusted considering post-distribution monitoring results:
  - Difficulty to ensure proper beneficiary selection based on cumulative vulnerabilities.
  - Importance of context analyses (of any form) and trying to find proxy indicators to better understand what population groups are more likely to be in poverty or fall into further poverty, and negative coping mechanisms.
  - Ensuring impartiality (needs-based assistance, prioritizing the most vulnerable) requires constant, iterative processes of verifications and finetuning vulnerability criteria.
- Vendors' Capacity.
  - Limited number of vendors which would like to work in projects => limited number of retail chains; => low technical capacity (operating without cash-tills, no receipts or any legal documentation available); => fear/prejudice about working with NGOs
  - Limited range of food items => it is especially related to vendors in the pre-frontal areas
  - Quality of food items => due to economic situation, there are a lot of cheaper segment products which are of a lower quality
  - People face limited access to big retailers, therefore they need to buy food at the local shops/markets, this, however, might be more expensive, of a lower quality, with shorter due date.

- General context.
  - Increase in prices => since September 2020 the prices for different items have increased from 3 to 10%
  - COVID-19 Sanitary Regulations => the shops do not follow sanitary norms, for example, they do not conduct disinfection of the venue or ensure the staff and the customers use PPE.
- Possible solutions:
  - Find an opportunity to involve smaller vendors/shops => it might be helpful to communicate with them more transparently on conditions, requirements, etc., so, they would have less fear to get engaged with the projects.
  - Support of technical capacities of small vendor/shops => for example to encourage/ assist with purchase of cash-tills, assist with programme software, with improving storage systems and conditions, etc.
  - While planning food interventions, it is important to provide support to the shops encouraging to use PPE and follow sanitary norms => it is especially important in smaller locations, as a shop can be the only public place, where people can potentially get infected.

#### 4. Presentation on the findings of the Market Monitoring conducted by ACTED

ACTED presented:

**Market Monitoring (Food), August – September 2020.** Key points:

- Markets surveyed within areas: both within and outside 5km zone, Donetsk and Luhansk, both GCA and NGCA.
- 69 retailers and 148 customers were surveyed in GCA.
  - The most common issues for customers in accessing markets are: high prices, assortment, transportation.
  - Recent food price trend shows annual price stability (-1% change compared to August 2019).
  - In GCA, food self-production remains fairly frequent (58% on average). The most commonly self-produced goods are vegetables and eggs.
- In NGCA, prices have increased since previous summer round: Luhansk semi-periphery by 3%, Luhansk city by 13%, Donetsk city by 8%. Overall average food price increase for NGCA markets monitored is by 8%.

**Action points:**

- ACTED and FSLC team—to disseminate the presentation among partners.



### 5. Updates from partners / AOBs

#### Updates from partners

- **ACTED.** About 3,500 beneficiaries were covered with cash for food assistance to cover November 2020 – January 2021. In general, this programme is aimed at 5 months of assistance, thus the second round is planned for February 2021.
- **ASB.** Cash for food distribution covering November and December for 3450 beneficiaries. It was the start of the last caseload of ASB's project that is planned for 8 months of assistance.
- **TGH.** In December, the distribution of e-vouchers for food was started within the project funded by French CDCS for 197 households, 283 elderly people and people with disabilities and 41 community volunteers. This support will be continued up to March 2021 in 7 settlements of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts in GCA.
- **NRC.** Serhii Panasenko from NRC is leaving the organization. Svitlana Hlazunova will participate next time on behalf of NRC and further on.

#### Action points:

- The next Cluster meeting is tentatively scheduled for **January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021** beginning at **15:00**.

## MEETING MINUTES



### PARTICIPANT LIST:

22 participants represented 15 institutions attended the FSLC monthly meeting. The institutions include NGOs and international organizations, including UN agencies.

No	Names of attendees	Institution	Position	Contact
1	Frances Oppermann	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Project Development Manager	frances.oppermann@acted.org
2	Natalya Chervinskaya	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Country Project Coordinator	nataliya.chervinska@acted.org
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4	Oleksandr Kurilenko	Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Livelihoods Officer	oleksandr.kurilenko@drc.ngo
5	Mana Nagashima	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	International Programme Specialist	mana.nagashima@fao.org
6	Yana Voitovska	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Programme Support Specialist	Yana.Voitovska@fao.org
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8	Inna Lukashenko	International Children's Fund 'Mira'		mdfmira@gmail.com
9	Sergei Panasenکو	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Project Coordinator, Livelihoods and Food Security	sergei.panasenko@nrc.no
10	Vladyslava Vasilieva	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Grants Assistant	
11	Alina Tereshchenko	OSCE SMM	Astrit.Brasha@osce.org	Alina.Tereshchenko@osce.org
12	Astrit Brasha	OSCE SMM	Human Dimension Officer	
13	Hanna Yizhak	Polish Humanitarian Action	Project Coordinator	hanna.yizhak@pah.org.pl
14	Inna Erofeeva	People in Need (PiN)	Project Coordinator	sergei.saienko@peopleinneed.cz1
15	Sergei Saenko	People in Need (PiN)	Emergency Coordinator	sergei.saienko@peopleinneed.cz
16	Victoria Kolotieva	People in Need (PiN)	Interpreter	
17	Lucile Badon	Triangle génération humanitaire	Project Manager	pm.ukraine@trianglegh.org
18	Daria Volkova	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Affairs Specialist	daria.volkova@un.org
19	Oksana Matvieieva	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Field Coordination Officer	oksana.matvieieva@un.org

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UKRAINE  
**FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER**  
*Strengthening Humanitarian Response*

20	Kateryna Khodzhaieva	Mission "Synodal Department of Charity and Social Service" of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church	Communication and Documentation Officer	
21	Charles Hopkins	FSL Cluster (FSLC)	Cluster Coordinator	<a href="mailto:charles.hopkins@fao.org">charles.hopkins@fao.org</a>
22	Angelina Virchenko	FSL Cluster (FSLC)	Cluster IMO	<a href="mailto:angelina.virchenko@fao.org">angelina.virchenko@fao.org</a>