

MEETING MINUTES



UKRAINE
FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Strengthening Humanitarian Response



- LOCATION:** Microsoft Teams
- DATE:** May 20, 2022 (09:00-10:00 GMT+3)
- CHAIR:** Charles Hopkins, FSL Cluster Coordinator
Raquel Trabazo, Protection Cluster Coordinator
- Other attendees:** Guy Rhodes, MASC Coordinator
Martin Oubrecht, MASC Co-Facilitator
Stanislav Topolnytskyi, UNDP
Oleksandr Sushchenko, UNDP
Oleksandr Barylko, UNHCR
Valentyn Panchenko, FSLC Information Management Officer (IMO)

1. Discussion between Mine Action Sub-Cluster of Protection Cluster (MASC) and Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster (FSLC)

Protection Cluster (Raquel):

- First off, there are areas of collaboration between the FSLC and the Mine Action Sub-Cluster (MASC). It is the prioritization of survey clearance and all interventions related to it, and consideration of lengths that could be used for agricultural purposes, or anything that would enable livelihood activities.
- The second point of collaboration is to build bridges between gender-based violence (GBV) response and livelihoods, so survivors could be referred to specific assistance by livelihoods actors.
- Overall, a community-based approach, whatever livelihoods actors would be thinking, to work with communities, as per previous practice, but what we see is that we have a huge number of people living in collective centers displaced from their places of origin, and there's a lot of need for employment and access to all kinds of productive activities.

FSL Cluster (Charles):

- The Livelihoods project has started and assisted nearly 100,000 people.
- The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is still the lead organization for the livelihoods technical working group (LTWG). The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine and Food participated in the FSLC meeting on Feb. 19 and supported the presentation by the Ukrainian Deminers Association (military.feodal platform), and the cluster plans to expand its cooperation with de-mining actors.
- The FSLC also highlighted the importance of providing training on protection mainstreaming and GBV to its partners. The FSLC will link the Mine Action Sub-cluster with the LTWG to increase collaboration that will inform programming.

Mine Action Sub-Cluster (Guy):

- Risk education was down because of martial law but can be a way to inform people on the mine risks after all.
- The major operators for demining are DRC, Foundation Suisse De Déminage (FSD), and the Halo Trust. The Halo Trust is clearing some fields already in Kyivska oblast.
- The State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) is conducting most clearance operations. It works closely with international organizations and operators.



- An International Humanitarian Demining Coordination Center of Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA) has been launched, with the ambition of serving as a coordination platform for both national and international operators.
- Two more operators are undergoing certification procedures by national authorities.
- We need to make a survey/assessment to understand the nature of the issues and find gaps and priorities in land use and agriculture, as they are important for the economy of Ukraine.
- In fact, UNDP is working in conjunction with them regarding debris management and recycling.

Mine Action Sub-Cluster (Martin):

- Operators prioritize their operations in the Kyiv area and Chernihiv area, as well as in the Dnipro area.
- SESU is the major operator, which is focused mostly in urban areas and is active in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, and Kharkiv oblasts.
- Farmers often have a few unexploded ordnances (UXO) in their field, which does not require a full clearance process.
- A new National Council for Recovery has been established in Ukraine at the government level and consists of various working groups, one of which is Mine Action Working Group (MAWG). It will be important to unify and intensify advocacy activities at the government level to actively monitor and contribute to specific activities of those Working Groups.
- Local administrations are conducting regular meetings dedicated to civilian safety and security, in which SESU takes an active part. We can use this network to enhance communication with beneficiaries at the local level. Some local surveys might already be available on the mines and mine lands. They should be fed into International Mine Action Standard (IMSMA), run by Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).
- We also need to force Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) targeting farmers and land users to be brief on safe behavior to prevent life-threatening incidents.
- We would also welcome any study on the impact of UXO contamination on the agriculture sector and wider Ukrainian economy. We could initiate it within our advocacy with the government and use it as a key input in our National MA Strategy.
- The yearly humanitarian demining plan run by the Ministry of Defense (MoD) focused on Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts will have to be updated to reflect the current scenario. Non-Technical Survey (NTS) activities have to be prioritized to understand the scale of contamination and to prioritize Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE), clearance, and Victim Assistance (VA). In conjunction with the MoD, we could first identify the agricultural areas that are safe to be used and then prioritize agriculture work. A condition for the cancellation of an area through a non-technical survey is that "all reasonable effort" has been applied up to and including the non-technical survey and that it can be demonstrated with high confidence that there is no evidence of explosive ordnance (EO) contamination in the area.
- Refer farmers and land users who have suffered injuries due to UXO incidents to VA service providers.
- The platform created by the private company Feodal and the Association of Deminers of Ukraine with the support of the Ministry of Agrarian Policy and Food of Ukraine would be a good forum to coordinate, discuss, and elaborate on linkages between MA and livelihoods. Information must be fed into the yearly human demining (HD) plan and Information Management System for Humanitarian Demining (IMSMA).



Action points:

- Identify a forum for inter-cluster communication. A common WG on livelihoods could be a tool to support inter-cluster coordination with the participation of key national authorities and link this to the National Council for Recovery. Military.feodal platform can be used as a data input.
- Prioritize and plan NTS to address the most critical needs as defined by national partners (discussed in the above mentioned WG).
- Conduct a study on the impact of UXO contamination on the agriculture sector and the wider Ukrainian economy.
- Provide EORE briefings to farmers and the agriculture sector, Military.feodal platform can be used to support the on-line EORE delivery, to be followed by coordinated direct sessions.
- We encourage the Ministry of Agriculture to approach the Cabinet of Ministers with the request to speed up NTS in the agricultural areas where possible and to plan the work and to conduct an UXO impact study and develop an MA strategy as mentioned above. International partners stay ready to support
- Raising awareness of communities about the availability of MVA and ensuring they have access to services if needed - possible ways to provide assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) as they need support right now. possible ways in ongoing meetings between FSLC and MASC.
- facilitating the process of monitoring of mined and demined lands, starting from discovering objects, reporting on them, registering, and receiving assistance, and providing data for livelihood actors about available demined lands and properties that can be used.
- The IMSMA system is run by GICHD and the Information Management Working Group under MASC. Cluster coordinators and IM officers from FSLC, PC, and MASC should closely work together to facilitate inputs to the IMWG and IMSMA.