

Minutes of Yemen FSAC National Cluster Meeting

Date 29.02.2024	
Virtual	WFP, FAO, USAID/BHA, FCDO, UNDP, ECHO, DRC, SRA, IMC, RI, SI, WC-CA, VHI, SCI, WC-UK, CARE, TYF, SHS,MOZN, KFD, ASADSC, RRD, PH, HDP, CONCERN, SRPD, NDEO, YKF, AAH, SRY.
Physical	YFCA, SOUL, MC, GWQ, Ghadaq, Oxfam, WFP, RDP, YLDF, NFDHR, BCHR, SRPD, IRY, FSAC.

Agenda

1. Review of action points from the previous meeting.
2. Evolving Food Security Situation.
3. Presentation of WFP and Non-WFP Funded HFA.
4. FSAC HFA Scenario Planning in light of HFA Pause in SBA AoC.
5. AOB.

1. Review of action points from the previous meeting

Action Point	Focal Point	Progress
FSAC to re-share the 2023 CCPM link for partners to complete the survey.	FSAC	Completed

2. Evolving Food Security Situation

- The Food Security and Agricultural Cluster Coordinator discussed the Evolving of food security Situation in 2024. The entire presentation is accessible on the FSAC website available in this link; [Here](#)
- During the meeting, FSAC CC presented food security situation and clarify that around 17.6 million people are food insecure, with 13.2 million in the SBA AoC facing food insecurity. Within the SBA AoC, 4.7 million people are experiencing emergency food insecurity. The WFP found increased levels of food insecurity among previous HFA beneficiaries, with more households experiencing poor and inadequate food consumption.
- The discussions raised and highlighted during the meeting.
 - A potential displacement of 8,000 households in the West Coast due to rumors of ground instability.
 - The dire situation in Aslam district, Hajjah Governorate, was reported by CCCM in Hajjah, highlighting an increase in cases of malnutrition and the utilization of negative coping strategies.
 - There is an advocacy for conducting a needs assessment to evaluate the impact of the WFP pause at the hub level.
 - A mission is planned with OCHA and lead agencies to visit the area.

- The influx of forced repatriation from Saudi Arabia was reported, emphasizing the challenges faced by families in Hajjah and other governorates.
- A concern about the potential impact of Ramadan on market pressure and commodity prices was discussed.
- IPC results for SBA not published yet. FSAC will inform all cluster members as soon as receive confirmation from the IPC Secretary.
- It was reported an updates on food security in Yemen indicate a growing number of families unable to meet their food needs due to the WFP pause. Recent data shows an 11% increase in the population with food needs compared to November. The severity of food needs and consumption indicators have worsened, and governorates like Hajjah, Hudaydah, Amran, and Marib are particularly concerning.
- The slight increase in prices in Yemen is a cause for concern. Market data indicates stagnation and a gap in the availability of certain food items, such as vegetable oil, following the WFP pause.
- It is recommended to approach the analysis of market dynamics and price fluctuations with caution.

3. Presentation of WFP and Non-WFP Funded HFA

- FSAC focused on the humanitarian food assistance (HFA), taking into account the data provided in the 5W report since November 2023.
 - The presentation included information on the number of beneficiaries reached under HFA provided by WFP in SBA in 2023 for the general food distribution vs cash-based transfers (GFD vs CBT).
 - It was highlighted that N/INGO HFA reached 240,000 individuals in SBA from October to December 2023, covering 70%-80% of their calorie requirements.
 - The HFA was provided by 31 partners, including 15 INGOs and 16 NNGOs, in SBA AoC. The governorates covered included Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Marib, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Sana'a City, Sa'adah, and Ta'iz.
- FSAC Review partner plans on a governorate-by-governorate under HFA for WFP and Non-WFP. It was reported that FSAC partners have received \$41 million to support HFA in SBA AoC from January to June 2024. These programs are ongoing, and it is expected that 300,000 people will be reached in the next three months through 17 FSAC partners.
- It was noted that some organizations have indicated that they have not yet reported their plans to FSAC.
- FSAC clarified that in order to ensure a comprehensive and accurate analysis and to advocate for these projects.
- It was agreed that FSAC would share a compiled list of reported plans to be reviewed and completed. Besides, remind partners to share their plans and such communication will be followed at hub level.

4. FSAC HFA Scenario Planning in light of HFA Pause in SBA AoC

- FSAC Coordinator discussed the Key considerations FSAC Scenario-Based planning.
- Negotiation with authorities regarding the WFP agreement on retargeting in final stages .
- A clarification on WFP pilot retargeting was provided. in terms of the need to conduct a pilot before scaling up the retargeting exercise for the north. The pilot will test different approaches based on targeting criteria derived from modeling and analysis. It aims to identify the best approach and assess the effectiveness of reaching both registered and unregistered beneficiaries in need.
- FSAC discussed the possible scenarios regarding HFA as following ;
 - The best-case scenario is that the agreement between WFP and the authorities will be signed, and the pilot program will proceed smoothly, resuming the food Assistance. WFP will be able to resume operations from June or July. According to the FSAC work plan, WFP will be able to provide humanitarian food assistance to 6.5 million people.
 - In the most likely scenario, there is a possibility of signing a pilot agreement, but there are concerns about securing funding for the 6.5 million people in need. However, even if the pilot agreement is successfully signed, there may only be funding available for high priority governorates.
 - In the worst-case scenario, the pilot agreement may not be signed, or the donors may refuse to release funds even if the agreement is signed.
- FSAC emphasizes the importance of preparedness, engaging with donors, clear communication, and advocacy efforts to determine next steps.
- Prioritizing high-priority locations, coordinating with other actors, considering different scenarios, assessing risks, and planning accordingly are crucial.
- FSAC highlights the significance of considering both likely and worst-case scenarios to guide actions.
- Prioritizing non-WFP funded humanitarian programming based on addressing the highest needs is emphasized.
- Coordination, agreement on specific locations, efficient resource allocation, and avoiding duplication are important.
- A discussion took place to ensure that all data and evidence, is incorporated to provide a comprehensive picture.
- FSAC clarified that IFRR mechanism serves as an early warning system for their initiative. It provides valuable information and insights and currently engaged in conducting a more detailed data analysis to gain a deeper understanding of the situation. Besides, exploring ways to incorporate risk factors across the four clusters, further, to strengthen the analysis.

5. AOB

- The host of the meeting provided a brief presentation on YFCA in Yemen.

Action points:

- WFP to prepare a presentation for the next meeting to provide an update on the food security situation since WFP pause.
- Send the communication of the displacement issue in the West Coast with the national cluster to engage bilaterally.
- Sharing Hajjah partners feedback regarding the dire conditions in Aslam district.
- FSAC national cluster to reach out with the nutrition cluster to check the areas of interest of the worst situation in Hajjah and Al Hodeidah.
- FSAC to share a compiled list of reported plans till June 2024 with partners and remind all to share their plans.