

MEETING MINUTES

- LOCATION:** Kyiv (via Webex)
- DATE:** May 21st, 2021
- CO-CHAired:** Charles Hopkins, FSL Cluster Coordinator.
Oleksandra Makovska, Protection Cluster Associate
- AGENDA:**
1. Introduction by the Protection and Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster Coordinators
 2. Presentation from UNHCR on the findings related to Livelihoods after consultations with IDPs and affected population (Protection Monitoring Tool in 98 isolated settlements along the contact line)
 3. Presentation from Danish Refugee Council 'DRC livelihood programs: links between food security and protection'
 4. Update on addressing the issue of stray dogs in communities along the contact line – FAO
 5. Presentation - Danish Refugee Council "DRC" livelihoods programmes: links between food security & protection cluster
 6. Discussion on possible areas of joint cooperation

1. Introduction by the Protection and Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster Coordinators (FSLC)

As we enter the seventh year of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine, we recognize more than ever the need to continue to promote durable solutions and more sustainable and comprehensive responses to IDPs and conflict-affected populations. As reported by partners, through different reports and consultations with IDPs and conflict-affected populations, access to livelihoods remains a challenge due to several issues—including the volatile security situation, the socio-economic context in the Eastern region, forced displacement, documentation, isolation of communities near the contact line, limited availability of transportation and specific protection needs of the affected population, etc.

The Protection and the FSLC identified the need to strengthen coordination to ensure, as much as possible, that advocacy and programmatic responses are aligned in both sectors.

The objective of this meeting is to familiarize partners in both sectors with the fundamental needs of the IDPs and affected populations (related explicitly to livelihoods) and on existing livelihood programmes currently implemented by FSL partners; and agree on potential areas of cooperation (referral pathways from protection partners to livelihood partners, for instance), including on future advocacy and joint programming.

2. Presentation from UNHCR on the findings related to Livelihoods after consultations with IDPs and affected population (Protection Monitoring Tool in 98 isolated settlements along the contact line)

UNHCR presented the results of the Protection Monitoring conducted jointly with Proliska in 156 settlements along the contact line (including all 98 settlements in the 0-5km area). The Protection Monitoring Tool is applied at community level and monitors security concerns, access to social, administrative and essential (Health/Education/WASH) services, GBV, freedom of movement, transportation and communication, as well as access to livelihoods, markets and commercial services. From February to May, the Protection Monitoring found that residents of 52 out of 98 settlements at 0-5km and 29 out of 58 settlements located in 5-20km reported they had no access to employment opportunities in the settlement or neighboring ones. Although in the remaining

settlements it was noted that employment could be found in neighboring areas, residents highlighted that lack of transportation was an issue in terms of access. Because of the conflict-related security situation and presence of mines/UXOs, communities reported that they lost their main sources of livelihoods and were left with no alternative source of subsistence. Before the conflict, communities relied mostly on tourism, agriculture, businesses, and fishing, or had jobs in industrial centers now located on the other side of the contact line. Due to lack of subsistence alternatives, some residents risk their lives continuing livelihood activities in mine-contaminated lands. IOM's National Monitoring System with IDP population also reveals that the levels of employment amongst Ukrainian national is higher than IDPs. Consultations with IDPs conducted by UNHCR, IOM and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) later in 2020 indicate that access to livelihoods is a key element for the achievement of local integration and durable solutions.

3. Presentation from Danish Refugee Council 'DRC livelihood programs: links between food security and protection'

DRC presented its integrated livelihoods programme for eastern Ukraine.

- The program's goal: IDPs and conflict-affected men and women in eastern Ukraine achieve durable livelihood solutions benefitting from improved economic resilience, cohesion, and living conditions in the target areas.
- The Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) with United Kingdom aid (UK-Aid) funds their program.
- Programme has multiple components:
 - Co-investment grant projects for value chains development in targeted communities of Donbas
 - Micro-business grants to support co-investment grant projects
 - Vocational educational training grants
 - Community-based initiatives for improving social and economic infrastructure in targeted communities
 - Support to Employment centers
 - Legal support to individuals and MSMEs and advocacy activities
- Targeted communities are Kalchyk, Myrne, Sartana, Vuhledar, Sviatohirsk, Lyman in Donetska GCA, Krasnorichenske, Zolote, Bilovodsk, Bilokurakyne in Luhanska GCA.
- Covid-19 response: Support to Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises (MSNE) in addition their critical role in job creation, micro business grants for mitigation COVID-19 crisis impact, vocational educational grants, multipurpose cash assistance.

4. Update on addressing the issue of stray dogs in communities along the contact line – FAO

As informed by UNHCR in the Protection Monitoring tool, stray dogs created security concerns in 20 communities along the contact line. The affected residents mentioned cases of attacks against the residents or livestock. The Child Protection Sub-Cluster partners expressed concern that stray dogs may also impede children's access to education. FAO suggests a holistic solution to stray dogs, suggesting veterinary support, awareness-raising, and training. As of now, the following steps were:

- FAO received from OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) the awareness-raising materials. FAO communicated directly with the UNHCR Slovyansk office on this issue and to distribute the materials.
- The materials to be disseminated in the community centers or such, where the concerns around the stray dogs have been raised.

FAO is communicating with State veterinary services to identify the needs in veterinary assistance and capacity building.

5. Discussion on possible areas of joint cooperation

As the key discussion outcome, we highlighted the need to strengthen livelihood support for people affected—protection risks and referral system through an integrated approach. The protection cluster suggested making a referral of a special case for livelihood support—some GBV cases & special needs who could benefit from special skills enhancement.

- Livelihood assistance should be considered not only in GCA 20+ but also in areas close to the contact line and in NGCA. Several partners documented the need for livelihoods inputs in these locations, and UNHCR’s Protection Monitoring corroborates that communities face challenges on access to livelihoods, markets, and commercial services.
- Livelihood support as part of durable solutions for IDPs. There is an urgent need to support livelihoods activities such as agriculture production, micro-economic initiatives including income generation at the household level, durable solutions for IDPs. IOM’s National Monitoring System could be an additional source of information in this regard.
- Inclusion of GBV survivors into livelihood programming. The partners considered it reasonable to set up a referral between partners providing livelihood support and services for GBV survivors.
- Livelihood assistance for people with other protection-related concerns
- Innovative livelihood projects targeting isolated communities should focus on service provision with a market-based approach, including addressing blockchain supplies to ensure essential services are provided
- Demining-Livelihoods-Development linkages. Contamination of agricultural land prevents affected people from producing their own food and access to livelihoods.
- The necessity of mine risk awareness-raising, including people engaged in agricultural activities living in mine contaminated areas.
- Cooperation in part of data collection—such as including questions relevant for protection-livelihoods in future assessments conducted by any of the clusters.
- We are strengthening referral pathways for including conflict-affected populations into planned livelihood programmes.

The comprehensive approach to stray dogs includes information dissemination, training for veterinarians, veterinary assistance, cooperation with State veterinary services to contribute to sustainability.

Action points:

- FSL Cluster – to consider the possibility of referral mechanisms with Protection Cluster, so that protection partners can refer individual cases (such as GBV-survivors, IDPs and conflict-affected people with other protection concerns) to the planned / ongoing livelihood programmes with the FSLC partners and within the Livelihood Technical Working Group.
- Protection Cluster to continuously share the findings of the Protection Monitoring Tool that are related to Access to Livelihoods, Markets and Commercial Services, to support FSL partners’ analysis of needs/trends and planning of responses. Monthly findings are also available in the [PMT Dashboard](#).

- FSL Cluster – while formulating targeting criteria, making sure no exclusion when targeting vulnerable groups, working closely with protection, WASH, Health, and Education to maximize the impact.

List of participants

| # | Name | Email Address | Organization |
|----|------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Svitlana Vershynina | svitlana.vershynina@acted.org | ACTED |
| 2 | Kateryna Budz | projects@asb.org.ua | ASB |
| 3 | Vadim Khomenko | vkhomenko@caritas.ua | Caritas UA |
| 4 | Alena Savchenko | a.savchenko2008@gmail.com | CF HADC |
| 5 | Kateryna Martynenko | kmartynenko@unicef.org | CP sub-cluster |
| 6 | Anastasia Sisoeva | prj@ddc.world | DDC |
| 7 | Olena Bogdanova | olena.bogdanova@drc.ngo | DRC |
| 8 | Oleksandr Kurilenko | oleksandr.kurilenko@drc.ngo | DRC |
| 9 | Mana Nagashima | mana.nagashima@fao.org | FAO |
| 10 | Tetyana Zaugolnikova | tetyana.zaugolnikova@fao.org | FAO |
| 11 | Charles Hopkins | charles.hopkins@fao.org | FSL Cluster |
| 12 | Angelina Virchenko | angelina.virchenko@fao.org | FSL Cluster |
| 13 | Olena Kochemyrovska | kochemyrovsk@unfpa.org | GBV SC // UNFPA |
| 14 | Akbar Nazriev | akbar.nazriev@helpage.org | HelpAge International |
| 15 | Anna Ostapenko | airlight.ao@gmail.com | NGO AirLight |
| 16 | Marina Kožlovska | ecoresearch8@gmail.com | NGO AirLight |
| 17 | Igor Miroshnychenko | don1949mis@gmail.com | NGO AirLight |
| 18 | Ihor Sosonskyi | advocacy.proliska@gmail.com | NGO Proliska |
| 19 | Anna Timofeeva | annatimofeeva333444@gmail.com | NGO Proliska |
| 20 | Vladimir Vedenin | vvedeninv@gmail.com | NGO Proliska |
| 21 | Svitlana Hlazunova | svitlana.hlazunova@nrc.no | NRC |
| 22 | Levon Azizian | levon.azizian@nrc.no | NRC |
| 23 | Petrenko Marina | marina.petrenko@peopleinneed.cz | People in need |
| 24 | Sergei Saienko | sergei.saienko@peopleinneed.cz | People in Need |
| 25 | Inna Yerofieieva | inna.erofeeva@peopleinneed.cz | People in Need |
| 26 | Elena Prokhorova | olena.prokhorova@pah.org.pl | Polish Humanitarian Action |
| 27 | Oleksandra Ferlikovska | ferlikov@unhcr.org | Protection Cluster |
| 28 | Oleksandra Makovska | makovska@unhcr.org | Protection Cluster |
| 29 | Serhii Kolomiiets | po.ukraine@trianglegh.org | Triangle Generation Humanitaire |
| 30 | Olha Suprun | o.suprun@redcross.org.ua | Ukrainian Red Cross Society |
| 31 | Olena Tyshkevych | kucher@unhcr.org | UNHCR |
| 32 | Anita Rudyk | rudyk@unhcr.org | UNHCR |
| 33 | Maksym Translator | vakhovsk@unhcr.org | UNHCR |
| 34 | Natalia Kropivka | kropivka@unhcr.org | UNHCR |
| 35 | Raquel Trabazo | trabazo@unhcr.org | UNHCR |
| 36 | Kseniia Dmytrenko | k.dmytrenko@redcross.org.ua | Ukrainian Red Cross Society |

