

## MEETING MINUTES



**LOCATION:** MS Teams

**DATE:** November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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

- AGENDA:**
1. Self-introduction
  2. Monthly partners' update
  3. Presentation – USAID ERA inclusion update (DAI)
  4. Presentation – August – September 2021 Joint Market Monitoring (ACTED)
  5. FSLC update and AOB

### 1. Self-introduction

Over 30 participants representing 18 institutions attended the FSLC monthly meeting. The institutions include government, NGOs, international organizations, including UN agencies.

### 2. Monthly partners' update

- **Help Ukraine.** INGO Help has been operating in the country since October 2021 and is currently in the process of registering the organization. Based in Germany, the organization focuses primarily on economic development and income generation support for vulnerable populations. With a presence in Ukraine, they intend to implement a year-long project to help small businesses and individuals with their startups in the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.
- **FAO** updated on the ongoing implementation within Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme (RPP).
  - During the past months, **training** on advisory services for agricultural service providers was conducted in Donetsk, Luhanska and Zaporizka oblasts. Aims of the training included obtaining governmental support for advisory service, client evaluations of service providers, and study tours to share experiences with other farmers.
  - FAO signed **agreements** with agricultural service providers in Donetsk and Zaporizhzhia to support the region's value chain development strategy. In the near future, a similar agreement is expected to be signed with the Luhansk agricultural service provider.
  - As part of the **value chain development**, FAO began assessing renewable energy potential and irrigation conditions in Azov region. A report on the results may be shared widely with partners next year.
  - FAO provided **training on cooperative identity and business development** to 25 cooperatives. In addition, FAO announced an investment support program.
  - The assessment of the training needs of TVET (technical and vocational education and training) staff to develop modified curricula and train TVET staff to incorporate these modifications themselves.
- **NRC** is completing its cash for food beneficiary list. It will distribute cash for food to 2,900 people through the project funded by FFP (Office of Food for Peace) and to 710 individuals through the project funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The cash assistance will be delivered by the middle of December 2021. Considering the department's operational capacity, NRC focused its efforts on cash distribution in Luhanska oblast in 2021. In Luhanska GCA, Petropavlivka and Voitove villages were the last to be registered for cash

for food in the on-site modality before the introduction of the red quarantine zone. NRC follows Covid-19 prevention guidelines.

- **IOM** continues livelihoods assistance.
  - On the NGCA side, IOM has been piloting a self-sustainment grant program for the past several months. IOM will share the results of the post-distribution monitoring (PDM) with other partners in the next FSLC meeting, as the project is being completed. The livelihood grant program is ongoing, and 100 households are expected to receive assistance. There were some issues with moving cargo across the “contact line” which are currently being resolved by IOM.
  - Besides 32 scale-up grants, IOM provides 20 social enterprise grants to GCA beneficiaries (Kurakhove and Cherkaske in Donetsk oblast and Bilokurakyne and Novopskov in Luhansk oblast). As part of the procurement process, the IOM is compiling the beneficiaries’ list. As an extension of this effort, the IOM is piloting business plan support and training in business economics to support livelihood design. They will share their experiences at this month’s cluster meeting.
- **TGH** - In the southern part of Donetska GCA, TGH is providing cash interventions to vulnerable families. The average cost of these interventions is approximately UAH 1,600 per child. A total of 1100 children from 537 families were assisted. TGH plans to provide cash for work assistance to 300 beneficiaries in December, in addition to providing vouchers for food for the following three months.
- **Charitable foundation “MIRA”** implements activities under the UHF project. 545 food kits and 150 agricultural grants will be provided to the vulnerable people.

### 3. Presentation – USAID ERA inclusion update (DAI)

DAI presented the **Inclusion component of USAID Economic Resilience Activity** implemented by DAI Global LLC.

- USAID's Economic Resilience Activity (USAID-ERA) explicitly targets vulnerable populations to help them participate in the economy through providing training, mentorship, coordinating internships and jobs, and partnering with NGOs. Persons with disabilities (PWDs), women-headed households, workers who have been laid off since the conflict started in 2014, youth from NGCAs enrolled to educational institutions in GCAs, graduates of educational institutions located in GCA, families with more than three children, GBV survivors, and other vulnerable groups.

#### **Action points:**

- FSLC team and DAI – to share the presentation with partners.

### 4. Presentation – August – September 2021 Joint Market Monitoring (ACTED)

ACTED presented the new round of the Joint Market Monitoring conducted in August - September 2021.

- The prevailing constraint regarding market access remains high prices for the GCA - 87% of customers cited price issues. Compared with the corresponding period of 2020, annual changes in GCA are significant and have risen by 34% for food and by 31% for agricultural inputs. Almost all the food items monitored were readily available, except for vegetables

and honey, which were not available in certain shops. There was a slight increase in food prices in NGCA compared to GCA. NGCA has an average annual price change of 35% for food. In August 2020, sunflower oil and potatoes showed the biggest increases, at an average of 84% and 85%, respectively.

### Action point:

- FSLC – to disseminate the report provided by ACTED among partners.

## 5. FSLC monthly update & AOB

- Based on government statistics, FSLC conducted a food basket cost analysis in order to monitor food basket costs recommended by the cluster. This exercise was conducted to triangulate the ACTED consortium's market monitoring of prices in conflict-affected communities. The food basket includes 23 major food commodities from the national food basket of Ukraine monitored previously by WFP. The data source is the State Statistics Service of Ukraine. As the analysis shows, during the last 12 months, food basket costs have been increasing drastically. In October 2021, it amounted to UAH 1,336 on average (an increase of 19% compared to October 2020). As of October 2021, the food basket cost increased even more dramatically in Donetsk GCA, amounting to UAH 1,666 or a 44% increase since October 2020. In Luhansk GCA, the recent food basket cost is UAH 1,242 (+9% to October 2020). At the same time, as IOM rightly mentioned, the UAH exchange rate remains relatively stable and is showing a decreasing trend. This is dropping from 1 USD = 28.3 UAH in October 2020 to 1 USD = 26.3 UAH in October 2021. The cluster will monitor food prices closely and work with the SAG to revise the existing food basket based on price trends. Higher food prices could be an underlying factor of food insecurity. Therefore, we request partners to closely monitor the beneficiaries' capacity to cope and effectively respond. This will avoid reversing the gains already made. We also encouraged partners to use the current food basket value.
- FSLC timetable for partners for **2022 HRP projects submission** to Project Module:
  - December 13 – Deadline for submission of projects to the Project Module.
  - December 14-15 – FSL Cluster Review Committee (CRC) review the projects.
  - December 17 – FSLC upload comments to the project model for partners' actions
  - December 22 - Resubmission of revised projects to the Project Module
  - December 23 - Approval of projects.
- The partners were reminded on the 2022 FSCL targets by locations, Cluster objectives and activities for 2022.
- The FSLC is organizing a **Cluster Review Committee (CRC)** that should which composition should differ from the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG). The roles of the CRC are:
  - Ensure projects are aligned with 2022 HRP strategic priorities, FSLC objectives, and geographic priorities.
  - Review projects timeframe.
  - Review the project's objectives and activities alignment. Are activities relevant and within the scope?
  - Review the project if it clearly described the food security context.
  - Review if the project is realistic, cost-effective, gender disaggregation, and vulnerability category reflective of the situation.

---

## MEETING MINUTES



- Review if target numbers are consistent throughout the project sheet.
- Review cross-cutting themes (gender, protection, AAP, do-no-harm principle & community participation).
- Ensure that the proposal reflect a- reasonable value for money/cost per beneficiary.
- **Upcoming UHF reserve allocation.** The call will be in line with FSLC priorities which have not changed significantly from 2021. The noticeable changes:
  - FSLC has two instead of three objectives. Cluster Objective (CO1) immediate access to food and (CO2) agricultural and non-agricultural livelihoods.
  - FSLC has recommended food plus for vulnerable households targeted for food. Provide agricultural support plus food/non-agricultural support based on need and capacity.
  - Target vulnerable women-headed households, especially within 10kms from the 'line of contact.'
  - Increase the duration of food to vulnerable households to at least 6 months
  - FSLC recommends a scale-up of livelihood activities, including in isolated communities.
- FSLC presented the [update interactive dashboard](#). The partners' operational presence information is also available at the settlement level (see page 2). FSLC hope it will facilitate coordination. FSLC thanks all partners for sharing their 5W reports with the cluster.

### Action point:

- FSLC – to contact pre-selected partners with regard to their participation in the CRC.

## PARTICIPANT LIST

No	Names of attendees	Institution	Position	Contact
1	Natalya Chervinskaya	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Country Project Coordinator	nataliya.chervinska@acted.org
2	Marharyta Shabanova	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Project Manager - Cash Assistance	marharyta.shabanova@acted.org
3	Kateryna Budz	Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB)	Head of Project	projects@asb.org.ua
4	Gennadiy Yakubov	Caritas Ukraine (Caritas)	Livelihood manager	gyakubov@caritas.ua
5	Alena Savchenko	Charitable Foundation "Humanitarian Aid and Development Center" (HADC)	Program manager	a.savchenko2008@gmail.com
6	Hanna Churkina	DAI, USAID Economic Resilience Activity (DAI)	Inclusion Officer	Hanna_Churkina@dai.com
7	Oleh Vyshnevskyy	Danish Refugee Council (DRC)		oleh.vyshnevskyy@drc.ngo
8	Rymma Pakhomova	Donetsk Oblast State Administration	Head of Department of International Relations	uves_oda@ukr.net
9	Maksym Maksymov	Entrepreneurship Development for the Conflict-Affected Rural Population in Eastern Ukraine (WeProsper)	Project field director	
10	Mana Nagashima	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	International Programme Specialist	mana.nagashima@fao.org
11	Tetyana Zaugolnikova	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Head of Field Office, Kramatorsk	Tetyana.Zaugolnikova@fao.org
12	Olena Safarova	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Field Office Coordinator	olena.safarova@fao.org
13	Anna Burka	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	National Programme Support Specialist	anna.burka@fao.org
14	Nelia Surus	Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V. (Help Ukraine)	Project Manager	nsurus@help-ukraine.org.ua
15	Inessa Brodtkina	International Children's Fund 'Mira' (Mira)	Project Manager	inessab525@gmail.com
16	Yuliia Dyrda	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Microeconomic Initiative Field Officer	ydyrda@icrc.org
17	Johannes Fromholt	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Preparedness and Response Programme Officer	jfromholt@iom.int

## MEETING MINUTES



No	Names of attendees	Institution	Position	Contact
18	Barrie Hebb	International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Economic Recovery Officer	
19	Maryna Vitaliivna Kozlovska	Non-Governmental Organization "AirLight" (AirLight)	Coordinator	ecoresearch8@gmail.com
20	Svitlana Hlazunova	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Livelihood and Food Security Assistant	svitlana.hlazunova@nrc.no
21	Ekram Nicola	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Area Programme Manager	ekram.nicola@nrc.no
22	Inna Erofeeva	People in Need (PIN)	Project Coordinator	inna.erofeeva@peopleinneed.cz
23	Tetiana Hordieieva	Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH)	Field Coordination Officer	
24	Kateryna Chumakova	Triangle génération humanitaire (TGH)	Project and communication coordinator	pcc-ukraine@trianglegh.org; pma.ukraine@trianglegh.org
25	Serhii Kolomiets	Triangle génération humanitaire (TGH)	Project Officer	po.ukraine@trianglegh.org
26	Charles Hopkins	FSL Cluster	Cluster Coordinator	charles.hopkins@fao.org
27	Angelina Virchenko	FSL Cluster	Cluster IMO	angelina.virchenko@fao.org