

## MEETING MINUTES



- LOCATION:** Kyiv (via Microsoft Teams)
- DATE:** April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- CHAIR:** Charles Hopkins, FSL Cluster Coordinator
- AGENDA:**
1. Self-introduction and review of the previous meeting minutes
  2. Partners' update
  3. FSLC monthly update
  4. 2021 FSLC contingency plan discussion
  5. FSLC advocacy note
  6. FSLC dashboard & partner's operational map for Jan-Mar 2021
  7. AOB

### 1. Self-introduction

25 participants representing 16 institutions attended the FSLC monthly meeting. The institutions include government, NGOs, international organizations including UN agencies.

### 2. Partners' update

- **LNGO "Slavic Heart"** informed partners on severe food insecurity of 28 families with children residing in Luhanska GCA (villages Triokhizbenka, Makarove, Kapitaove). Families are in need of food and non-food items. They experience lack of access employment and social payments.
- **FAO** is conducting trainings for cooperatives from Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia oblasts for partners on accounting.
- **People in Need.** Finishing distribution of irrigation systems in Donetsk oblast under OFDA project. In May, finishing MPC distribution for 200 households under ECHO funding.
- **ACTED.** In March, cash for food assistance provided for 1552 individuals. In April there will be retransferring. ACTED is considering the possibility to change the amount and will update partners on the next meeting.

#### Action points:

- FSLC partners – to coordinate with Slavic Heart in case they are considering responding to food insecurity of families with children in Luhanska GCA. Contact persons from Slavic Heart: Anastasiia Gorbachova (0505349777), Nina Nesgovorova (0660039369).

### 3. FSLC Monthly Update

- **ICCG meetings. Contingency plan triggers in Eastern Ukraine and discussed the various scenarios, population size likely to be impacted) if the dynamic in the conflict changes;** clusters to elaborate response strategies, preparedness, budget, prepositioning, assess partners' capacities.
- **Meeting with the SAG.** Agenda include contingency plan, APP, advocacy priorities and FSLC transition plan. The SAG meeting exclusively focused on the Contingency plan. PIN and ICRC – as observer – attended the meeting.
- **Technical Working Group Meetings.** The cluster is working to start the meetings. IOM leads the Livelihood Technical Working Group meeting and in house discussing to

continue or not. FAO leads the agriculture technical working group meeting – they are waiting on the government counterpart to start the meeting.

- **GCM meeting:** The cluster attended meeting in Kramatorsk, Sievierodonetsk, Mariupol, Donetsk.
- **Meeting with the Embassy of Switzerland – SDC.** Meeting was aimed at sharing of information and understanding the SDC programs & funding.
- **Meeting with Ministry of Foreign Affairs.** Discussion of food security & Ukraine preparation for the food summit.

### Action points:

- FSLC, IOM, FAO – conduct TWG meetings.

## 4. 2021 FSLC contingency plan discussion

The Cluster Coordinator presented results of discussion of 2021 FSLC Contingency Plan discussed with the SAG a week earlier. FSLC called a dedicated Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) session to elaborate response approaches.

- The contingency plan is triggered based on the scenarios developed by ICCG and OCHA.
  - Best Scenario. FSLC partners gain access to NGCA or work around the restricted access. No significant change in the conflict and displacement caseload remains unchanged.
  - Most Likely Scenario. Decrease of humanitarian access. Increase of control on humanitarian activities from both sides of the contact line. New locations may be impacted, especially in the 0-5km zone.
  - Worst-case Scenario. Full increase of hostilities would cause massive displacement from multiple front lines. A significant change in dynamics to the crisis and rate of displacement. New locations may be heavily impacted, especially in the 0-5km zone. The population move 30 km away from the current line of control.
- According to partners' plans shared with the cluster, the current joint partners' capacities are to cover about 43K of people out of current 640K people in need related to food insecurity. In case of escalation of the conflict the number of people in need of food assistance would increase up to 750 K (according to the likely scenario) or 1.1 M (according to the worst-case scenario).
- The plan will focus on lifesaving assistance – immediate access to food – to the displaced population caused by an escalation in the armed conflict for six months. Thus, the plan is focused on Cluster Objective 1 “Ensure continued access to food for the most vulnerable people affected by conflict and/or the COVID-19 pandemic in the conflict-affected areas”.
- The FSLC will designate district focal points from most active partners for each of key areas where the escalation would be most likely: Donetsk GCA – Food and Agriculture Organization; Luhansk GCA, Luhansk NGCA – NGO “People in Need”; Donetsk NGCA – tbc.

### Action points:

- FSLC team – to consider partners’ comments to the draft contingency plan and share it with OCHA, Lead Agency and partners.

## 5. FSLC advocacy note

### Advocacy priorities.

- Humanitarian Access to NGCA remains an increasing challenge. partners acquiring permits/accreditation to operate in non-government control areas are waiting for approval.
- Food security situation in Luhansk oblast calls for early action to protect the gains made over the years. Based on REACH pre-winter assessment, a high proportion of households are found to have a poor and borderline Food Consumption Score in Luhansk oblast, notably higher in Luhansk large urban area (28%) and Luhansk urban area (21%), compared to overall 11% of people in poor and borderline food consumption within the sample. This calls for early action to avoid reversing gains made.
- Low investment in livelihoods activities despite most areas being favourable for livelihood enhancement including isolated communities. There is an urgent need to support livelihoods activities such as agriculture production, micro-economic initiatives including income generation at household level. There is a need to assess partners’ capacity and encourage new players with specialized skills in livelihood development and capacity enhancement of local NGOs.
- Landmine contamination. Returnees need access to farmland that are currently contaminated by landmines.
- Legal issue of access to agricultural land related to Moratorium on sale of agricultural land that will cease to be in force in June 2021.
- Climate change and related to drought wildfires. The climate is becoming dryer and therefore a need to develop climate smart agriculture techniques including irrigation infrastructure for agriculture production. Efforts and complex programs in fire prevention and forests recovery are required.

### Action points:

- FSLC team – to finalize the advocacy note with gFSC and Lead Agency. Share with the SAG for endorsement.

## 6. Partner plans for 2021 on beneficiary coverage (updated results)

In January – March 2021, FSLC partners have been providing food assistance and livelihood resilience building support to people affected. No emergency agriculture was provided due to seasonality.

- **Cluster objective 1 – Ensure immediate access to food.** The partners collectively reached 19,500 (or 37%) people in January – March out of 53,074 people targeted in 2021 HRP. The first quarter achievement is 38% lower than the fourth quarter of 2020 when 31,256 were assisted. 7 organisations contributed to the response in GCA side: ACTED (25%), ASB (18%), Emmanuel (9%), DRC (2%), Caritas (2%), NRC

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(1%), TGH (1%). 3 partners operating in NGCA contributed 41% of the food assistance in the first quarter. Cash for food assistance accounts for 46%, followed by in-kind modality (45%) and vouchers for food (9%). Despite the number of people reached in January – March, the response gap is still significant. The restricted access to NGCA became even tighter, the increased hostilities, funding, and quarantine restriction are the primary challenges encountered by the partners in the first quarter of 2021.

- **Cluster Objective 3. Enhance the resilience of vulnerable people by restoring agriculture and non-agriculture livelihoods.** During January–March, FSLC partners assisted 4,743 people (or 47%) out of 10,014 people targeted in 2021 HRP. It is 180% higher than the last quarter achievement of 2020 - 1,692 people assisted. The contributors for the first quarter report are DRC 49%, followed by IOM 42%, UNDP 4%, and Caritas 4%. The need to protect and scale up livelihood activities remains high, including promoting community-level resilience to shocks.

### Action points:

- FSLC team – publish the dashboard and partners operational presence maps on the FSLC webpage.

## 7. AOBs

### Other updates

- **ICRC.**
  - Assisted beneficiaries within the cash for food production programme in Yasynuvatskyi, Toretskyi, Bakhmutskyi districts and Avdiivka city.
  - Launched few different grants in Mariinka and Krasnohorivka
  - Launching livestock agricultural projects, vocational training grants and microeconomic initiatives programme.

The FSLC is strongly encouraging partners to coordinate bilaterally to avoid duplication of the limited resources in the field.

### Action points:

- **The next Cluster meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 27th, 2021 beginning at 15:00.**

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### PARTICIPANT LIST

No	Names of attendees	Institution	Position	Contact
1	Svitlana Vershynina	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Cash PM	svitlana.vershynina@acted.org
2	Vadym Khomenko	Caritas Ukraine	Coordinator	vadhomen@gmail.com; vkhomenko@caritas.ua
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6	Dmytro Oleksandrovych Surkov	Department of Investment of Donetsk Regional State Administration	Senior Specialist	00341@dn.gov.ua
7	Tetyana Zaugolnikova	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Head of Field Office, Kramatorsk	Tetyana.Zaugolnikova@fao.org
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10	Yehor Dubyna	Help Age International (HAI)	Database Officer	Yehor.Dubyna@helpage.org
11	Yuliia Dyrda	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Microeconomic Initiative Field Officer	ydyrda@icrc.org
12	Veronika KLYMOVA	International Organization for Migration (IOM)		VKLYMOVA@iom.int
13	Anastasiia Gorbachova	NGO "Slavic Heart"	Field Coordinator	380505349777
14	Nina Nesgovorova	NGO "Slavic Heart"	Field Specialist	380660039369
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16	Beka Kobakhidze	OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (OSCE)		Beka.Kobakhidze@osce.org

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19	Artem Yakovlev	Polish Humanitarian Action (PAH)	Project Officer	Artem.Yakovlev@pah.org.pl
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