



## **COVID-19: CH FOOD SECURITY MONITORING TASKFORCE**

### **MINUTES OF INCEPTION MEETING**

**Date: 07 May 2020**

**Time: 11:00 am to 13:30pm**

#### **Attendance**

1. Rumbi, Precious – FAO
2. Olatunji, Christoph – WFP
3. Okoye – Save The Children
4. Jessica – REACH
5. Leslie – FSS
6. Bishop – NBS
7. Chinedu Anayaegbu - FEWSNET
8. CH State Coordinators (Borno – Samuel, Adamawa – Bayaso, Yobe – Mayintab)
9. Anthony Amu, Okorie Agwu, Nkechinyere Ike, Bulama Dauda – NPFS/FMARD

#### **Agenda**

1. Rounds of Introductions by participants and opening remarks by the Chair (3 min).
2. Review of the previous meeting minutes with the Food Security Sector (5 min).
3. Feedback from partners regarding way forward on analysis in other COVID-19 affected States- Both government and non-government actors (20 min).
4. Update on data availability and on-going assessments for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States (20 min).
5. Methodology: Data Collection template/format; Review of collected data and Analysis (20 min).
6. AOB (5 min).

The meeting began with self-introductions of participants.

#### **Remarks from the Chair**

- At national level, there are 3,145 COVID-19 cases, with 103 deaths as at May 07, 2020
- Lockdowns continue to affect the market operations in different parts of the country.
- Staple food market prices had increased for various reasons including panic buying as a result of the lockdowns in various parts of the country and increase in demand for food as a result of the Ramadhan season. This coupled with majority of low-income earning households not being able to generate income during the lockdown period, food gaps increased. Thus, the meeting and the subject under discussion deserves the attention of all stakeholders in the food and nutrition security system.

#### **Review of the Action Points from Previous Meeting**

1. The process of review of the March 2020 CH results starts with the states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, as discussions are ongoing for the rest of the 13 additional states, or even the potential of covering additional new states where CH cells did not previously exist - ONGOING
2. All CH stakeholders including the FMARD – NPFS, NBS, FAO and WFP to discuss with senior management on the capacity, likelihoods of doing CH analysis in the other areas – Done. *All actors agreed to go ahead with national level analysis.*
3. The Food Security Sector to make a call for recent data from partners for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe to feed the review of the March 2020 CH analysis. The data should be mainly on contributing factors such as food prices, functionality of markets. WFP is also collecting some data on livelihoods, which will be helpful in this review. Additional data on direct indicators and contributing factors is welcome – DONE. *However, only two inputs were received from partners.*
4. Next meeting would be after two weeks (Thursday May 07, 2020) – DONE

#### **Feedback from partners regarding way forward on analysis in other COVID-19 affected States in Nigeria**

- The Chair on behalf of the NPFS and FMARD strongly supported the expansion of the COVID-19 food security analysis to other parts of the country, outside the 16 current CH states and Federal Capital analysis.
- The Representative of the NBS said the management of his office equally supports the idea of extending the monitoring of FNS impact of COVID-19 to all the states of Nigeria given the global dimension and spread of the pandemic.
- The FAO also mentioned to be in support of extending COVID-19 food security analysis in other states. The FAO also mentioned that they are carrying out a food security assessment together with other agencies and the government. This will also contribute to the national level monitoring.
- WFP is currently doing an M-Vam data collection which will be done in the rest of the country. This will also contribute to the food security analysis at national level. WFP shared a snap shot of the food assistance assessments recently done which showed that the population that will be in need in the North East will increase from 6 to 9 million. WFP further disclosed that they have data on some outcome indicators of Food and Nutrition Security: rCSI, HHS, LCS and FCS. These would be added to the data that would be generated using the Regional template
- The Save the Children representative mentioned to consult further with senior management on the issue of expansion of food security analysis to other parts of the country.
- FEWSNET reported that they have updated market price data available for the North East, North West and part of the South. This is also key for feeding into the national level monitoring mechanism.

In summary, the chair concluded that the food security analysis on the impact of COVID-19 will be done at national level. However, it would be handled sequentially, depending on available data and capacity across the states.

#### **Update on data and assessments so far available for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States**

The Food Security and Nutrition Sectors jointly sent out a call for recent data or on-going assessment done after the March 2020 CH analysis, for the review of the March 2020 analysis. However, data was only received from REACH and Tearfund.

#### **Methodology: Data Collection template/format; Review of collected data and Analysis**

The aim of the data collection is to have enough data on hazards. The chair promised to reach out to CILSS to know at what level the data would be considered enough, upon which CILSS would call for review of the March 2020 CH analysis to be undertaken.

Participants mentioned that a time schedule should be tagged to the data collection to make sure the response is timely, and well guided based on data availability. Based on this, partners agreed that that data collection can go on concurrently as the scale-up response is ongoing with the preliminary data available. It is expected that the data collection and result would only be ready somewhere in June. The FSS presented the template it used to call for data from partners, while the NPFS shared the template that CILSS prepared for monitoring the impact of COVID-

19 on FNS across the CH states. The meeting resolved to share the Regional template (from CILSS) for participants to review and make relevant inputs so that the final version would be shared to states and partners in the NE for completion and submission to the monitoring taskforce. It is also important to note that the first round of data did not generate enough data.

#### Feedback from State CH coordinators.

Adamawa: There is an increase in prices for both food and agricultural inputs mainly as a result of the lockdown

Borno: They are ready to support the data collection to feed the review

Partners also mentioned that analysis should be fast-tracked for the with the data available. This would ensure a timely ongoing response for the three North East States of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.

#### **AOB**

- It was brought to view that CILSS was collecting data potentially to contribute to updating the food security situation in the country as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting requested to know whether what CILSS and the CH Food Security Monitoring Taskforce were currently coordinated, or else find means of complementing and coordinating the process to harmonize the two teams if necessary. The Chair of the Meeting confirmed that the CILSS regional focal point and coordinator had been invited but got involved in another critical meeting. The Chair is to follow up with CILSS focal point to harmonize the CILSS and CH Food Security Monitoring Taskforce teams where possible.
- There was doubt over the involvement of CILSS in the current effort of government and partners in Nigeria regarding the COVID-19 FNS monitoring. The NPFS confirmed that CILSS would always be available when called upon to provide technical support. The NPFS further confirmed that the CH states are all currently carrying out data collection to support the review of the March 2020 CH outcome and results. Particularly in the three North East states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. In addition, the Chairman informed the meeting that CILSS was invited to the meeting they assured to be present. Only in the morning of the same day of the meeting, they sent in an apology that there was another important meeting they had to attend. He promised that CILSS would be invited to attend the next meeting so that they would be carried along from the scratch, and then they would have room to advise accordingly.

#### **Action Points**

1. Chair to follow up with CILSS focal point to harmonize the CILSS and CH Food Security Monitoring Taskforce teams where possible. CILSS to give any additional guidance in this process
2. Participants to review the CILSS template and compare with any other available templates for merging and resharing with CH Coordinators. NPFS to confirm if it is necessary to share the same data with partners working in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe partners who may have recently collected any data on the same.
3. The next meeting date to be confirmed based on the progress done in data collection and analysis.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

- The next meeting would be scheduled depending on the duration it will take to get feedback and analysis from the data collected from the field. Therefore, the next meeting date to be confirmed.