Seed Distribution Coordination Meeting – Rohingya refugee camps

26 August 2020

Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh

Photo: ISCG/Saikat Mojumdar
Action points of the meeting

• List to be shared by the UNHCR & FAO for the ideal package of seed distribution in the summer and winter season
• Partners to share training modules, plans, and other necessary documents with FSL
  • Harmonize the seed distribution process using information shared by partners – taking into consideration the JRP 2021 planning period
• FSL to follow-up with partners working in camps with overlapping coverage and support in operational coordination
  • Partners that have not yet shared seed distributions plans with FSL are requested to share in order to finalize the coverage visualization

16 organizations (30 individuals) in attendance:

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<th>UNHCR</th>
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<th>WFP</th>
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<td>Concern Worldwide</td>
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Agenda

• Review of previous coordination meetings on seed distribution in the camps
• Review of planned and ongoing partner seed distribution activities in the camps
• Streamlining activities
• AOB
Review of previous coordination meetings
Review of previous coordination meetings

Action points
• A need exists to produce ‘Recommended Response Document’ that provides information on training and implementation for Micro-Gardening – Pending
  • Partners to share examples of gardening in the camps to be included in the Recommended Response Document
  • Compost: Consolidate information on compost procurement / planning based on partner experience
  • Growing leafy vegetables requiring tillage (such as digging, stirring, and overturning) is not encouraged in the camps to mitigate soil erosion (washing or blowing away of the top layer).
• Operational plans agreed for Camps: 3, 4, 5, 13, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20Ext, 21, 24, 25, 26 and 27 and respective organizations / partners to coordinate with support from FSS
• Partners agreed that Target Population of camps for gardening should not exceed 85% coverage
• Ensure distributed gardening kits are aligned
• FSS and EETWG to work on sensitization and messaging of gardening guidelines
Review of previous coordination meetings

Key documents from previous meetings:

- **Recommended Crops**: UNHCR recommended list of crops with FSS/ partners
- **FSS & EETWG Planting Guidance Notes**
- **Gardening operational coordination meeting Minutes FSL January**,
- **Gardening operational coordination meeting Minutes FSL March, PPT FSL March, Dashboard, and FAO March presentation**
- **Soil**: WVI to share Soil Resource Development Institute report on recommendations for crops for Ukhia and Teknaf – Pending
- **CNRS** to share findings of Soil Assessment with the group. - Pending
Review of planned/ongoing activities
Summary

- **83%** of beneficiaries will receive tools, **86%** will receive training
- Households receive **105g** of seeds on average
- **14** types of seeds distributed by partners in total – ladies finger, bottle gourd, cucumber, radish, spinach, country bean, red amaranth, snake gourd, sponge gourd, kang kong (water morning glory), ash gourd, chilli, pumpkin, ridge gourd

Programme Partners: **8**
Implementing Partners: **8**
Households Targeted: **45,334**
Households Reached: **37,954**

5* camps with 0 coverage
17 camps with 1-28% coverage
9 camps with 29-84% coverage
3 camps with 85% or higher coverage

*includes Kutupalong RC and Nayapara RC
• 28% of population are targeted per camp on average.

• Camp 6, 11, and 12 does not have coverage (planned or actual).

• Coverage is above 85% of total population in 3 camps – Camp 3, 4, and 20 Extension.
Partner Presence / Activity Status

- Seed distribution is currently ongoing in **23** camps.
- Potential for overlap exists in **11** camps (excluding camps where activities were completed).
- **6** camps have 3 or more partners operating.
Partner Feedback

Next steps and partner needs:

• How to promote sustainability of the impact of gardening interventions
• Standardization of training modules based on lessons learned
• A tracker to track near-real time planned/actual coverage of camps accessible to partners
• Need assessment on training needs, and seed choice/preference of beneficiaries (UNHCR recommended list of crops)
• Assessment on the need for seed storage training
• Understanding of other partners’ long-term plans (i.e. what happens after activity is completed)
• Seed preservation training targeting progressive farmers to ensure sustainability
• Increase opportunities for beneficiaries to trade produce inside camps
• Explore skill development opportunities for youth on gardening and other topics
• Awareness raising on vegetable gardening
Streamlining activities
Streamlining activities

The FSL would like to ensure continued coordination on this initiative looking at the following key points:

• Collaboration on coverage in the camps to ensure equitable coverage and avoid overlap
• Coordination on ideal input distributions as well as trainings to ensure streamlining amongst partners
• Ensuring that seeds distributed line up with ideal planting cycle in order to promote propagation
• Ensure beneficiaries are informed on where to plant and why (i.e. vertical gardening, etc) to avoid potential overlap with camp greening/reforestation initiatives – undermining the reforestation efforts can negatively impact slope stabilization, water filtration, or roadside erosion.

This activity, along with others in the camps is being implemented by numerous actors – this is positive as 34 camp areas is a high need. However, without ensuring coordination we could end up with some camps having double coverage and others having none. FSL will work with partners to ensure establishment of a coverage coordination mechanism in the camps.
AOB
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION