

PARTNERS MEETING MINUTES

23rd June 2020

Mode: Virtual – Zoom

1. Opening remarks – MoAI/ MoHADM/FSC

The Food Security Cluster Co-Coordinator Mr. Mulugeta Shibru opened the meeting highlighting the agenda items for the day.

2. Cumulative impact of desert locust, flood and COVID 19 on food security outcomes in Somalia

FSNAU made a presentation on the cumulative and combined impact of desert locust, flood and COVID 19 on food security outcomes in Somalia. The presentation was jointly prepared by FNSNAU, FEWS NET, VAM, FAO, WFP and FSC.

The desert locust upsurge that started in mid-2019 has affected pasture and cropland (247,000 hectares in Somaliland as per government report). This infestation was also reported in Puntland, Galmudug and is expanding to Southern Somalia (Bay, Bakool and Gedo).

The favourable rain in Deyr 2019 and Gu 2020 contributed to pasture regeneration. This, coupled with the desert locust mitigation resulted in moderate and localised pasture loss. However, widespread cricket, cowpea beetle and fall armyworm infestations are also affecting Gu season crops together with extended dry spells reported since mid-May in several agropastoral parts of southern Somalia.

Because of the riverine and flash floods, approximately 412,000 people were displaced, roads damaged and IDP shelters destroyed. Also approximately 500,000 ha of crop and farmland was inundated in Middle & Lower Shabelle, Hiran, Middle & Lower Juba, Bay and Bakool. It is likely that the gu season harvest will be 20% - 30% lower compared to the long term average due to the multiple shocks.

Socioeconomic Impact of COVID 19 include; 30-50 percent decline in livestock exports likely, remittances through September 2020 and decline in economic activities like building, housing, renovations, khat, restaurants and hotels etc. As a result, 20%-30% decline is likely in poor households in urban areas including IDPS.

Overall, 3.5 million people are projected to be in IPC 3&4 July to September 2020.

With the acute food insecurity in Somalia, partners were requested to urgently scale up humanitarian responses.

3. FSC response update (May Actuals)

There was a marked increase in Objective 1 responses and a decline in objective 3.

- a) **Improved access to food and safety nets** – Partners reached approximately 2.3M beneficiaries (84% of target population).
- b) **Livelihood Seasonal Inputs and Livestock Assets Protection** - 153,747 beneficiaries assisted with farm inputs, land preparation and animal restocking (sheep and goats). Total cumulatively number of beneficiaries reached from February to May is 293,575 which accounts for 32% of the seasonal target **(909,130)** thus, partners need to scale up.

- c) **Livelihood Investments & Asset protection** – 120, 130(8%) reached through interventions aimed restoring and rehabilitating community infrastructure/assets and capacity building. The reduction in the response is attributed to COVID 19 mitigation measures.

4. **Desert Locusts Update (FAO/MoAI)**

The Desert Locust situation remains critical in the horn of Africa with extensive breeding migration in Middle East, Iran, Pakistan and India. It was informed that breeding will persist beyond July with the no to breed remains high. Control operations by the government are currently ongoing.

These activities include:

- Over 10, 450 hectares treated using biopesticides and control in Puntland, Somaliand and Galmugug
- 40 vehicles and 2 helicopters are operational for surveys and control operations
- 30,000 pastoralists targeted for support with 3, 400MT of rangeland cubes
- 53, 300HH are targeted for livelihood support for the cropping season
- Assessment of the impact on crop production currently ongoing with partners by the field

Action Point: Re share the DL response plan with the partners

5. **HPC timeline (OCHA)**

OCHA shared the tentative HPC timeline for the 2021 HPC Somalia timeline. [Refer to presentation]

June – Data collection by JMCNA, FSNAU and other stakeholder though facing challenges due to COVID restrictions in some locations, hence remote data collection.

July – Data Analysis

August - Deep dive meeting with clusters and key actors involved setting basis for the HNO process

September - HNO workshop and data validation

October - HRP virtual trainings will be conducted on the project module and database opened for project uploads review finalization of the projects

November – GHO figures

December – GHO launch

January 2021 – HRP 2021 Launch

6. **AAP Updates**

The FSC shared the latest updates on Accountability to Affected Populations below.

- a) Information sharing: FSC partners advised to improve on information sharing channels especially now in the context of Covid-19. FSC AAP willing to support agencies that need the support.
- b) Community Engagement: FSC participates in the Risk Communication and Community Engagement Task Force for Somalia and the Expert Pool on Community Engagement. These two fora not only discuss community engagement in the corona context but also share experiences and lessons learned. Partners can get support upon request.
- c) Collective Accountability: WFP is the designate AAP Champion and is rallying agencies on the Peer to Peer recommendations for the Humanitarian Country Team. The process that started last year has seen the development of 10 data categories for collection of feedback from the affected populations for HCT decision making. FSC partners provided highest feedback during the AAP survey conducted in March 2020.

- d) Moving forward: Meeting with senior managers held on 18th June 2020 for corporate buy-in. A training has been planned for IM/M&E staff on 29th June 2020. It is envisioned that the IM system will eventually be hosted by an independent non-operational agency.
- e) FSC partners requested to ensure that their offices at the regional level participate in the regional FSC meeting hosted the FSC vice co-ordinators.

For any assistance on AAP issues, please get in touch with paul.gol@wfp.org .

7. AOB

None.