

Meeting Minutes: FSLC Monthly Coordination Meeting

Date: 30th of October 2025.

Chair: Usman Buhari - Food Security and Livelihoods Cluster Co-coordinator.

Location: FAO Office in Kyiv and Zoom Online.

Participants: **Over 70 participants** representing **more than 30 organizations** attended the FSLC partners meeting. Thanks to all the partners who attended in person and online.

Organizations who attended the meeting: FAO, WFP, DRC, ELEOS, Caritas-SPES Ukraine, SCI, SPIR, DCA/NCA, PAH, CRS, Help – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe, AoS, U&S, NRC, ERC, Integra, Synergy CPI, RCC, IUPFMU, Save Ukraine, IOM, ZOA, GEM, Kharkiv Regional Advisory Service, ACF, PIN, URCS, Corus, REACH/IMPACT, and others.

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Review of action points from previous meetings
3. Cluster Updates
 - IM Updates
 - HNRP 2026
 - Working Groups Update (ALTWG, FAWG)
 - Hub Updates
4. Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) - REACH
5. Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods in Ukraine – ZOA
6. AOB

Action Points

- The ALTWG and WASH Cluster representatives reached an agreement to convene a dedicated meeting to address cross-cutting issues regarding boreholes for household/agricultural needs and associated legal implications.

3. Cluster Updates

IM Updates

Maksym Natalchuk presented the FSLC response update and maps highlighting the current achievements and gaps for the two cluster objectives.

- For SO1, 23 partners collectively supported 1,623K people in September 2025, which is 91% of monthly SO1 target, with a gap of 9% who have not received any form of food assistance.

- For SO2, 40 partners collectively supported 1,080K people out of the 1,707,239 targeted in 2025, this represents a 63% achievement, and it was noted that there is need for urgent support to the off-farm and on-farm livelihoods activities to ensure a sustainable improvement to the lives of the vulnerable households.

Updates from the Agriculture and Livelihoods Technical Working Group (ALTWG)

Usman Buhari presented the updated list of activities for 2026, focused around four strategic priorities (SPs): SP1: Frontline support, SP2; Evacuations, SP3: Emergency Response After Strikes, and SP4: Support to the Most Vulnerable IDPs. SO2 activities include Emergency Food Production (for SP1 and SP4), Emergency Livestock Relocation (for SP2), Protection of Household Income Capacity (For SP1, SP2, SP3 and SP4), and Sustaining scaled food production for improved food availability, with only the first three preliminarily making it to HNRP 2026.

SO1 activities include Recurrent emergency life-saving food assistance (contributing to SP1 and SP4) in form of In-Kind Food Assistance, Cash/Voucher Assistance, and Ready-to-Eat rations for 0-10 km response, as well as Hot Meals and Ready-to-Eat (for SP2 and SP3).

Updates from the Agriculture and Livelihoods Technical Working Group (ALTWG)

Dmytro Krukovets, the ALTWG chair, presented that the State Support Mechanism Mapping Guideline is available on FSLC website [[SSM Guidance](#)].

The following reports and publications are available by the [[link](#)]:

- Update on humanitarian access from May to August 2025 from ACAPS;
- Challenges and Needs of SMEs in War Time by MEREZHA;
- Business Relocation Dataset 2025 – Opendatobot.

Skills Alliance skills-alliance@giz.de and SME Resilience Alliance sme-alliance@giz.de open to cooperate. For that, partners need to follow the steps:

1. Approach the Secretariat of the Alliances on above mentioned emails.
2. Provide information about the Organization and its contribution by filling out the commitment sheet
3. Receive approval by the Co-Chairs via the Secretariat

The latest ALTWG meeting was held on November 3, 15:00 Kyiv time.

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Ruslan Markov rmarkov@mercycorps.org - On-farm ALTWG Co-Chair, and Dmytro Krukovets dmytro.krukovets@fao.org as the ALTWG lead.

Updates from the Food Assistance Working Group (FAWG)

Vsevolod Vereshchahin provided an update on the recent RtE Task Force, which focuses on types for RtE rations provided to beneficiaries, as well as major approaches for distributing RtE.

There are 3 major types of RtE, each designed for a particular situation and duration of assistance. For Evacuations, a light RtE designed for 1-3 days is used. For Response to Strikes and Transit Centers, RtE designed for 5-7 days is used. Finally, a new type of RtE designed for frontline response contains food enough for 14 days.

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Hub Updates

Eastern Hub:

Context & Operations: Humanitarian situation continues to evolve in **Donetska, Kharkivska, and Dnipropetrovska** Oblasts, with persistent hostilities, population movement, and infrastructure disruption. FSLC partners provided life-saving food and livelihood support.

Evacuation Figures: Situation **stabilized** in October, with a slight spike noted in **Dnipropetrovska**. Dnipropetrovska Oblast is now more actively evacuating people than Donetska.

Transit Centers: Transit centers accepting people: **Dnipro Obl.** - Vulaski, Pavlohrat[cite: 779, 780]. **Donetsk Obl.** - Pavlohrat, Lazova[cite: 781]. **Kharkivska Obl.** (northern part) - Kharkiv Transit Center.

Partner Support: Total evacuations in **September 2025** were **9,600 people**. Partners provided close to **28,000 hot meals** and **13,457 ready-to-eat kits** to evacuating people.

Interagency Convoys: Partners provided direct support to **Borova and Sviatahirsk**. **Sviatahirsk** received 800 GFT boxes, and **Parawat** received 460 GFD boxes (October 28th).

Strike Response: Following the strike on a kindergarten and center in **Kharkivska Oblast**, partners provided hot meals and RTEs. Partners provided **18 responses** (WCK, Soul of Kharkiv) and **3 responses** (We are brothers, We are Ukrainians) up to October 28th.

Zaporizka Updates: Three new transit centers are expected to open in Fall 2025, one opening soon and two already open: ARTAC-based mesh (for people with limited mobility) and YES NGO/Relief Coordination Center.

Joint Monitoring: A joint monitoring mission (FSLC rep included) to **Poltavska and Kharkivska** Oblasts (Oct 13-16) reviewed the Caritas Ukraine Livelihoods Project. Preliminary findings showed livelihood support is significant for strengthening community resilience.

Upcoming Meetings: Subnational partners meetings: **Donetsk Oblast** (Oct 31, Slovyansk), **Poltavska Oblast** (Nov 3), and **Dnipropetrovsk Oblast** (Nov 4, 2025). Working language is Ukrainian, with in-person translation available.

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Southern Hub:

General Support: Figures presented for food assistance and livelihood assistance in **Odeska, Mykolaivska, and Khersonska** Oblasts.

Convoys: WFP contributed **300 RTE kits** to a convoy to **Antoniovka** (Sept 23) and **500 RTE kits** to a convoy in **Orozhaine** (Oct 22).

Odeska Evacuation: Odeska Oblast received over **100 evacuees** during the year; **28 people** came from Pokrovsk and Kramatorsk in October. Partners like Hyudon provided ready-to-eat hot meals, and Culture of Democracy provided DFGs to transit centers.

Odeska Floods: Massive floods in early October in Odeska Oblast required humanitarian organizations to provide support. WCK, Ukrainian Red Cross, and Council of Cities provided food for **over 2,000 people** (affected citizens and emergency department personnel).

Cluster Meetings: Next cluster meetings are scheduled for the following week: **Odesa** (Tuesday), **Mykolaiv** (Wednesday), and **Kherson** (Thursday).

Coordination: **Yulia Pokatylo** (Mykolaivska) and **Mykola Nikitin** (Khersonzka) are the Oblast Coordinators. The Odeska Oblast Coordinator position is currently vacant.

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4. Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) – by Carla Curreli from REACH

Methodology: 2,813 household-level interviews collected. Results are representative for frontline oblasts (0-50 km zone and beyond) and at the macro-regional level for non-frontline oblasts. Analysis focused on severe and extreme need (collapse of living standards).

Key Findings: Livelihoods

- Top two drivers of needs in 2025 were related to livelihoods (high coping strategy use and low incomes).
- Nearly half of households were identified as in need in livelihoods, with 8% in extreme need.
- Needs are particularly severe near the front line (Donetska, Khersonska, Dnipro region).
- Livelihood needs are more prevalent and severe in the 0-20 km zone from the front line.
- IDP households have a higher proportion of livelihood needs compared to non-displaced.
- 24% of households earned an income per capita below the average cost of the food basket. 31% adopted crisis and 5% adopted emergency coping strategies.
- Most households with livelihood needs also have unmet needs in other sectors (shelter, NFI, WASH, health)
- Most common coping strategies were spending savings, reducing essential health expenditure, and getting an additional job.
- Main barriers to job search were dissatisfaction with salaries, lack of opportunities, and discrimination. IDPs face higher discrimination.

Key Findings: Food Security

- 12% of households were classified as moderately and severely food insecure (CARI level 3 and 4).
- Donetska and Khersonska Oblasts have a higher prevalence of food security needs.

- Food security needs are equally prevalent in the 0-20 km and 21-50 km zones from the front line.
- Displacement status (IDP vs. non-IDP) does not significantly drive up food security needs.
- Low income per capita is a clear driver of food security needs.
- Food consumption is widely sufficient (92% acceptable). However, 30% of households relied on less preferred/expensive food, and 15% limited portion sizes to maintain consumption.

Preferred Assistance: Cash and food are the most indicated types of support, with a stronger preference for cash.

Links:

- [REACH Humanitarian Situation Monitoring](#)
- [Joint Market Monitoring Initiatives](#)
- [2025 MSNA Ukraine Frequency Tables at the National level](#)
- [2025 MSNA Ukraine Frequency Tables at Macroregion level](#)
- [2025 MSNA Ukraine Frequency Tables at Frontline oblast level](#)
- [2025 MSNA Ukraine Frequency Tables at Strata level](#)

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5. Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods in Ukraine – ZOA

The ZOA presentation detailed the implementation, findings, and lessons learned from its Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods project, which ran from May to October 2025. Funded by ECHO and the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF), the project operated in four oblasts: Kherson and Mykolaiv in the South, and Sumy and Chernihiv in the North. The ambitious target was to assist 2,153 households (HHs), plus an additional ~290 HHs, in partnership with three local NGOs, including the Association for Democratic Development and the League of Modern Women in the North, and CF “Shchedryk” in the South.

Project Assistance and Methodology

The core assistance provided was a Multi-purpose Agro-Kit combined with Agricultural Trainings. Targeting focused on households with multiple vulnerabilities, specifically including newly internally displaced persons (IDPs) after January 1, 2024. The assistance was cash-based, with transfer values set at \$400, \$700, or \$1,000 USD/EUR, determined by the household’s vulnerability category. The operational procedure included pre-registration, pre-verification, and in-person registration (at sites or individual homes) to determine the household type. This was followed by verification through local

authorities or volunteers, selection of agricultural assets, preparation of estimates and agreements, a deduplication check, and finally, payment. The complementary training component covered topics like general agriculture, poultry farming, cow breeding for dairy, and pig farming, with content determined by focus group discussions and telephone surveys and delivered by certified agricultural advisors.

Observations, Challenges, and Impact

The most popular agricultural purchases made by beneficiaries were small agricultural tools, followed by young poultry, and then moto cultivators/motor-blocks. Operationally, ZOA noted a challenge with the high concentration of FSL partners in the South relative to the North and an overall increase in security risks during implementation. Security concerns led some households to refuse assistance. Additional challenges included requests for goods related to the WASH Cluster, applications from HHs physically unable to farm, and low interest in the training sessions. Due to the summer-autumn timing of the assistance, demand for young poultry peaked and dropped by the end of August, and only a small percentage of households bought planting seeds. However, the agro-kits proved useful for winterization, as they often included winter livestock fodder. Crucially, the purchase of mechanized equipment like motor blocks helped reduce physical workload and enabled process automation, which is particularly beneficial for women and older persons.

Key Feedback and Recommendations

Beneficiary feedback indicated a strong preference for receiving assistance in the spring before the main sowing season. Households who invested in mechanization reported a reduced need for external labour and generally felt their food security would improve. Recommendations for targeting suggested including war veterans and the unemployed (even without formal documentation).

Lessons learned highlighted that the most vulnerable households (Type 1, subsistence farmers) have limited potential for long-term sustainability, whereas Type 2 (smallholder farmers) were more likely to invest in equipment lasting up to 10 years, supporting longer-term resilience. For streamlining future cash-based activities, ZOA recommended that individual household visits could be replaced by verification through local authorities or volunteers combined with spot checks. Finally, a critical recommendation focused on the "Do No Harm" principle: providing agricultural support in the high-risk 0–20 km zone may unintentionally encourage people to remain in dangerous areas, and therefore, Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) is a more suitable modality in such contexts, as purchased equipment or livestock may be lost during an emergency evacuation.

6. AOB

- **Livelihood Needs in Safer Territories:** Anton Chepurko (People in Need) raised the concern that despite high livelihood needs across Ukraine, including in safer territories with large numbers of IDPs, the HNRP prioritizes frontline areas.
- **Response:** Usman Buhari noted that the FSLC tries to advocate for needs beyond the front line and that HNRP 2026 Strategic Priority 4 is intended to address support to the most vulnerable IDPs which includes those in the western part of Ukraine.
- **Protection Concerns in 0-20 km:** There was a discussion about ensuring that activities in the high-risky 0-20 km zone are protection-sensitive and do not put people at further risk (Do No Harm principle). Specific activities like emergency livestock relocation were mentioned to support people under mandatory evacuation who are reluctant to leave their animals.
- **Response:** Carla Curreli suggested the simple interpretation is that the income earned is not enough to cover essential living costs.
- **WASH Cluster Collaboration:** The need for a separate discussion/task team with the WASH cluster regarding cross-cutting activities/problems related to portfolios was raised and agreed upon.