

Food Cluster Meeting

Islamabad
20 October 2010

Participants

OCHA	WFP	DFID
ECHO	ILAP	Canadian High Commission
World Vision	Help In Need	Sungi Development Organization
Muslin Hands	AusAid	
MINFAL	NDMA	
Plan Pakistan	SSTD	
IRC	ICRC	
FOCUS	UNIFEM	

Agenda

- 1) Presentation on the Joint WFP/FAO/UNIFEM/OXFAM Flood assessment for Early recovery
- 2) Updates on the Technical working group on cash transfer
- 3) Food Cluster Early Recovery Matrix
- 4) AoB

Presentation on the joint UN early recovery assessment in the flood affected areas:

Mr. Sahib Haq VAM Officer from WFP gave a presentation on the Flood Recovery Assessment to be conducted in the flood affected areas across Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan and KPK. His presentation highlighted:

- WFP along with FAO, UNIFEM and OXFAM will start the assessment for the early recovery in flood affected areas next week, commencing with training of enumerators.
- For this purpose a questionnaire has been developed and finalized after having been reviewed at various levels including with other clusters and stakeholders.

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- The assessment will look into both qualitative and quantitative aspects.
- UNICEF has just commenced a nutritional assessment using the same sample villages, allowing for the overlaying of nutritional data as well.
- An orientation session following by three days training for the field team is scheduled at Peshawar from 22nd October 2010.
- The questionnaire will be tested on 23rd October. It also includes a section on market sensitivity. It will assess the possible fluctuation in the prices of different commodities in response to external resources into local markets.
- In KPK this assessment will start from the 25th of October, and the same team will also visit Balochistan. In Punjab it will begin from 5th November and from 8th November in Sindh. The field work is expected to be completed by 19th November. An additional 5 days would be required for data entry. By 1st week of December initial data will be shared with the stakeholders. A stakeholders' conference will follow.

Comments

- Close coordination with OCHA is essential. The focal person at OCHA is Mr. Herbert Thatham who should be kept in loop. WFP also suggested that OCHA or any other agency would be welcome to participate in the orientation sessions.
- The field work has been outsourced to different NGOs. In case of KPK and Balochistan it is Creative Consultants whereas in Punjab it is SDPI and SDF will do this assessment in Sindh.
- There will be 6 teams in each province except Sindh where there will be 8 teams. The team consists of a female staff and enumerators to ensure the inclusion of gender aspects in the data collection.

Update on the Technical Working Group on Cash Transfer and the Inter Cluster Group on Cash

The technical working group on cash is active and working on developing relevant standards for actors considering the use of cash programming. However, the technical group needs to expand its focus to encompass other activities beyond food. There are number of cash interventions already underway and some are in the planning phase, however this needs to be accelerated.

Comments

- CALP group is planning some training at provincial level. The details of these training sessions are available on the website <https://sites.google.com/site/cashtwgpakistan>, and interested participants can get themselves registered using this site.
- The government-led cash assistance/WATAN cards should not be linked with other cash transfer programmes as the beneficiaries' lists do not necessarily include all the affected people.

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- It was also clarified that there are two aspects of cash transfer, cash for the labor/work and cash for the input. An example was also quoted of the joint venture of UNDP and WFP in Sindh, where UNDP provided cash for the inputs and WFP for the labor in the construction of roads.
- The technical working group on cash transfers to meet next Monday to further discuss some of the issues raised at the inter-cluster meeting.

Food Cluster Early Recovery Matrix

The Food cluster early recovery matrix aims at collecting data on what activities are currently being implemented by agencies/organizations in various areas, and what is planned for the near future. The matrix is attached as an annex to this note.

Based on the data e collected from the food cluster members, a map of the early recovery activities or the areas for which ER activities are planned will be prepared and shared.

AOB

- The cluster chair highlighted that WFP is giving weekly updates to OCHA for the weekly Humanitarian Bulletin based on the information/feedback it receives from the food cluster members. Members of food clusters were requested to consider making available any information that they thought relevant for the bulletin to WFP by Tuesday for Wednesday submission to OCHA.
- The cluster chair informed that there are additional US\$20 million available for the ERF, and interested NGOs can submit their proposals, including for early recovery activities.
- Representative from the Ministry of MINFAL introduced themselves, and requested to include MINFAL in the mailing roster of the food cluster so that meeting minutes can be shared with them and they can participate in the meetings regularly.
- MINFA is going to give a presentation in the next Agriculture cluster meeting.
- An online system will be established by OCHA to collect information from various organizations working in different areas on how humanitarians' agencies are pressured by various elements that includes politicians, army, government agencies, or other parties. This purpose is to gather such information on an area/incident basis and then to advocate on it at a higher level.
- The food cluster coordinator to participate in the Agriculture cluster meeting tomorrow to represent food cluster.

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