

## Field mission report Food Security and Agriculture cluster Afghanistan

**Place Visited:** Jalalabad Afghanistan.

**Dates:** 5<sup>th</sup> January to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**The purpose of Visit:** 1) Training for the partners on proposal and report writing 2) Field mission to discuss response with returnees and draw gap analysis, 3) Discussion with RI on CHF project extension.

**Programme Entity/Project:** OSRO/AFG/602/USA

**Date of Report:** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017

### Background and Summary:

Food security and agriculture cluster received a request from regional cluster partners to provide proposal and report writing training in Jalalabad. There are various funding opportunities especially after recent Afghan refugees return from Afghanistan but partner's capacity to submit a quality proposal is very limited. FSAC was also planning to organize a field mission to observe food security and livelihoods condition of returnees. We need a comprehensive gap analysis for the returnee's response to inform CHF priorities. To serve all these demands FSAC team planned one-week field mission to Jalalabad with three major objectives as outlined above.

**Training to FSAC partners on proposal and report writing:** On the request of FSAC partners in east region FSAC team organized 2 days training on proposal and report writing from 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017. East region is facing various humanitarian challenges like increased number of conflict-affected IDP's, highest number of returnees arriving back from Pakistan, prolong IDP's and natural disaster affected communities. The humanitarian needs are widespread and partners need resources to provide urgent life-saving humanitarian needs.



The objective of the proposal and report writing training was to increase the funding for security and agriculture cluster through submission of the quality proposal and reports for fundraising. Total 40 staff members from 21 organizations (5 national, 12 international, 1 government and 3 UN agencies) participated in the training. A detail report including an evaluation of the training will be shared with stakeholders next week but overall remarks of the participants in the closing of the training were quite encouraging. Major recommendations of the participants were to a) increase the time frame of the training, b) including more practical exercises and c) including a short session on concept paper.



**Field mission to review response needs and gaps for returnees:** FSAC team did a field mission to three different villages Samarkheil, Joyi 10, Bar Bela and Kuz Bela villages of Bihsud districts in Nangarhar and identified that many households have recently arrived after last HEAT assessment. There are almost 100 families with complete documentation waiting for assessment and response. These families are relying on the very limited savings that they brought from Pakistan. Most of the savings are already spent on transportation, renting houses and day to day expenses in Afghanistan. Living cost is very expensive for them mainly because of difference in currency value. In the cities, returnees have almost no or very limited access to agriculture land or livestock which left them very vulnerable to only daily wage. It's very difficult to get any type of daily wage as demand is very low and supply of the labor is already very high. FSAC noticed the impact of this demand and supply on the daily wage rates continuously going down.



To date, WFP, Save the Children, OXFAM, NCRO and DRC have provided food and cash assistance to 122,430 undocumented returnees in the Eastern Region. Islamic relief provided food assistance to 1,285 undocumented returnees in Arzan Qeemat PD12 Kabul. Total assistance for undocumented returnees across the country reached to 123,715 (49.5%) out of total 249,832.

- WFP provided one-month food ration to 96,635 undocumented returnees at the IOM TC. Of these, 14,980 were assisted in January 2017.
- Save the Children provided cash for food to 5,565 undocumented returnees in Jalalabad, Behsud and Surkhrod districts in Nangarhar;
- Oxfam provided cash for food to 1,915 families in Jalalabad, Surkhrod, Kama and Behsud districts in Nangarhar;
- DRC provided cash to 740 families in Kama district of Nangarhar province.
- NCRO provided cash to 235 families in Jalalabad and Behsud districts of Nangarhar province.
- Islamic relief provided food assistance to 1,285 undocumented returnees in Arzan Qeemat PD12 Kabul

**Gaps & Constraints in response:**

- 51% of undocumented returnees have not received food or cash assistance from FSAC partners. FSAC have recommended continuing food assistance throughout the winter and peak hunger season.
- Partners continue to note significant challenges in identifying and locating undocumented returnees. Most of the returnees lack evidence to prove their returnee status as per agreed criteria.

FSAC recommend immediate food assistance to returnees and detail livelihoods assessment to understand the livelihoods needs of returnees. The livelihoods needs of returnee populations



have yet to be assessed and addressed. FSAC under the leadership and funding of MAIL starting detail food and livelihoods assessment in the east this month.

**Support to CHF funded project:** During the mission FSAC also supported CHF partners on technical issues regarding IDP's and returnee's project. Both NCRO and Relief international was asked to facilitate a field mission and requested for a discussion after the mission to discuss improvements and timely completion of the projects. Community satisfaction level was higher in the areas where NCRO is implementing project because most of the returnees already received 2 months food assistance grant. There were very few new returnees ranging from only 2 to 3% who claim to have sufficient proof of returnee's status but not registered.

Areas, where relief international is implementing CHF grants, have a significant number of new returnees desperately waiting for registration and support. New arrivals are high in number especially in Samarkhail (Mian Ali) and there were even various returnees came back in last 6 months not registered in the program. They showed proof of their returnee's status to FSAC team and RI staff. Another problem was a delay in response to both IDP's and returnees in almost all food security and agriculture activities. FSAC provided following recommendation to both organizations.

FSAC provided support on assessment tools to RI to include agriculture and livestock section in the assessment. This will help them to identify the problems and provide support for both activities in CHF funded project. Relief international also requested for the support on post distribution monitoring tool. FSAC worked with RI on the PDM tool to capture feedback on both food and agriculture part of the support. FSAC explained both projects to RI as there seems an understanding gap on both grants because of staff turnover.

**Recommendations:**

- a) RI already received no cost extension for one month from OCHA/CHF. They were advised to use updated assessment tools and HEAT data to identify cases for livelihoods support and provide assistance at their earliest. They were also advised to start livestock support (261 beneficiaries) and agriculture support (261 beneficiaries) at earliest as its peak winter season so livestock needs are higher. For agriculture part its already late for cultivation and community already cultivated their land with borrowing seed or buying it on credit. They are unable to apply fertilizers because of the high cost. This can have a significant impact on production. RI is advised to provide cash grant for agriculture assistance at their earliest so that beneficiaries can repay their loan for seed and apply fertilizers at earliest.
- b) RI CHF returnees and natural disaster affected communities support project have significant delays in implementation because of poor communication to local OCHA at Jalalabad level. OCHA and RI are still discussing on the list and confused on either to provide assistant or not to this vulnerable group. This project was designed on the base on gap analysis for the same vulnerable group. FSAC recommend to OCHA to take one decision and proceed with either implementation or revision of the project. We agreed with RI to provide cash grant for agriculture support to same beneficiaries whose crop was destroyed to cover the cost of seed and fertilizers for this cropping season to ensure their food security for the next cropping season.
- c) Only 49% of the undocumented returnees residing in the east region received food assistance between one to two months either at the border or in settled areas till to date. FSAC requested 6 million USD in CHF request to cover the food needs of the remaining population for at least two months.
- d) Major recommendations from the proposal and report writing training were; a) increase the time frame of the training, b) including more practical exercises and c) including a short session on concept paper.