Meeting Minutes

Location: WFP
Date: 13/11/19

Agenda

1. WFP - Introduction of the revised Minimum Expenditure Basket
2. FSC - Update on Humanitarian Needs Overview/Humanitarian Response Plan procedure
3. FSC - Visit of UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food
4. FSC - Global Food Security Cluster meeting

Participants

- **NGOs**: CAFOD, IRC, ADRA, Sightsavers, Plan International, NAZ, Action Aid, CRS, TDH Italy, Oxfam, AKIEY, GOAL, Christian Care, Help from Germany, CBM
- **UN**: WFP, UNDP
- **Donors**: DFID, USAID

Discussion

1. WFP - Introduction of the revised Minimum Expenditure Basket

   - A Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) is defined as what a household requires in order to meet basic needs, on a regular or seasonal basis, and its average cost.
   - A MEB is useful in a variety of operations but particularly where the organization responds with cash-based transfers (CBT) to meet food needs or a broader set of essential needs through a multisector cash or a multipurpose-cash intervention.
   - To note that a MEB does not necessary equate to all the essential needs of a household. It is only supposed to capture needs that the household has to cover entirely or partly through the market. For example, in contexts where electricity is considered an essential need but not available for the target population, it cannot be included in the MEB. If public education is provided, these are not captured in the MEB.
In Zimbabwe, the MEB calculation refers to three main components:
- Food Items
- Non-Food Items
- Services

Food and NFI prices are based on the price monitoring currently run in at least 27 districts (over 8 provinces of Zimbabwe) where WFP and partners are implementing food insecurity response.

The food basket is endorsed by the Food Security Cluster in Zimbabwe and MEB items are validated by the member agencies of the CWG.

This MEB calculation reflects the national average of USD prices on October 2019 for each commodity for both the food and non-food basket factoring in a US dollar inflation of 1% per month until end of January 2020.

The projection is based on trends observed on the USD equivalent of ZWL market price collected from October 2018-October 2019. Inflation and devaluation of USD/ZWL exchange rate being highly correlated and highly volatile. ZWL prices collected have been converted into USD using RBZ rate to provide real price trends.

Results of MEB:
- The food basket is based on a basket with a minimum of 2100Kcal per person per day this being the energy requirements for the general population. The food includes the main food items consumed by the beneficiary population and it represents a balanced diet. Acceptability of the food items by the communities have been taken into consideration as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food basket</th>
<th>Unit (kg)</th>
<th>December 2019 Unit price (USD)</th>
<th>December 2019 Monthly need (USD)</th>
<th>June 2019 Unit price (USD)</th>
<th>June 2019 Monthly need (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maize Grain</td>
<td>12.51</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>3.75</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>3.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>2.58</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>2.53</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>1.53</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>1.84</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>1.02</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>2.34</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>1.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetables (Greens)</td>
<td>2.25</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>1.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beans dried/Sugar beans</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>7.20</td>
<td>2.06</td>
<td>4.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total/per./month</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>16.54</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>13.25</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average HH size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Food basket/hh/month</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>82.7</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>66.25</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NFI/WASH

- The WASH and NFI components consist of items consumed on a monthly basis in an average Zimbabwean household. The items are based on WASH and Shelter/NFI cluster standards by June 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WASH/NFI</th>
<th>Unit quantity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>December 2019 Unit price (USD)</th>
<th>December Monthly need (USD)</th>
<th>June 2019 Unit price (USD)</th>
<th>June 2019 Monthly need (USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green bar soap (multipurpose)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>kg</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>1.45</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitary pads</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>pack</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>5.65</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toothpaste</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>ml</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>1.24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaseline</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>g</td>
<td>2.10</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candles</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>pack</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>6.87</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total WASH NFIs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>17.31</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.8</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Services:

- Services component represents contribution towards other basic expenditures such as transport, communication, community fees (milling and maintenance of water sources), access to education and health care.
- As of October 2019, monthly expenditure for the above-mentioned items are not collected on a household level, thus the amount is fixed as a percentage (25%) of the overall basket amount.

Transfer Value

- A MEB is not equivalent to a transfer value - although a MEB is a critical factor when determining transfer values. This distinction is important because a MEB remains the same regardless of assistance and funding constraints. Most households have their own resources to meet some of their essential needs, so the transfer value will usually be less than the MEB value, covering the gap between own resources, other assistance received and the MEB.

2. FSC - Update on Humanitarian Needs Overview/Humanitarian Response Plan procedure

- Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) is a comprehensive analysis of the overall situation and associated needs. The HNO will support the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in developing a shared understanding of the impact and evolution of a crisis and to inform response planning.
- The sectorial strategy is based on food security indicators translated into People in Need and Severity of Needs. The main sources of this calculation are: IPC, ZimVac and Second Crop and Livestock Assessment.
- Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is shared vision of how to respond to the assessed and expressed needs of the affected population.
- HRP builds upon humanitarian needs overviews which provide the evidence base and analysis of the magnitude of the crisis and identify the most pressing humanitarian needs. These needs inform the strategic objectives in the HRP. Each cluster plans follow from these strategic objectives.
- HRP serves also for resource mobilization.
- Both documents will be produced for one-year period starting by January 2020.
- Detailed timeline for both documents will be communicated as soon as possible.
- For a better visualization, find below the Humanitarian Program Cycle for 2020:

3. Visit of UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food
- The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food will be visiting Zimbabwe from 18th to 28th of November 2019.
- The general objectives of the Special Rapporteur’s visit are:
  - To examine and report on the enjoyment of the right to food and other related human rights in the country, with particular attention to equality and non-discrimination;
  - Engage in dialogue with the Government and civil society in their efforts to secure the right to food;
  - Highlight best practices in the realization of the right to food and other related rights;
To identify practical solutions and provide recommendations to the State and other stakeholders in their efforts to implement the right to food and related rights.

4. **The Global Food Security Cluster meeting:**
   - The Global FS Cluster meeting will take place from the 26\textsuperscript{th} to 28\textsuperscript{th} of November 2019 in Rome and will be attended by global partners from various INGOs and donors.
   - One of the major meetings sessions will be dedicated to the subject of neglected crises. As part of this session the current Zimbabwe situation will be presented.
   - All partners all encouraged to share inputs regarding the food and agriculture challenges by Monday the 25\textsuperscript{th} of November COB.