FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE CLUSTER

Cluster Overview

The FSAC has been a central part of the humanitarian response in Afghanistan since 2008. It is co-led by WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with a Non-governmental Organization as co-chair. Over 172 partner organizations country-wide are active in the FSAC, including NGOs, Government ministries UN agencies and donors.

Amongst the 172 partners and members, the numbers break down as follows: 71 international NGOs, 69 national NGOs, 3 Red Cross/Crescent related organizations, 9 state-level line ministries, 15 UN agencies and 5 donors.

Cluster Overview

Launching Ceremony of Seasonal Food Security Assessment 2016

On 25th July 2016, Food Security and Agriculture Cluster presented the preliminary results of the Seasonal Food Security Assessments SFSA 2016.

The main findings: Situation of food insecurity in Afghanistan remains stubbornly high, affecting 40% of the population food insecure nationally (11.3 million), out of which 6% (1.6 million) are severely food insecure.

- Most severely food insecure provinces are Daikundi, Nangarhar & Hirat and most food insecure provinces are Badghis, Badakhshan & Kandahar.
- Households are primarily affected by the economic slowdown, having resorted to negative coping strategies that are affecting their current and future capacity to access food, for example asset sales, unsustainable livestock sales, or school withdrawal.
- The urban poor saw their food security and poverty level deteriorate faster than the rural poor. Explanations probably lie in more acute pressure on the labor market.
- Altogether 48% of households report being affected by shocks. The most common shocks are economic, either price shocks, or loss of employment. 11% of households reported that either physical insecurity (8%), theft or loot (5%) or road blockades (5%) affected their capacity to access food. The surveyed, earthquake affected 7% of the population and floods around 10%. (For full presentation click here)

Monthly Achievements:

- Launching Ceremony of Seasonal Food Security Assessment 2016
- IPC acute food insecurity analysis workshop 2016
- FSAC Field mission to Hirat province on locust infestation in Ghor province
- National and regional FSAC meetings in July 2016
- CHF Advisory Board Approval of Proposed Allocation Envelopes

Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) acute food insecurity analysis Workshop

IPC Afghanistan team based in Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock carried out the IPC Analysis 2016 for the country from 24th - 31st of July 2016. The main objective of the workshop is to guide the decision makers for strategic intervention in terms of food insecure population. Findings of the mentioned analysis will be utilized by FSAC for its Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Strategic Response Plan (SRP) 2017.

Based on IPC International protocols the evidences from various sectors and sources available in the country were collected and through comprehensive analysis they were integrated in order to reach technical consensus among the various stakeholders agencies. The preliminary findings were presented on 31st July by mid of August 2016 the final report will be shared publicly.

IPC in Afghanistan is European Union funded projected which is functioning under the supervision of MAIL with technical support of FAO, WFP, FEWSNET and other national and international NGO.
FSAC Field Visit

FSAC regional team requested support from national office to participate in the regional cluster meeting for the way forward on locust infestation in two districts of Ghor province.

On 17th July FSAC visited to western region to bring all stakeholders on table and requested technical people to participate in discussion to bring relevant information and records to better understand the issue. FSAC supported field mission of one technical national level lead from MAIL plant protection and quarantine department (PPQD) and one field level supervisor from Ghor covered the cost of their mission. All stakeholders were requested to bring relevant information and records to better understand the issue.

FSAC coordinated presented data from SFSA 2016 for Ghor and its comparison with national average to see gaps in information and to build a consensus among stakeholders on overall situation.

Recommendations:

We have enough information to understand the problem and to propose way forward so there is no need for immediate assessment of the needs. Recommendations are;

- Provision of food assistance to vulnerable families impacted by locust infestation for two to three months mainly through food for work program in close coordination with DAIL staff. They want people to use local control mechanisms where farmers can remove eggs and locust from the crop area.
- Monitoring of the locust for next cropping season staring from late March to control infestation at right time before its maturity stage. Prepositioning of around 1,000 litter pesticides, additional spray pumps, protective clothing and technical training is required.
- Provision of farm inputs mainly seed to almost 4,000 vulnerable families in two districts of the province. Input programme can also include capacity building on locust control and introduction of the resilient crops variety to locust infestation.
- Provide livestock support to stop asset depletion and help rebuild farmers’ capacity to cope with environmental hazards.

Full mission report can be downloaded on below link:  

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Flood in Kunar Province

As per Kunar ANDMA report, on 17th July 2016, heavy rain fall and flood destroyed crops of the framers in 10 villages of Asadabad, Kunar province which affected 235 farmers, destroyed 200 Jeribs agriculture land and 4 dairy cows are died. The joint assessment need to be carried out to identify the most vulnerable farmers’ families for response.

CHF 2nd Allocation 2016

Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF) advisory board approved proposed allocation envelopes. FSAC has submitted priority paper to OCHA for funding for CHF 2nd standard allocation already included in draft strategy. FSAC will call a meeting by next week to invite active NGO partners (INGOs & NGOs) to identify the most needful/vulnerable people in prioritized allocation for CHF 2nd allocation 2016.

Afghanistan Market

Wheat flour (High Price) The monthly average price of Wheat flour (High Price in main cities’ markets was AFN 29.4/Kg, the average price negligibly increased by 0.5%.

Wheat flour (Low Price) The monthly average price of Wheat flour (Low Price) in main cities’ markets was AFN 26.2/Kg, the average price negligibly increased by 0.4%.

Rice (High Quality): The monthly average price of Rice (High Quality) in main cities’ markets was AFN 77.2/Kg which negligibly increased by 0.3%.

Rice (Low Quality): The monthly average price of Rice (Low Quality) in main cities’ markets was AFN 41.6/Kg which negligibly increased by 0.8%.

Cooking Oil: The monthly average price of Cooking Oil in main cities’ markets is AFN 79.9/Kg, being negligibly increased by 0.2%.

Salt: The monthly average price of Cooking Oil in main cities’ markets is AFN 14/Kg, being slightly increased by 5.8%.

Sugar: The monthly average price of Sugar in main cities’ markets was AFN 53.1/Kg, being slightly increased by 4%.

Market price bulletin for July can be downloaded on given link:  

FSAC Coordination Meetings

National FSAC Meeting:
- Meeting was held on 20th July 2016 in Kabul.

Regional FSAC Meeting:
- Regional FSAC meeting was held on 17th July 2016 in Hirat province.