FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER

Antoine Ravo (Director, Department of Agriculture, Chair, Food Security & Agriculture Cluster)
RRU Manager (Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Coordinator)
FAO Representative (Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Co-Chair)

FSACReport@gmail.com
http://fscluster.org/vanuatu
https://web.facebook.com/riskandresilienceunit

Date: Friday 17th August 2018
Time: 2pm
Location: Forestry Conference Room @ Tagabe
Chair: Co-Chair & PMU

AGENDA

1. Welcome – FSAC Chair
2. Minutes of the last meeting – Actions Arising
3. NDMO Update on Ambae Volcano operations
4. FSAC Secretariat Update
   • Recovery Work plan 2018 (3 Months)
   • Recovery Work plan Committee
   • 5W’s - Paul
5. OXFAM update on planned Cash/Voucher – Ambae vulnerable population in Santo
6. Update from cluster partners on their Ambae evacuees activities
7. Any Other Business (AOB)
   • Needs assessment questionnaires
MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:
NAME: ORGANIZATION:
Justin Rihu DARD
Brian Vukeala PMU/MALFFB
Peter Jesul DARD
Graham Nimoho FAO
Jenn Weiss Save The Children
Malwyn Niptik OXFAM
Amos Kalo OXFAM
Adam Trau World Vision
Jennifer Kausei NZHC
Jone Vakalalabure WFP
Dennis Berger GIZ/RRU TA
Paul Worwor RRU/MALFFB

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS:
Meeting commences

AGENDA

NDMO UPDATE ON AMBAE VOLCANO OPERATIONS
- Local food sourced from farmers on Maewo but only enough to supply the evacuees.
- Some people who moved to Santo, taken their vehicles with them so they are using it on Santo to generate some income to help them feed their families.
- During the first mass evacuation, people have bought land on Santo and so during this evacuation most of the people moved to Santo to the land.
- WASH & Health cluster taking care of the vulnerable groups on the ground on Santo.
FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER

Antoine Ravo (Director, Department of Agriculture, Chair, Food Security & Agriculture Cluster)
RRU Manager (Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Coordinator)
FAO Representative (Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Co-Chair)

FSACReport@gmail.com
http://fscluster.org/vanuatu
https://web.facebook.com/riskandresilienceunit

- On a recent trip to Santo, they have managed to visit the main sites which has a high number of evacuee’s. These sites are mainly churches which are Baha’i, SDA & Apostolic

- Apart from the vulnerable groups, nothing can be done on the people that moved to Santo voluntarily unless the government makes another COM decision.

FSAC SECRETARIAT UPDATE

RECOVERY WORK PLAN (3 MONTHS)

The immediate response part of the plan is active until 2 months lapses around end of September.

- 1st Part of the plan: Immediate response – this is happening at the moment where the food items are being purchased and distributed to the population who have moved to Maewo
- 2nd Part of plan: 3 Months Recovery – to distribute short term crops, planting materials and seeds. This also includes fishing gears too to supplement the protein on their daily intake.
- 3rd part of the plan: 6 – 12 Months recovery – Distributions of other crops such as pumpkin, manioc, island cabbage, yam, capsicum, pineapple and also FAD’s + troll line, deep bottom gear & pigs.
- 4th Part of the plan: 12 months + – the FSAC will then with the help of DARD, will look into distributing cash crops such as coffee, cocoa, vanilla, coconut, citrus, kava, Cattle, Sandalwood & Timber trees.

This plan will help the FSAC on how to help people plan and prepare for any other future disasters such as this. The recovery part of the plan will happen once we are preparing the sites for the evacuee’s and will happen after the immediate response.

Comments:

- NDMO: Is there any plans to include boats to the plan?
- Brian (PMU): the FSAC wants to encourage reef fishing and also FADs that are much closer to the reef.
- OXFAM: So this plan is for both islands that the people have evacuated to? Why are we not feeding the people on Santo?
- Brian (PMU): the plan is for both islands but however the COM decision of 26th July states that the focus of the government is on Maewo only. The FSAC is being proactive to plan ready if the COM makes a decision to feed the evacuees to Santo.
- **Oxfam**: And how can this recovery plan FSAC influence COM to change their decision to focus on Santo too?

- **Chair**: We have to be proactive in our plans, and have something in place and if the COM decides on looking at Santo then we don’t need to try and redo another one.

- **NDMO**: the FSAC needs to make up a plan as per the humanitarian principles.

- **Justin**: the plan is put together to target the whole population of Ambae of 11,000 people, however since COM decision of July 26th instructs all the clusters to focus on Maewo. So the current plan is to be for Maewo at first.

- **Oxfam**: very much interested in assisting the people whom have moved to Santo but the government instructions is to focus on Maewo in which the cluster is also looking at it. As a cluster, it’s part of the government and we can voice our concern out.

- **Chair**: the cluster can voice its concern over the more than half population whom have moved to Maewo.

- **NDMO**: Red Cross doing distributions on Santo, because it has its own laws that allows them to work regardless of whatever political stand is in a country.

- **Save the Children**: is the plan funded and approved?

- **Chair**: No funding available for this plan, though there were fund allocated but its more to do with the immediate response on Maewo.

- **NDMO**: DG climate change encouraged clusters to be prepared for Santo plans if the COM decides on another decision to focus on the people who have moved to Santo.

- **Jone**: Few things that is prepared simultaneously within the FSAC secretariat:
  - **5W’s** – The FSAC is not only made up of the government but it also includes civil society, NGO’s, stakeholders & private sectors. So this document is a way that we can track & monitor what the government is doing, what is planned to be implemented, as well as other partners within the cluster.
  - **Needs assessment questionnaire** – A team is going down to carry out a needs assessment on Maewo related to Food Security. Once the assessment is complete, the team will analyze the data and then feed it into the Recovery Work Plan for FSAC. Questionnaires are part of the agenda and will be discussed later on this meeting.
  - **FSAC Recovery work plan** – suggested by the cluster chair that a “Recovery Work plan Committee” to be set up at the cluster meeting which will focus on the recovery plan. The plan should reflect the role of the cluster, showing both government & partners work during this disaster. The plan is still in draft and not finalized and will need help from other partners.
Recovery Work plan Committee

The main reason behind establishing a committee is basically to assist the cluster secretariat/RRU on the work as it has been. The committee will help to push forward the recovery plan and to be made up of people from the different sectors such as government, civil society, NGO’s and the private sector.

Comments:

World Vision – What is the main role of the committee as in the past, committees/working groups formed by the cluster were not working out. Mainly because the objectives of the groups established were not too clear to the partners.

Chair: A TOR can be drafted and circulated to all cluster members but the main idea of this committee are to finalize the plan, seek aid donors (funding) and report back to the FSAC on the updates.

Jone (WFP) – Sitrep’s that are normally dispatched by NDMO do contain the updates from the FSAC, however its just reflecting what the government is doing and not reflecting what the other members within the cluster are doing. This is clearly not a true reflection of the FSAC. With the committee set up, it will help with how the recovery plan will be, make sure that the work on the ground is reflecting the FSAC as the cluster is not just the government but a composition of government ministries, civil societies, NGO’s and the private sector.

NDMO – the PMO has a recovery committee set up also to look into the recovery stages and it’s a good start that the FSAC is doing and so maybe the committee can also sit in & assist the recovery committee at the PM’s office.

OXFAM – the idea of setting up a recovery committee is a good idea to get a wider contributions from all the members of the cluster. The TOR has to be clear to state the main objectives/expectations of the working group/committee. The committee is not going to be a decision making body but a supportive hand for the cluster secretariat. In the past after TC Hola there was a lessons learnt workshop that was held in order to reflect back on how the cluster responded to the disaster. It would be great to have one also for this kind of disaster and have it documented with identifying the strengths and weaknesses. So that in the future whenever there is a similar disaster, we can go back and see what we need to improve on so that our response would be better than this one.

NDMO – Will provide assistance through logistics only to the cluster.
Save the children – definitely doing food security programs on Maewo, however it’s still on the planning stages as awaiting on the funding. Willing to assist the committee but needs the TOR that can clearly outline the main aims/objectives of the committee.

Chair – there is a committee that is currently active but it’s just an adhoc committee. Nominations would be made by the cluster of the partners whom will be part of the recovery committee and then each partner will then send in their representative. The committee will not take over any role of the FSAC but will help to feed information to the cluster members. Proposing that the RRU draft a TOR for the committee to circulate to the members with the meeting minutes.

Action point – RRU to dispatch the FSAC Recovery work plan, Recovery Work plan committee TOR & 5W’s.

Jone – Seeds which are left over from the last distribution on Ambae will be transported back to Maewo on Saturday (18th August).

Brian (PMU) – Director DARD followed up with the extension officer on Ambae after the last cluster meeting and was advised that the seeds were distributed on Ambae but there were left overs and are still on Ambae in a warehouse. Would be transported back to Maewo on Saturday then will be recounted by the team travelling down to Maewo on Saturday 18th August.

5W’s – Paul
It’s a living document which means that will be updated regularly by inputs from the members/partners within the cluster. It’s for the cluster to use so that we know who is doing what, where they are working in, when is the program/activity taking place and also how much or the quantity of the response. The document is quite similar to what we have been using during TC Pam 3 years ago. An excel document which was circulated on Thursday and have some inputs from DARD and OXFAM only.

Comments

Jone (WFP) – the seeds mentioned on the 5W’s are purchase by the department and will not be distributed.

Justin (DARD) – the plan with the seeds is that since we do not track how the seeds are being used in the past so the team will set up nurseries with the help of some people on the ground. If the number of seed packets are less but we will have more germinating veggies that we can distribute.
Peter Iesul (DARD) – the team travelling to Maewo needs to validate the information given from the ground concerning the seeds that were purchased by OXFAM and distributed while the people were still on the island. Also just bear in mind that the vegetable season is ending soon (around September), the veggies might not germinate properly.

Chair – RRU IMO to dispatch the document out to the partners.

OXFAM update on planned Cash/Voucher – Ambae vulnerable population in Santo
Chair – The FSAC feels that the cash transfer might be a better option for the people who have moved to Santo. At the moment the cluster is focusing on Maewo, but if the COM decides that clusters need to work with the people who moved to Santo then this can be a better way to respond to the people because they are scattered around the town and other villages on Santo.

SEE PRESENTATION ON THIS LINK:

Comments
Chair – this idea was previously endorsed by the FSAC but COM disagreed because the FSAC wanted to trial it in Port Vila when the cyclone actually affected Torba province. There is government interest in this idea but it was used at a wrong time. This situation could be perfect for this to be used to assist the people who have moved.

Jone (WFP) – COM had rejected the idea because there were people affected whom have moved to other islands as well but the FSAC was planning a trial with the ones who moved to Port Vila.

NDMO – Factors that we need to take note of during trials of this program is that we don’t want people misusing the vouchers and also easier to run the program now with the ID cards issued by the civil status.

Update from cluster partners on their Ambae evacuees activities
Chair – Will share an information sheet out to all the cluster members (5Ws) but will need more input from all the members so that we can report properly on what the cluster is doing on the ground in regards to the Ambae Volcanic Disaster. This way we can avoid duplication of activities on one area.

Save the Children – The regional food security coordinator is coming down to Maewo within the next few weeks to conduct a household survey. This survey is on Early Recovery needs and will help to tailor what and how the agency will respond. Was on Maewo for a day and the FSAC working ground on the ground were negotiating with farmers on trying to source local food but
the supplement local food is not enough, so encouraging the cluster to plan on how to source local food to supplement the rice and tin currently being distributed and consumed by the people.

**OXFAM** – there are some remaining funds for assessment which can be diverted and be used by the FSAC to make a quick assessment on the islands of Santo, Malekula & Pentecost on where there are enough local food to source and ship to Maewo. Also if possible to source out cattle for meat which are left on Ambae, however the issue is can they identify their own cattle if it was left to roam on the island.

**Brian (PMU)** – with the idea of sourcing local food from the island, the minister has discouraged donations of food from farmers & villagers on the island and instructed that the FSAC has to buy the local food.

**Dennis** – During the last response to Ambae, the calculations were made for a mixture of rice, tin and island food and also adding in island cabbage with the rice & tin. This is good and can be adapted to be used at this stage by the FSAC to feed the people.

**Save the Children** – Both options presented by Dennis are wonderful, the cluster can either choose to replace rice with kumala, manioc or taro or even just add island cabbage to their current diet. If the funding is not enough to feed the whole population, then the cluster can look at feeding the vulnerable groups such as lactating women.

Justin (DARD) – when collecting data on Maewo, team can also check gardens nearby and see if ready to harvest then we can purchase it and distribute to the hosting communities for the evacuee’s.

**Brian (PMU)** – Planned to purchase tin cans but too expensive so decided to just use locally available vegetables.

**Any Other Business (AOB)**

**Needs assessment questionnaires**
Reviewed the assessment form that the team travelling to Maewo will use it on the ground for information to be used by the FSAC

**Meeting closes:** 4:36pm

**Next Meeting:** TBC