

FSAC Monthly Meeting
Virtual meeting, 26 May 2021
Minutes of Meeting

Type of meeting	FSAC monthly meeting
Date & Location	Wednesday, 26 May 2021, Kabul, 10:00AM – 12:30 PM & Virtual
Chairperson	FSAC
Note taker	FSAC
Attendees	76 partners

Meeting Agenda

Min	Action Item	Responsible Party
1	Review of the previous action points	FSAC
2	Presentation on climate outlook	FEWSNET
3	Monitoring the Impact of COVID-19 & other Shocks on Agricultural Livelihoods and Food Security	FAO
4	AAP and FSAC introduction: Being accountable to your project participants	AAP-OCHA
5	Overview of Conflict Mitigation Assistance for Civilians (COMAC) Program	Blumont
6	AoB; - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSAC advocacy paper • AWG members/nominated partners/ issues to be discussed in the AWG • SFSA 2021 update • Update on next AHF 1st standard allocation • Date of next meeting 	FSAC

Meeting Minutes

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
1	Review of the previous action points	FSAC
Action points from previous FSAC meeting were reviewed. The update of action points is as follow: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FSAC shared final version of AWG ToR with all partners. 2. FSAC sent membership email of AWG to all partners. 		

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
2	Presentation on climate outlook	FEWSNET
<p>According to Afghanistan seasonal calendar, spring wet season will end in May. During last three months, Eastern provinces experienced above average precipitation. However, recent precipitation resulted in poor performance in the southwest and recovery in the Central and North East. In addition, recent precipitation has led to above average streamflow in the East and North East.</p> <p>Through September 2021, above – average mean temperatures are most likely in most of the country while average mean temperatures are expected from October 2021 to January 2022. Snowpack and snow water volumes are expected to continue to decline and remain below average as a result, flooding risk is expected to be below-average and water availability in downstream areas will be reduced. Precipitation during the dry season period from June to September 2021 is most likely to be average across most of the country. However, it is likely to be below average from October 2021 to January 2022.</p> <p>Given current significantly below average NDVI values in most lower elevation rangeland areas as of May 10-20, 2021, rangeland vegetative conditions are likely to be below average in lower elevation areas of the country. Therefore, rangeland vegetative conditions in lower elevation areas are likely to remain below average through January 2022. In higher elevation areas where NDVI values are currently predominantly above average, above-average temperatures and early snowmelt are likely to contribute to average pasture conditions emerging during the summer dry season. In addition, meteorological and agricultural drought conditions are likely ongoing across parts of the West, South, and North and are likely to continue through September 2021.</p> <p>Wheat production is also mostly likely to be below average across most of country but near average in central and eastern parts of the country, though some exceptions are anticipated. Short term forecast (25 April – 02 May) indicates drier weather in most parts of Afghanistan.</p>		

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
3	Monitoring the Impact of COVID-19 & other Shocks on Agricultural Livelihoods and Food Security	FAO
<p>FAO conducted an assessment for monitoring the impact of COVID-19 and other shocks on Agricultural Livelihoods and Food Security with aim of providing data to guide strategic decisions, monitoring data and information to support evidence-based programme design and informing analytical Processes such as the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). Following the first-round of the assessment conducted in October 2020, the second-round data collection was conducted in February 2021 undertaking mixed methodology including household survey and Key Informant Interview with Agriculture Extension Officers and Agriculture Input Vendors using face to face interview modality. It covered 20 provinces: 129 districts: 1380 communities.</p>		

The results highlighted that the main income sources of households three months prior to the assessment were the sale of field crops, sale of livestock and livestock products and agricultural wage labor. In addition, 46% of households experienced shocks and the main shocks were income loss, reduction in production, increased prices, death/sickness, insecurity/conflict, crop/livestock loss and natural hazards. Compared to previous year, income of 43% of households marginally decreased (5 – 20%), 20% significantly decreased (20-50%) and 14% not changed.

The main winter crops produced were wheat (84%), fruit (6%), potato (3%) and vegetables (3%). Compared to last year, 40% of households reported same are planted, 30% lesser area and 21% larger area. In addition, 88% of households experienced difficulties in crop production during last three months and difficulties were observed in production of wheat (77%), barley (70%), vegetables (64%), fruit (63%) and maize (59%). Main difficulties experienced by the households were drought/dry spell (70%), access to fertilizers/pesticides (68%), access to seeds (66%), outbreak of pests/diseases (57%) and lower irrigation than usual (54%).

Seventy one percent of households faced difficulties accessing seeds three months prior to the assessment. The main difficulties were reported higher prices (36%), insufficient income to buy seeds (31%) and poor-quality seeds (12%). Moreover, 85% of households do not have enough seeds to plant for current/next season. In addition, 92% of households experienced shocks affecting crop production and 78% of farmers had difficulties to access seeds. 71% used purchasing low quality seeds, 48% late sowing and 48% reduced planted area as coping mechanism.

Eighty two percent of the household faced difficulties in livestock production. The main difficulties experienced were, access to water (39%), access to feed (31%) and access to veterinary services and access to inputs (22%). Eighty four percent experienced shocks affecting livestock production. Also, 68% faced difficulties to sell crop/livestock production and main reasons were low price (28%), low demand (24%) and lack of traders (15%). Having issues to market their production (86%) was also reported as a shock.

On food consumption, households decreased proportion of meat/poultry, fruits, vegetables, sugar/honey, eggs, and pulses/nuts. About 93.6% sent households member away, 91.6% borrowed food, 84.8% spent savings and 84.4% sold more animals as coping mechanism. The main needs for crop production were fertilizer (90%), seeds (85%), pesticides (78%), tools (71%) and cash assistance (71%). Furthermore, needs for animal production were animal feed (82%), veterinary services (77%), cash assistance (74%) and access to water (62%).

The assessment report will be published in June 2021 and next round of monitoring will be conducted in July/August 2021.

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
4	AAP: Being accountable to your project participants	AAP

Accountability to affected people is an active commitment by humanitarian actors and organizations to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people they seek to assist. Account means listening the people who need humanitarian assistance and using their input to inform decision-making, meaningful community engagement, transparency, and honesty; information provision; closing the loop by reporting results and giving right to crisis affected people that humanitarian workers will do no harm – PSEA and corruption. The main pillars of AAP are participation, information provision and communication, feedback, and complaint mechanisms, PSEA, strengthening local capacity, evidence base and coordination and partnership.

Global commitments such as inter – agency standing committee observe AAP through enforcing, institutionalizing, and integrating AAP approaches, establishing, and adopting agency mechanisms. At country level, AAP is emphasized in Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan, Humanitarian Country Team Compact and Collective Approach to Community Engagement.

The objective of AAP is to hold two – way communication channels, include view of affected people in humanitarian response and involve regular collection and analysis of feedback on community needs, perceptions and complaints, assessments of community priorities/information needs/communication preferences. The center of response is women, men, boys, and girls, with different needs, priorities, vulnerabilities, and capacities who are facing situations of poverty, deprivation, and risks or are adversely affected by conflict, disasters, or other emergencies.

The relationship between communication and community engagement and AAP is very essential. It includes hotlines/SMS, FGDs, audio-video, perception surveys, fac to face meeting, IEC materials, input to decisions and feedback mechanism.

The presentation by AAP formed the first of a series of AAP sessions that will be provided to FSAC partners.

Minutes No	Agenda	Facilitator
5	Overview of Conflict Mitigation Assistance for Civilians program (COMAC) Program	Blumont
<p>Conflict Mitigation Assistance for Civilians (COMAC) program. The program provides victim assistance (VA) services, improve capacity of the relevant government agencies and understanding of the government personnel and Afghan people on victim’s assistance and their rights. The program started in 2018 and will end in September 2023. It is implemented by Blumont in coordination with State Ministry for Martyrs and Disabled Affairs.</p> <p>From March 2018 – September 2020, COMAC assisted 12,319 direct beneficiaries, 88,267 indirect beneficiaries in 34 provinces and 329 districts. It conducted more than 100 trainings for more than 2,600 government personnel from 32 provinces to strengthen their capacity to</p>		

respond to victims' needs. In addition, it also developed various TV and Radio Public Service Announcements (PSAs), printed posters, brochures, installed billboards, conducted community engagement activities to raise awareness on VA services.

The victim assistance of COMAC is in two types: immediate assistance (Food items and non-food items) and tailored assistance which addresses needs of victims and generates sustainable income for victims (vocational trainings, healthcare services, referral of victims for assistance to service providers). COMAC team requested FSAC partners to contact and coordinate if they have any complementary support to these vulnerable people.

AoB

No	Agenda	Action
6	FSAC advocacy paper	For fund raising and advocacy purpose, FSAC developed 2 pager advocacy paper and shared it with donors and all FSAC partners. Click here to download the FSAC advocacy paper
	AWG members/nominated partners/issues to be discussed in the AWG	Nominated partners will be contacted by FSAC soon and first meeting invitation in June will be sent to AWG members. Members are also encouraged to suggest thematic areas to be discussed by the AWG. Initial areas if discussion include the Humanitarian Peace and Development Nexus, review of the FSAC packages, development of advocacy and position papers and technical guidelines.
	SFSA 2021	The workplan and budget have been prepared and it will be presented in the next FSAC meeting after being approved by assessment working group.
	FSAC presentations	Partners are encourage to make presentations in FSAC meetings.
	Update on next AHF 1st standard allocation	AHF 1st standard allocation will be announced in June. Focus of this allocation will be agriculture wheat seed to farmers. FSAC will inform partners once the allocation is officially announced by OCHA.
	Date of next meeting	Next FSAC meeting will be conducted on 3rd week of June. Exact date to be confirmed.