FSAC Afghanistan Newsletter

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Upcoming Activities

⇒ Finalizing FSAC HNO and HRP 2020
⇒ Finalizing FSAC strategic response plan for 2020
⇒ Retreat for all FSAC regional focal points and NGO co-chairs in December 2019 in Mazar
⇒ Finalizing and publishing the Seasonal Food Security Assessment 2019 report
⇒ Conducting regional FSAC meetings in all 6 regions
⇒ To conduct field missions to IPC phase 4 areas

Seasonal Food Security Assessment (SFSA) 2019

FSAC recently completed an initial analysis of SFSA conducted with the financial and technical support of partners, mainly FAO, WFP, UNDP, MAIL and NSIA. Total 350 districts of 34 provinces were surveyed with 21,600 HHs (rural and urban population), 450 traders and 2,160 community questionnaires.

Main Findings:

- Food insecurity (severely + moderate) is 47% percent, of which 5% percent is severely food insecure.
- 63% households reported experiencing shocks. Major shocks faced by respondents were reduced in income (25%), loss of employment (29%) followed by natural disaster (12%) and a huge increase in food prices (9%). These shocks gradually eroded rural livelihoods of households and pushed more than one-fifth of the population to resort to negative emergency coping strategies.
- About 21% of households resorting to crisis strategies, 27% to emergency coping strategies and 30% are relying on stress strategies.
- 19% of the surveyed households reported poor food consumption and another 40% reported borderline.
- 42% of farmers reported lack of wheat seeds for the planting season and another 41% reported that their seeds stock is insufficient for the next cultivation season (winter cultivation).
- 21% of households reported reduction in livestock production which is a major source of nutritious food and income for the rural population.

The final report will be shared soon.
By the end of 3rd quarter 2019, FSAC partners provided food assistance to 3,252,427 (82%) people against a target of 3,943,416 people and livelihoods assistance to 726,386 (40%) against a target of 1,817,500 people.

FSAC selected 70 districts of 16 provinces (Herat, Hilmand, Badghis, Badakhshan, Faryab, Kandhar, Farah, Kunduz, Nimroz, Ghor, Saripul, Daykundi, Samangan, Bamyian, Wardak and Nuristan) where 94,393 farming families almost 660,748 people will be supported with time critical seasonal agriculture inputs helping them not to miss current winter cropping season. The targeted areas and activities are in line with the FSAC priorities under HRP 2019. This will not only contribute to longer term food security but also help in avoiding migration and reintegration of displaced people.

Success story by SWRO

Alia Jarobari and her family migrated to Pakistan on 18 January 1990 because of the conflict in Baghlan. As a refugee in Pakistan she was facing different challenges such as; lack of job opportunities, shelter, and access to education opportunity.

Her family returned back to Afghanistan in 2014 in search of better work opportunities. Alia’s husband started a small business as a street vendor selling soup in the downtown of Baghlan City with the support of his son. Despite all the efforts of the whole family, they were unable to earn a basic living before getting support from SWRO.

“SWRO provided me training on cultivation, process and packaging of mushrooms. I was given complete toolkits required for mushroom cultivation. I was afraid about the result of mushroom processing and cultivation whether it will produce mushroom or not? But, one day morning, I saw my products that have grown after 20 days. I was so happy and I called my husband to check them out.” Alia said

“Now I am producing mushroom at home and selling it in Bazzar to earn income to financially support my husband almost every month. Mushrooms are also a nutritious source of food for my family.”

SWRO supported 100 returnee families by providing training for mushroom cultivation under the GIZ-SEDEP project

FSAC mission to Mazar as part of ICCT

The national ICCT organized a joint mission to Mazar from 27th August to 1st September 2019 to monitor the humanitarian situation in northern provinces. The objective of this mission was to see how the coordination structure works in the region and what are the main gaps and challenges.

Recommendations:

- Conflict affected IDPs already received two months food assistance from FSAC partners. IDP’s were not willing to go back because of the lack of development interventions and job opportunities in their places of origin. New IDP’s have not received assistance, so it was agreed to access the situation for appropriate response where required.
- IDP’s and regional partners strongly advocated for the inclusion of off-farm livelihood activities under humanitarian response. FSAC in consultation with national partners and donors included off farm support in the HRP 2020.

FSAC achievements in 2019

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FSAC Website: http://fscluster.org/afghanistan/