MEETING MINUTES

LOCATION: Kyiv (via skype)
DATE: April 30, 2020
CHAIR: Charles Hopkins, FSL Cluster Coordinator
AGENDA:
1. Introduction and review of the previous minutes of meetings.
2. COVID-19 HRP review by FSLC: targets and financial requirements. Updates on referral cases related to food security.
5. Updates from partners
6. AOB.

1. Introduction and review of the previous minutes of meetings

- Action points of previous Cluster meetings were reviewed.
  - NRC plans to start data collection on the food security assessment shortly. Expected to switch to the remote mode. The information expected to be obtained on the profile of beneficiaries and key vulnerabilities is essential in providing cash assistance. COVID-19 specific indicators are expected to be included. The question is how to set a better sampling considering changes in methodology.
  - IOM completed data collection on the beneficiaries’ survey. The questionnaire included food security and livelihood related questions.
  - FAO continues its “Rapid Survey of Food Supply Chains” aiming at the identification of COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on agricultural supply chains directly from operators. As for the food security assessment, it was shifted in timeframe due to COVID-19 developments.
- Establish a working group on advocacy to look at the impact of negative coping mechanisms. The partners agreed there is no need to establish a dedicated working group on advocacy. The assessments are expected to clarify the information on using the negative coping strategies as a result of food insecurity.

Action points:

- FSL Cluster team – start developing dashboards every month.
- IOM – share findings of beneficiaries’ survey with the Cluster.

2. COVID-19 HRP review by FSLC: targets and financial requirements. Updates on referral cases related to food security

- Partners were briefed on results of the revision of 2020 COVID-19 Emergency FSL Cluster Partners Response Plan that highlights:
  - 12 FSLC partners ascertain the additional financial requirements of 15.1 million USD.
M E E T I N G  M I N U T E S

- 97,800 people are planned to be targeted, including IDPs outside Donetska and Luhanska oblasts.
- 63,500 people affected, of which 13,000 residing in NGCA, are expected to be reached with the home distribution of food assistance and scale-up in the provision of cash transfers/vouchers for food.
- 29,300 people could be assisted with emergency agriculture assistance and income-generating support and small grants.
- Considering the nature of the emergency, additionally, 5,000 people are expected to be reached with cross-cutting COVID-19 related activities, including those related to Health and WASH.
- Partners plan to conduct additional market monitoring and food security and livelihoods need assessment to reveal the effect of COVID-19 on food security situation and impact on livelihoods of people affected.

- 4 FSC partners submitted projects for UHF under reserve funding allocation aimed at home-based assistance mainly for elderly and people with disabilities:
  - **Caritas.** The three-month project envisages the distribution of food kits, hygiene items, and information dissemination on COVID-19 prevention for elderly people residing in 13 rural isolated settlements along the contact line.
  - **PAH.** The activities within the project will provide home-based assistance to the most vulnerable households with elderly people residing in Donetska and Luhanska GCAs in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The project plans to cover 9 isolated rural settlements that do not duplicate those to be covered by Caritas. The home-based assistance will include the provision of hygiene and food kits, personal protection equipment (PPE) kits and remote psychosocial support to the households with elderly people during the period of three months.
  - **HelpAge International.** This project builds on previous and current multi-sectoral humanitarian interventions implemented by HelpAge International in Ukraine, to provide direct support to conflict-affected older women and men, including those with disabilities, who are most at risk from the effects of COVID-19, through Psychosocial Support activities, Home-Based Care for the most vulnerable households with elderly, the provision of COVID-19 adapted hygiene kits and food packages, and the dissemination of age-friendly information materials on how to combat the virus. Through this intervention, HelpAge will support 17 settlements.
  - **Proliska.** The project is aimed at providing enhancement of home-based assistance in isolated settlements along the contact line due to COVID-19. The project includes comprehensive assistance to elderly people living alone, the most vulnerable elderly people, and people with disabilities in isolated settlements along the contact line in GCA of Donetska and Luhanska oblasts. As one of the project activities, 4500 food sets will be delivered to the home of
elderly people and people with disabilities living in isolated settlements along the contact line.

- Updates on referral cases related to food security. Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the FSL Cluster received an augmented number of referral cases in need of food assistance. During April, and an additional number (communicated due to referral) of beneficiaries in need of food assistance amount 2,257 people. The majority of requests are individual needs.

**Action points:**

- FSL Cluster team – to maintain the FSLC 2020 Coordination Tool updated to facilitate response and avoid duplication.
- FSL Cluster team – keep partners informed on new referral cases.

**3. FSLC COVID-19: guidance note**

FSL Cluster partners were briefed on a COVID-19 Ukraine FSL Cluster Guidance Note. This guidance note is not an exhaustive document but rather a live one for FSLC partners. It is a document aimed at addressing the immediate needs of the affected population while preserving livelihoods in the COVID-19 response in both the government-controlled area (GCA) and the NGCA.

- **Objectives.** The FSLC has identified three objectives for the COVID-19 response:
  - Objective 1. Ensure immediate access to food to the people most vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic
  - Objective 2: Improve food security of the most vulnerable populations through the provision of emergency agriculture assistance
  - Objective 3: Improve access to income-generating opportunities for vulnerable households affected by COVID-19 pandemic

- **Response.** To ensure the quality of the response amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, partners will need to consider the following:
  - Assessment – adjust assessment methodologies and instruments based on the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Targeting – partners should be aware of exclusion error when targeting of the most vulnerable in the community.
  - Precautionary measures – FSLC partners are encouraged to utilize remote online monitoring for market information gathering, normal project monitoring, and other functions that can be done remotely.

- The role of the cluster is to ensure predictable leadership and support the partners in coordinating the humanitarian response. The FSLC partners are encouraged to closely coordinate with other clusters to promote inter-cluster response to maximize the impact of the COVID-19 response.

- Monitoring. Data collection on COVID-19 related activities is being performed within the developed monitoring framework.
As per ICCG decision, the data collection to be exercised twice per month. This frequency might be changed considering further development with the COVID-19 situation.

Revision of the food basket and the value.
- Considering the recent and expected inflation rate increase, consumer price index analysis, the CBT value should be revised. It is preferable to come up with the new CBT value before the HRP process start.
- The changes in CBT value should be in line with Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPC) transfers changes that are preliminary expected to increase by 15%.
- While the revision of the food basket and the value, consider Accountability to Affected Population is taken into account.

Vulnerability criteria discussion.
- Current vulnerability criteria include: elderly, individuals and households with disabled members, households with unemployed members, female-headed households, single-headed HHs with children, people with chronic illnesses, such as HIV/AIDS, TB, diabetes, IDPs in host communities.
- Considering the specific nature of the COVID-19 emergency, it could be relevant to add to the vulnerable categories of population: households with family members directly affected with COVID-19, households with family members suspected to be infected with COVID-19.

Action points:
- FSLC partners – provide the FSLC with the updates on COVID-19 related activities in the 3W format twice per month.
- FSL Cluster team – to consolidate information provided by partners and show partners’ operational presence.
- FSL Cluster team – within the Strategic Advisory Working Group, discuss questions of revision of the food basket and the value.

4. Partners operational presence in January – March 2020
FSL Cluster partners were updated on key achievements throughout January – March 2020 based on partners 4W reporting, across the three Cluster objectives. Key points included:

- Cluster objective 1: Ensure immediate access to food. During the reporting quarter, 10,559 people were reached with food assistance in GCA (24% of the year target) and 959 people were assisted in NGCA (6% of year target). 55% of all people reached were elderly. The majority (66%) were reached with cash assistance.
- Cluster objective 2: Improve food security status through the provision of emergency and time-critical agriculture assistance. Partners reported that over 1,163 households were provided with agricultural support (that consists of 17% of the target). 81% of them were provided with cash and voucher assistance, 10% -
training on agricultural topics, including job skills, business consultation, workshops for farmers, etc, 8% - distribution of fodder, 1% - distribution of seeds and seedlings.

- Cluster objective 3: Improve access to employment and income-generating opportunities through rehabilitation/building of sustainable livelihood assets. 719 individuals received livelihood support (9% of the target) in forms of light training (35%), non-agricultural livelihoods grants (33%), rehabilitation of livelihood (18%), job creation grants (14%).

**Action points:**

- FSLC partners – keep sending operational updates on 4W reporting to the Cluster team.
- FSL Cluster team - to include all partners’ reports to activities update.
- FSL Cluster team – to start developing monthly dashboards and disseminate among partners.

**5. Updates from partners**

- **ICRC:** regular price monitoring is conducted on a bi-weekly bases.
- **FAO** conducted online trainings for farmers in the Eastern Conflict Area.
- **FAO** also has provided equipment for the laboratory of State Service on Food Safety and Consumer Protection in Donetsk and Lugansk oblasts. The equipment has been delivered under the United Nations Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme with support from the European Union. FAO delivered PCL equipment to 2 labs: in Mariupol and to Luhansk oblast. In Mariupol it is fully installed and ready for operation. They are just waiting for the first test and official permission from the side of relevant government bodies. In Luhansk oblast in was delivered partly to Novo-Aidar and partly to Lysychansk. The issue is that the premises need to be repaired. Thus, FAO is now looking for additional possibilities to support premises restoration.
- **IOM** announced a call for applicants aimed at the professional development of youth in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA. The call is part of a larger project funded by the Japanese government which aims to address the humanitarian and socio-economic needs of IDPs and conflict-affected populations along the contact line in Eastern Ukraine. In the coming weeks, IOM plans to award 100 grants in Donetsk and Luhansk regions (50 grants per each region). The grant will cover tuition fees for IT-related professional courses (online, 6 months max duration) up to 700 USD and will include the provision of IT-related assets worth of up to 1000 USD. Participants aged between 18 to 35 y.o. residing on the territory of Donetsk or Luhansk GCA, with priority given to those within a 20-km zone from the Line of Contact are encouraged to apply.
- **PAH.** Distribution of agricultural vouchers for 500 elderly people for 9 settlements close to the contact line is ongoing.
• **ACTED.** Under the ongoing project in food security assistance in cash, modality was ongoing in April in a 5 km area to the contact line.

• **ASB.** In March, the distribution of cash for food assistance was ongoing in a 5-km zone along the contact line (GCA of Luhanska and Donetska oblast) for 3 months of assistance. The project is implemented due to the support of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In February, ASB conducted PDM, which aimed at measuring the results of the 8-month cycle of distribution. According to PDM, 78% of surveyed households improved their food consumption score, whereas 95% of respondents were satisfied with cash assistance as modality. But 98% were still using some sort of negative coping strategies. Thus, there is room for further interventions.

• **TGH.** Currently, the project for home-based care and food vouchers for elderly people is being implemented. About 200 households will receive food vouchers for 825 UAH in May in 6 locations of Donetska (Starohnativka, Zaitseve), and Luhanska (Krymske, Krakovka, Shchastia, Heivka) oblasts.

• **Vostok SOS.** 200 food kits to be distributed in the Luhansk region since May.

• **Caritas Ukraine.** Intervention with food and hygiene in-kind assistance started in the Stanychn-Luhansky region in 5 settlements along the contact line. The target groups are families with children.

**Action points:**

• The next field-focused Cluster meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 2020.
# MEETING MINUTES

## PARTICIPANT LIST:

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