

Meeting Minutes

Date: 1st October 2021

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams at 11:00–13:00

Meeting Presentation: [link](#)

Agenda

1. Notes and comments on previous MoM
2. FSLC Partners achievements in August 2021
3. Early warning systems and anticipatory actions: Community of Practice forum (MSD/FAO)
4. Seasonal rainfall forecast (MSD)
5. Farmers preparation for rainfall scenarios (PA)
6. Rapid Assessment Teams – Focal Points by Districts
7. Partners' updates
8. AoB

Participants 46 registered, 58 attendees

List of organisations:

AA International, ACF, AWET, British Red Cross, CAFOD, Caritas Masvingo, Catholic Relief Services, CBM, Cesvi, Christian Blind Mission, CIAT – HarvestPlus, DCA, ECHO Nairobi, FAO, FSLC, Help from Germany, ICRISAT, ILRI, IOM, Jairos Jiri Association, MeDRA, Mercy Corps, NAZ, Oxfam, Practical Action, Save the Children, TDH Italy, Tearfund, UN OCHA, WFP

Discussion

1. Notes and comments on the previous Minutes of Meeting

No feedback on the previous minutes of the meeting held on 6th August 2021. Minutes approved without any further changes.

2. FSLC Partners achievements in August 2021

FSL Cluster partners reported having reached 373,000 people with either in-kind food distribution, cash, or vouchers modality in both rural and urban areas. Among them, 359,808 received cash-based support in urban areas, 4,700 cash-based support in rural areas while the remaining 8,400 beneficiaries received in-kind food assistance.

Support to address vulnerable populations continues with a major focus on urban resilience programming, primarily through cash assistance, which represents 98% of the delivered

assistance. Food in-kind in August has been delivered to some 8,388 people only, a very low number as expected at this time of the year. Likewise, the number of active partners is also quite limited, five overall, whereas WFP covers 86% of the overall reached people.

Agriculture and livelihood assistance reported a total of 100,321 beneficiaries in August. This includes 31,000 people benefiting from the provision of small livestock, 19,000 individuals benefited from rehabilitation/construction of critical assets for animal survival and agriculture through cash for work/food for work (or assets) activities. 10,700 beneficiaries received assistance in the rehabilitation of critical assets for animal survival and agriculture (dip tanks and animal drinking troughs) through other modalities (e.g., contracting a company).

Additionally, 10,500 extension officers and farmers received training, extension, and advisory services focusing on good agriculture practices with an emphasis on climate-smart agriculture with an additional 21,900 receiving training on and inputs for agro-ecology interventions such as soil conservation practices, soil reclamation techniques, and restoration of degraded landscapes. Number of partners reporting in agriculture and livelihoods has now increased to 13 as farmers start preparing for the next planting season.

Questions/answers

Can we have a brief on what the government current response strategy is and if it is already being implemented?

- From the FSLC, we have been collecting plans for lean season assistance from partners and are currently under review. All partners who would like to be part of the process and who did not submit their plans are encouraged to reach out to the cluster as soon as possible if they want to be part of the process. This process complements FNC process whose official documentation is yet to be received.
- For the FNC-led livelihood response strategy, sectoral plans have been drafted and FNC is in the process of collating the plans into one multi-sectoral plans. No formal document is out yet for sharing.
- Government planning presidential input schemes and planning to target 2.3 million HHs in the communal areas A1 and resettlement areas for the input (package of cereal, oil seeds and legumes).
- The command agriculture input substitution will continue implemented through CBZ bank targeting 390,000 ha of maize and 40,00 ha of soya beans
- Plan for presidential for rural horticultural transformation plans involving distribution of fruit-trees 10 different fruit trees per HH, different trees according to agroecological regions. No numbers are available at the moment.

- In Nutrition gardens, the government is going to target 35,000 gardens with each garden having approximately 50 HHs

Q: Building up on the last statement, it seems quite an ambitious plan. What is the experience of the presidential scheme, what is usually the gap/level of achievement especially those who do this on a yearly basis?

A: No response from the attendants.

- 3. Early warning systems and anticipatory actions: Community of Practice forum (MSD/FAO)**
Presentation did not take place due to connection problem from the presenter side.

- 4. Seasonal rainfall forecast (MSD)**

Presentation did not take place due to connection problem from the presenter side.

- 5. Farmers preparation for rainfall scenarios (PA)**

Preparing for the next Cropping Season – Using a Systemic Lens to our Planning: Presentation by Practical Action on how we can best prepare for the next cropping season. At the moment the meteorology department have a projection of average to above-average rainfall. In terms of recent changes with climate, the scenario we expect is that even within some areas projected to receive average rainfall, we might expect extremes of rain and therefore have to be innovative on how we work with the farmers.

Presentation available at the following link: [PA presentation](#)

Questions:

CBM: Concerning infiltration walls, how safe are they for animals and children? How do you make them safe?

A: For the large ones, there is a roof put on them so that they are not exposed. For the gardens, they are all fenced off so that animals do not get in.

The levels are also not easily accessible by children, so they don't easily get there.

CBM: For the conservation farming, how have farmers adapted to doing the conservation works? How are farmers adapting it?

A: Farmers in the areas are very keen and have adopted very well. In areas like Matobo and Gwanda, the farmers we have been working have adopted them very well both in the farm and at the household level. The only issue is appropriate technology to make the work lighter and invite the youth as well.

OXFAM: You indicated that for some farmers, they see it as a lot of work and any innovation would be great, we have struggled with farmers to commercialize some of these appropriate technologies. What are your experiences in working with farmers to commercialize these innovations?

A: In one of the gardens, we were able to regenerate a wetland and protect it because of allowing more water to infiltrate. It is still work in progress as we keep on exploring further intake of the innovation and this is going to be a work in progress.

PA also work to demonstrate and inspire and with every activity we do is regarded as a demonstration plot targeted to a wider community and also attract other interested partners to participate. It is inspiring in that if it can be done successfully at such a smaller scale, then it is definitely possible to take it to scale based on the technology being used.

6. Rapid Assessment Teams – Focal Points by Districts

The forecast for the coming rainy season is confirmed to be average or above-average. The big issue seems to be excessive rainfall due to extended rain. If that is the case, flooding would be expected. At the Inter-cluster level, OCHA is working on a contingency plan following these extreme scenarios for flooding. Each cluster has been tasked to put together a contingency plan around preparedness and relevant response activities. Here below is the FSLC component:

Priority Preparedness Activities	Priority Response Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess partners capacity to rapidly assess needs and response to immediate needs of affected people with regard to food availability and accessibility. Updating the list of cluster members presence in the potentially affected areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen coordination through collection and sharing of required information of people in need
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify who is representing the cluster in the initial rapid assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that available food security resources are timely and properly mobilized to reach most vulnerable people affected by the shock, with consideration of diverse needs due to age, gender, and disability.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping food stock available for emergency delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address basic food security needs in a timely and qualitative manner, including protection of livelihoods

FSLC is going to send some request on the way forward to partners to kindly provide availability to the focal point list. Key point is to enhance response coordination in times of response.

7. Updates from Partners

- Food festival on the 2nd of October at the Botanical Gardens until 15:30 and would be a great event to visit

- Invitation shared by Practical Action on Pillar – 8 meeting for the 8th of October. Please reach out to Maria Goss for further information.

8. AOB

Nothing reported

END