Meeting Minutes

Location: Online, Microsoft Teams at 12:00PM
Date: 03/04/2020

Agenda

• WHO/Health Cluster: Covid19 contingency and response plan introduction
• FAO: Update on agricultural situation and First Round Crop and Livestock Assessment report
• Practical Action: Introduction of added FSL indicators and activities to Specific Objectives 2
• FSL Cluster: HRP update
• FSL Cluster partners: update on Covid19 activities under lockdown
• AOB

Participants

UNICEF, FAO, Save the Children, Care International, CRS, Christian Aid, CAFOD, gFSC, AMALIMA, British red Cross, Practical Action, Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Mercy Corps, Nutrition Action Zimbabwe (NAZ), CBM, LEAD AGENCY, Trócaire, USAID, UNDP, Zimbabwe Red Cross, DFID

Discussion


Due to technical challenge, we did not have WHO colleagues on the line to make presentation on the Referral System. Therefore, the WHO Head of Covid19 Response sent the following information regarding screening on distribution points:

• The referral pathway is very well defined as follows: Rural health center (RHC) to district hospital to provincial hospital then central hospital;
• For every food distribution point, you will have, there will be at least two levels to which a patient, irrespective of their diagnosis, can be sent. These are the RHC or the district hospital;
• The belief is that food distribution partners and teams on the ground are familiar with this referral architecture. The advice would be that they should alert not just the district administration authorities of their programmes in the district but also the health authorities as well;
• Routine screening of every person at a food distribution point for Covid-19 is not recommended. In any case what would this entail? Just checking for fever. Any person who is unwell at a food distribution point should be appropriately referred to the RHC or district hospital, whichever is nearer or logistically easier;
• Please ensure adequate social distancing at the food distribution points. In the queues and at the point where they collect the food. If you have tables or desks where clerical work is done, please ensure as much social distancing as possible;
• If there are any health partners on the ground that FSL Cluster partners works or has worked with and wishes to engage in this exercise, then the said partners are advised to call on the district medical officer at the district first and outline their activities.

2. FAO: Update on agricultural situation and First Round Crop and Livestock Assessment report

Report already shared and is available at the following link

• According to the 2020 First Round Crop and Livestock Assessment, area planted to maize decreased by 5% from 1 623 757 Ha to 1 549 324 Ha compared to the previous season
• Overall crop condition is ‘fair to poor’; early planted crop was affected by moisture stress, and hence poor establishment.
• Late planted crop is fair to good, but yields are expected to be lower due to falling weather conditions.
• Area planted to traditional grains has increased considerably due to push from the Government and FSL Cluster partners.
• Data collection for the second Round Crop and Livestock Assessment is going ahead as planned. The verification exercise has been postponed to 19-29 April due to the lockdown. The Results of this assessment will provide estimates on the harvest and production levels.
• The Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, and Rural Resettlement issued Press Statement on the 30th of March 2020 on Essential Agriculture Services during the National Lockdown.

Q: How can FSL Cluster partners reinforce small grains production and general acceptance by the population?
A: The government has started promoting small grains and they are part of government plans. Some partners are already working through farmers participatory program for transitional and indigenous crops to improve yield and resilience. There is need to find solutions to problems that farmers are raising especially pests and birds.

3. Practical Action: Introduction of added FSL indicators and activities to Specific Objectives 2

• Currently there is a global outcry for agriculture practitioners to not only practice economically viable agriculture, but also to ensure that the practices being adopted are environmentally sustainable.
• This becomes even more critical in response to the frequent extreme weather events due to climate change impacts. To ensure that farmers vulnerability to impacts of climate change is reduced, and to enhance their absorptive capacities, there is need
to integrate natural resource management and productive utilisation of renewable energy into current and future agricultural activities.

- There is also a need to ensure that soil and water conservation management and technologies are enhanced so that we ensure that soil health is maintained and that the underground water sources are replenished, whilst implementing water use efficient approaches in our irrigated areas.

- Lastly, most donors are pushing for approaches which ensure agricultural practices to ensure both environmental and economic sustainability, thus many agriculture development partners are already implementing such approaches. Such resilient and regenerative approaches are aligned to agroecology.

4. FSL Cluster: HRP Updates

Zimbabwe HRP 2020 was launched on the 2nd of April and is now available at the following link:


5. FSL Cluster partners: update on Covid19 activities under lockdown

- Save the Children
  - SC keeps mobile money transfer ongoing. Vouchers implementation in Mbire which is ongoing, working with traders with gains to meet beneficiaries at a point to redeem the vouchers.
  - SC also does post distribution monitoring which will be done remotely due to covid-19.

- CBM
  - Currently conducting market analysis to monitor whether market’s access and availability.

- CARE:
  - Have resumed activities for in-kind distribution as WFP’s implementing partner.

- Red Cross: Resuming on the 6th of April.

- ZCC:
  - Food IK distribution resumed in Gutu.
  - Starting a new program in April in Marondera: distributing protection ration for pregnant and lactating women. ZCC is also doing in kind food distribution

- NAZ & ACF
  - Launching a cash distribution~ 2600HH (5 per household) in Chiredzi and Mutare urban
  - Currently working on adapting the program due to Covid-19
- GOAL
  o IK food distribution ongoing in Mutare and Chipinge.
  o Awareness Covid-19 programme through a mobile team ongoing
  o Trouble shooting on the phone where people have issues redeeming money

- CSR
  o Food for asset (vouchers starting in coming weeks)
  o All other programs have resumed and keen to learn on what’s going on in cash working group

6. AOB:

Covid19 sensitization Flyers developed by CNFA have been shared with WFP’s field offices
Recto verso copies printed in Shona and Ndebele.