Meeting Minutes

Date: 6th August 2021
Location: Online via Microsoft Teams at 11:00–13:00
Meeting Presentation: link

Agenda

1. Notes and comments on previous MoM
2. HRP 2021-2022 / next year planning update
3. FSL Coordination Structure: reflections on what and how – results from the survey,
4. FSLC coordination team for the next month: reference staff in lieu of the Cluster Coordinator.
5. Updates from Partners
6. AoB

Participants (55 attendees)

List of organisations:


Discussion

1. Notes and comments on the previous Minutes of Meeting
   No feedback on the previous minutes of the meeting held on 16th July 2021. Minutes approved without any further changes.

2. HRP 2021-2022 / next year planning update
   The current 2021 Zimbabwe HRP shows a funding gap of 86.6%. The ask (budget) is $507m while only $67.9m has been covered. The total ask of the 2021 HRP is coming from the compounded amounts of all the projects that were endorsed under the HRP process. This needs to be clarified in case there are project that are covering issues in the HRP but are not on the list of the HRP projects, and therefore will not be included in the HRP accounting process.
   The 2021 FSLC HRP for 2021 shows a funding gap of 82.4%. The total ask is $353m while only $2.3m has been received. The funding coming through WFP is clear while the other funding sources are still being verified. HRP funding is limited across all clusters in Zimbabwe and not
just for the FSLC. The target may still not be reached in the new cycle as the same household will likely be included.

2022 HRP Planning update
2022 cycle is still under discussion. The current HRP runs until 2021 and it is still not clear whether there will be another one. The Government of Zimbabwe (GoZ) has initiated a process led by Food & Nutrition Council (FNC) for updating the needs and defining the response framework for the next 12 months. The process is for the next 12 months and is supported by UN agencies. It is not yet clear how NGO will contribute to this process. It is also not clear how any complementary analysis or HRP will be developed. There seems to be no appetite for a classic humanitarian program for the year to come. If it were a priority, it should already have started in August. There is also not going to be any IPC following the rural and urban ZimVAC.

HCT meeting discussions focussed on the lean season after action review and not much clarity on how the next HRP process will unfold. There is still also a question about how it will happen, who would be involved or what the timelines are. The FNC-led response plan includes sector by sector strategies. However, the analytical methodology and the triangulation is not yet clear. If any updates on this come up in the month of August, a follow up will be made and shared with the cluster – especially on how NGOs will be involved in the process.

3. FSL Coordination Structure: reflections on what and how – results from the survey
The Cluster Lead Agencies FAO and WFP have proposed a revision the FSCL coordination structure to be more reflective of the Zimbabwe context. The main issues are to do with the need to link humanitarian and resilience/developmental issues, instead of being focussed purely on humanitarian. The structure needs to be more comprehensive with the right governance while linking up well with other structures/platforms that already exist. A small taskforce has been constituted that includes NGOs and a quick survey has been deployed.

41 respondents participated in the survey, representing 28 organisations (INGOs, NNGOs & UN). The respondents had an average experience in Zimbabwe of 12 years. The outcomes of the survey were as follows:

Question - What are the other existing coordination platforms?
The responses to this survey question revealed other existing structures/platforms at district, national, inter-organisational, some being familiar and others more already known and active. Examples that were given are Cash Working group; Nutrition Cluster, Agriculture Development Coordination Group; Livestock Working Group; Livelihood Support Coordination; NGO Heads of Agency Working Group; Ward, District and Provincial Drought Relief Committees; FNC, Food Assistance Coordination; Market Linkage Association; NAPF Pillar 1 Thematic Working Group – Food Security and Livelihoods Working Group; CIMMYT, FAO, CTDO, ILRI, CIAT, CRF, Plan International, CALP, FEWSNET, Project/Program Coordination Structures, ZIMVAC, IPC, Crops and Livestock Assessments; NGO forum; Informa Trader Network; Zimbabwe Command Agriculture – Pfumudza; ZAPPA; AFSA; ZRBF; SETSAN; DDRRDRMFSS: NFBA, Resilience Building Platform; HCT, OCHA; Drought Relief; Social Protection Working Group.
This list represents actual platforms, funds, organisations and working groups and so a clear understanding of the function of each listed here will help shape the way forward. A bit of clarification was provided for some of those listed:

- ZAPPA – Zimbabwe Agroecology Partners and Promoters Alliance is a technical group of agencies in agroecology
- ZRBF is the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Funds. It is not a platform but a fund being managed by UNDP.
- CASH working group is functional and had its last meeting in the previous week

**Question: Is a new coordination structure needed?**
Most respondents said ‘No’.

**Question: Is there need for better collaboration and coordination between government and non-government partners?**
100% of the respondents said ‘Yes’

**Question: According to your knowledge and understanding, is there a platform for coordination of resilience work?**
One third said ‘Yes’, another third said ‘No’ and the final third said ‘Yes, but not functional’.

**Next steps:**
FSLC Coordinator and IMO positions are funded until the end of the year. In the meantime, the task group has also decided to ask OCHA to provide examples from other countries of how different sectoral groups have come together. There is also need to explore options with government and key partners. There is need to understand what is needed in addition to humanitarian. Once the new tasks, membership and key asks are defined, they will inform the next steps.

4. **FSLC coordination team for the next month**
The Cluster Coordinator will be off duty until mid-September. All communications should be channelled to the co-chair, Maria Goss (maria.goss@practicalaction.org.zw), and the IMO, Gabriel Oduori (gabriel.oduori@fao.org). They will be able to directly address all queries, or to forward the requests to other relevant colleagues from the FSLC Lead Agencies.

5. **Updates from Partners**
Nothing reported

6. **AOB**
Nothing reported
END