Meeting Minutes

Location: Online, Microsoft Teams at 10:00PM
Date: 09/04/2020

Agenda

- WFP M&E: Remote monitoring and assessment capacities for Covid-19 response
- FSL Cluster partners: updates from the field
- AOB

Participants

COSVI, Tearfund, CRS, DFID, Trocaire, WFP, Finish and British RC, JJA, ACF, GOAL, LEAD, RCO, OXFAM, Christian Aid

Discussion

1. WFP M&E: Remote monitoring and assessment capacities for Covid-19 response

   Remote monitoring in the context of covid-19 pandemic

   Many countries have put on place movements restrictions to curb the virus. It is still vital to collect information to answer key questions on impact of food programs. It is therefore essential to have continued data collection to monitor indicators and effects of reduced movement as this provides information on where expansion or scale-up is required

   Distribution monitoring

   Activities have continued through a physical presence who are present in the field to monitor. To protect the personnel, all Covid-19 protection measures were implemented.

   For post distribution monitoring, the pandemic has had impacts to on methods being used to conduct monitoring of outcome indicators.

   To do the remote monitoring using mobile devices is strongly advised. However, the amount of data collected remotely is slightly compromised compared to face to face surveys.
The less complicate indicators are recommended to design interviews for less than 15 mins. Live calls are used as they allow for probing following script questionnaire and the response are recorded using android device.

**Indicators collected**

Any crisis exacerbates inequalities and place vulnerable groups in risks. Therefore, the following 3 outcome indicators focusing on the most vulnerable groups are recommended to collect:

1) The level of stress faced by households as measured by the coping strategies index.
2) The minimum diet diversity indicator for women of reproductive age (MDD-W) measures the proportion of women 15–49 years of age who consumed food items from at least five out of ten defined food groups in the previous 24 hours to predict the likelihood of micronutrient adequacy for groups of women of reproductive age.
3) The minimum acceptable diet (MAD) indicator which is part of the compendium of indicators developed by UNICEF and WHO to measure infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices.

Christian Aid has a tollfree that used to be used for cyclone Idai response, monitored by the MEAL department. Available to share more information if anyone is interested.

**Action points**

CC to link WFP M&E with JJS and CRS

2. FSL Cluster partners: updates from the field

**NGO who have resumed activities**

- **OXFAM**
  - Currently responding in Bulilima and Mangwe in partnership with WFP.
  - Oxfam has been conducting food distribution mop ups. Social distancing is being practiced and communities are complying with the regulations.
  - Handwashing stations installed at each distribution point.
  - PPE and WASH supply procurements are being guided by the PPE calculator shared by WFP.
  - Mobilizations are being done remotely and communities are coming to distributions at intervals per village to decongest the food distribution sites where a maximum number per site to 50 is being maintained.
  - The ministry of Health is supporting the food distributions. Oxfam have received funding to respond to drought in Bulilima and Chirumanzu from DRA and still working on the inception processes.

- **GOAL**
  - Currently has ongoing food and cash distributions in Chipinge, Mutare and Marondera districts. In Mutare and Chipinge there is in-kind assistance and operations are ongoing using the agreed COVID 19 lockdown SOPs. In these operations GOAL has an added advantage that there is an ongoing awareness raising campaign on COVID 19 funded through the UNICEF and other partners that has been mainstreamed into the current programming. Furthermore, GOAL has plugged into the individual district COVID 19 response teams. These response teams have representatives who participate in all GOAL activities to ensure
adherence to social distancing, the health personnel to respond to emergencies and the security services to ensure compliance and provide security oversight on all procedures.

- In Marondera, GOAL is implementing a cash transfer program and most of the work/monitoring is being done remotely. Through stakeholders and various committees (Protection and Community Response Mechanisms) that were established on the ground the team still can maintain contact with beneficiaries and provide technical support and referrals on such issues as GBV related cases to Social Welfare and Ecocash related issues to local Econet partners. Also, of interest is the markets monitoring GOAL has been conducting remotely and are noting the following:

  - **Formal market**
    - Big supermarkets remain operational across the operational areas. For most of these, their hours of trade are between 9am and 3pm.
    - Special measures to mitigate against the spread of COVID 19 such as limiting the number of customers in the shop per time and applying hand sanitiser on customers hands as they enter the shop are in place in most shops.
    - Basic commodity availability has decreased.
    - A wave of price increases across shops, particularly with basic commodities has been noted. This has been attributed largely to high demand not supported by supply. Introduction of the USD into the basket of currencies
    - Traders are still accepting Ecocash, Swipe and cash.

  - **Informal markets**
    - Tuck-shops and informal markets (including areas for maize grain, small grains and dried vegetables) remain closed.
    - Fresh fruit and vegetable markets remain closed. Vendors are setting up their stalls in their homes and selling to neighbours.
    - Majority of informal traders are not accepting Ecocash.
    - Closure of markets has contributed to an increase in prices with those having an opportunity to sell taking advantage of commodities shortages.
    - Unfortunately, GOAL have not yet refined a remote/online mechanism to have meetings with its traders as a group to discuss their input in the project. This remains work in progress.

Q: Traders not accepting Ecocash?
A: Formal traders are still taking Ecocash. Problem is with the tuck-shop. There used to be meeting before covid-19 but now GOAL still working on modalities to find out how bets to engage everyone. Looking for a platform to engage all the traders?

3. **AOB:**
   National health workers Per diem is being payed to health workers as risk allowances