Meeting Minutes

Location: Microsoft Teams at 11:00AM
Date: 10/07/2020

Agenda

- OXFAM: Cash for Work in the context of COVID-19
- FSL Cluster: GHRP Update
- FSL Cluster partners: Updates from the field
- AOB

Participants

OXFAM, WVI, World Bank, Trócaire, WFP, FAO, ACF, CAFOD, CARE Zimbabwe, JJA, ZCC, Practical Action, DFID, CBM, LEAD, Plan International

Discussion

   - The project responds to the food crisis in Chirumanzu and Bulilima, running from March to November 2020, targeting 500 households.
   - Funded by the Dutch Relief Alliance and worked through AQZ in Chirumanzu and directly in Bulilima.

(See attached full presentation)

Q: What was the beneficiaries selection criteria?
A: Considered food insecure people as well as individuals not labour constrained which was 95%. There was also a 5% which catered for the elderly who could also work. Also considered those with proxies to work on a site e.g. a granddaughter willing to work at a vulnerable grandmother’s place

Q: How are you monitoring these activities, are you also doing remote monitoring or in person?
A: Have a mixture. Physical visits by engineer to visit workers on the sites. But we also get reports from partners and workers on the ground. Internally, OXFAM has SOPs on guidelines on how to operate remotely in covid-19 context.
Q: How was it for you to negotiate activity with the local authorities? Was it considered a life-saving activity?
A: Did asset choice through community participation. Community already had a list of assets to be fixed so rode on that already existing platform and so there was no issue with the authorities.

Q: Modality selection, the initial modality was cash for work and later changed to food for work while at implementation, how was the uptake? Beneficiaries prefer cash, how was this taken?
A: In Bullima, the only modality of cash was going to be electronic due to unavailability of cash. Most people price their good in rand so having cash would not have worked. The only complication was in sourcing maize meal for beneficiaries and had to agree on giving out rice as this is what people are used to.

Q: Was there a strategy to person with disability?  
A: When targeting tried to make the 5% s marginalised people in the population, there was no strategy to target disabled people.

2. FSL Cluster: GHRP Update

Covid-19 response amendments is supposed to be the last in the context of Zimbabwe. The major change will be around the returnees and Quarantine Centres. Both Global HRP as well as the Zimbabwe HRP Covid19 Addendum will be published on the 17th of July.

Action points
None

3. FSL Desert Locust

Migratory locus reported in Chiredzi and around the national parks and communal areas and did not destroy any vegetation. The community awareness also raised and report. Main worry is that the breeding time is the beginning of rainy season and it is better to react before the swarms are formed. Swarms can travel several kilometres per day and might into other province into Manicaland province.

Protection measures
What is important is to control the population when swarms are forming by either spraying or digging trenches so that the hopper bands fall into the trenches as they cannot fly. The only issue with the trenches is knowing where to put them. At the same time, populations living in these areas needs to be trained to put an early warning system so that measures can be taken.

Q: The World Bank has been monitoring the locust situation closely and we got teams working at the horn of Africa, and looking at what has been reported, seems like it is still not clear where the locust are?
A: (ACF)There is currently a lack of information about African Migratory Locust (AML) populations and their current behavioural stage (solitaries / transiens / gregarious groups). There are currently no immediate risks as the harvest was recent and there are little crops in the fields (mostly cotton and wheat). However, the breeding season of AML is the early rainy season. If current populations pullulate and form swarms, they could ravage crops across
Masvingo and Manicaland (everyday, a single AML swarm can destroy crops needed to feed 35,000 persons and can move over several hundreds of kilometres) in the coming months. Action thus needs to be taken now, before the breeding season, to better assess the risks, vulnerable areas, and adequate control measures to be taken. It is almost impossible to control swarms once they have formed. ACF is active in the area through several projects and offers its support to FAO and Ministry of Agriculture. However, additional funding is required to put in place control measures.

Q: Nationally, is there a monitoring system for the locust? Have we established how to track the threshold to say no we got a situation?
A: No precise information about this and will ask FAO to make a presentation at the next meeting.
A: There is no clarity in terms of where the locust is. FAO is preparing situation report. Looking back, there were outbreaks, we might be looking at a 10-year return locust outbreak which will require a quick intervention.

Action points
None

4. FSL Cluster partners: Updates from the field

- ACF
  - Cancelled contact with Ecocash and will switch to remittance company

- OXFAM
  - Start Mangwe LSA with WFP looking to supporting from July to September

- CARE
  - Have done data collection at some Quarantine Centres in Matabeleland south and North.
  - Polishing up data collection from the QC
  - Care will make a presentation once the process is complete.

- WFP
  - Expecting to have a discussion early next week to about reporting of migratory locust in Chirezdi
  - Lean Season Assistance (LSA): a total of 751,376 people are targeted for the July cycle distribution
  - Urban cash disbursements for the month of June were completed within the month, reaching its 100,000 person target. The June disbursement was the last to occur via Ecocash; as going forward, WFP will be scaling up the urban programme using e-vouchers, SCOPE cards and remittance-based modalities.
  - Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) activities rolled out this month across 13 of Zimbabwe’s most vulnerable districts. The 2020 season is set to run from June to December and will target 87,405 people.

- World Bank:
  - Through the national agricultural policy pillar 8, WB had a meeting on the locust situation where govt was tasked on writing concept note on requirements. Development partners were tasked to show what areas they can support.
The document will be shared by Wednesday next week and pillar 8 meeting with be held to discuss the way forward.

- **FAO**
  - From earlier siting’s of the African Migratory Locust (AML) – in June:
    - FAO has received a request for support from the Government of Zimbabwe and is preparing a regional response, since this is a regional and not country specific issue.
    - FAO also requests that queries on locust and other pest infestation are passed through FAO as these are sensitive and technical and required a measured response. There is a need to avoid false and exaggerated reporting.

- **WVI**
  - No distributions were conducted last week. Mop-Up distributions were completed in Buhera. There has been collection of outstanding SCOPE cards in Kariba and mop up exercises in Bulawayo. All districts (Mudzi, Nkayi, Hwange, Buhera, Kariba) have planned for 2020/21 LSA Inception Workshops between 7th and 9th July.

**AOB:**

ZimVac started – teams went to the field on the 9th of July. WFP will givea presentation at the next FSL Cluster meeting.