Food Security and Livelihood Cluster Zimbabwe

Meeting Minutes

Date: 17th December 2021
Location: Online via Microsoft Teams at 11:00–13:00
Meeting Presentation: link
Meeting Video Presentation: link

Agenda

1. Notes and comments on previous MoM
2. FSLC Partners achievements in November 2021
3. Lean Season Response: quick update from the Government
4. Focus theme: Gender in FS Programming
5. Food Security and Livelihood coordination future functions and structures (FAO-WFP)
6. Partners’ Corner
7. AoB

Participants 30 registered, 21 organisations represented

List of organisations:

Discussion

1. Notes and comments on the previous Minutes of Meeting

Feedback on the previous minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2021. Minutes approved by amending details for one of the members on the resilience committee as follows:
2. **FSLC Partners achievements in November 2021**

During the month of November 2021, FSL Cluster partners reported having reached 829,500 people with either in-kind food distribution, cash, or vouchers modality in both rural and urban areas. Among them, 331,939 received cash-based support in urban areas, 26,379 in rural areas while the remaining 471,115 beneficiaries received in-kind food assistance in communities and at the camps.

The month of November marks a slight uptrend in food assistance (cash and in-kind), as expected due to organisations' lean assistance programmes being progressively implemented. Food in-kind is the largest share being 57% of the overall assistance. This month approximately 70% of the overall food security target for the lean season has been reached through six partners, with WFP contributing for 89% of the total.

Agriculture and livelihood assistance reported a total of 295,000 beneficiaries in November. This includes 220,792 people benefiting from the provision of crop and small livestock inputs, 55,911 extension officers and farmers received training, extension, and advisory services focusing on good agriculture practices with an emphasis on climate-smart agriculture, on and inputs for agro-ecology interventions such as soil conservation practices, soil reclamation techniques, and restoration of degraded landscapes.

Lastly 17,965, 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). Overall support to small holder farmers continues to increase in November, especially on crop and animal provision.

November Response Dashboard:

Dynamic dashboard [link](#).

Questions/Response:

WFP: Will this dashboard will be maintained/updated by the FSL cluster into 2022?
Response: The functions and the tasks will slightly change in 2022. The tools will be there to make the dashboard working. However, since the food security sector is going to change somewhat in the functions and the tasks, the reporting requirements will have to be defined afresh, especially
remembering that we do not have an HRP in 2022. The dashboard will remain, but the reporting requirements will not be the same as they currently are.

3. **Quick update from the Government: Lean Season Response**

- Food security in Zimbabwe for the 2021/22 consumption year is much better compared to last year.
- During the peak hunger period, between January and March 2021, 27% of the rural population (approximately 2.9 million people) will need emergency food assistance. This has decreased from 57% from last season.
- The worst affected provinces with the highest food insecurity levels are Matabeleland North (43%), Masvingo (36%) and Matabeleland South (35%).
- In view of the above, the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe and WFP have agreed to enter into a joint food assistance programme.

Government Lean Season Response update [presentation](#)

4. **Focus theme: Gender in FS Programming**

When the gender focus theme was introduced, there were a few programmatic areas that needed to be discussed in detail. The committee facilitating the discussion on gender has elaborated a few questions with the scope of triggering further elaboration among all FSLC Partners:

- How can approaches to end hunger transform the mindset and behaviour of women and men alike to reduce gender inequalities. What do we know about differences between men and women in this regard?
- Women play a critical role in agriculture, yet most of them are unpaid and don’t own land. How can we change this? What do we know about it?
- While women and girls are empowered in FSLC projects, communities and families might continue to be characterised by gender inequality. How can this be changed?

To respond to these programmatic areas, a Jamboard was prepared, and partners present at the meeting were asked to contribute with their thoughts. Results of the discussions are available at the link below.

Gender in [FSLC Jamboard](#)

5. **Food Security and Livelihood coordination future functions and structures (FAO-WFP)**

Summary of the Food Security Sector (FSS) in 2022:

- Expanding the scope into humanitarian-development nexus
- The start will be data collection of all FS-related projects

Food Security and Livelihood Cluster Zimbabwe

WFP/FAO Harare

[https://fscluster.org/zimbabwe](https://fscluster.org/zimbabwe) | info.zimbabwe@FSCluster.org
- Technical engagement with national authorities at working groups or thematic level
- Refreshing NGOs co-chairing functions and representation
- Capacity to fully address emergencies leveraging on the existing mechanism
- Continue being accountable to the HCT and being active in the inter-sectoral mechanism (current ICCG)
- Enhancing Partners involvement although WFP-FAO will continue supporting staff entering into 2022.

WFP: Will continue supporting the coordination role and has already identified inside capacity on an interim basis role of the cluster coordinator. Mr Farai MUKWENDE will be the interim cluster coordinator. WFP will formulate a new Terms of Reference for a group facilitator/ coordinator and may go out to look for that expertise within Zimbabwe for national capacity.

FAO: Humanitarian – resilience nexus approach which will continue supporting the work currently being done and open other opportunities in developmental. During the transition, FAO will continue providing support in the interim and are self-organizing to strengthen the resilience team within FAO which will also provide support to the cluster on information and data management.

Some of the areas where cluster partners thoughts were shared are as follows:
- What I would like to receive from the cluster (top 2 in your list)
- What expertise/resources can my organisation put at disposal

Details of these discussions are available on the following Jamboard link: Jamboard

6. Updates from Partners
Nothing reported

7. AOB
Nothing reported
END