

Meeting Minutes

Date: 21.5.2021

Location: Microsoft Teams at 11:00-13:00

Meeting Recording: [link](#)

Agenda

1. Notes and comments on previous MoM
2. FSLC Partners achievements in March and April 2021, including 2021-Q1 government's food assistance figures
3. Best Practices series: Resilient sustainable agriculture and livelihoods/4 (Linda Kabaira - Schools and Colleges Permaculture Education (SCOPE))
4. Anticipatory Action approach [FAO]
5. Open contributions from Partners about any significant programmes' modifications due to COVID-19
6. Updates from Partners
7. AoB

Participants

ActionAid, ACF, ActionAid Zimbabwe, ADRA Zimbabwe, CAFOD, CARE Zimbabwe, Caritas Zimbabwe, Christian Aid, Christian Blind Mission, CNFA-Amalima Loko, DCA, FAO, FCDO, FSLC, ICRISAT, Jairos Jiri Association, LEAD, Mercy Corps, NAZ, Oxfam, Plan International, SCOPE Zimbabwe, SOS Children's Villages Zimbabwe, Tearfund/CFGB, UN OCHA, UNDP, Welthungerhilfe, WFP, World Bank, World Vision, Zimbabwe Council of Churches, ZRBF - Sizimele (DCA), ZRBF-UNDP

Discussion

1. Notes and comments on the previous MoM

No feedback on the previous minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2021. Minutes approved without any further comments and amendments.

2. FSLC Partners achievements in March and April 2021, including 2021-Q1 government's food assistance figures

Presentation of total figures of people reached in March and April 2021 as well as number of beneficiaries from the government in the first 1/3 of 2021.

We are currently not presenting data at a granular level due to the process of data clearing by some partners.

From the government side, the figures are a show of what the government's assistance is delivering, being the government the main actor in this regard. For an analytical point of view, this is important and will provide additional data to the context for the coming ZimVAC rural assessment analysis. Following the ZimVAC assessment, IPC might also take place after this, and this will provide a more comprehensive overview of the situation, especially for planning purposed. These datasets contribute to a deeper understanding of the context especially after the lean season.

Table1: Achievements for March, April 2021.

Month	Food Assistance		Agriculture and livelihoods
March	Food assistance	1,306,125	
	Cash in urban areas	309,022	
	Total	1,668,281	67,427
April	Food assistance	1,599,097	
	Cash in urban areas	355,851	
	Total	1,954,000	25,574

Q: Would like to know what stage we are with the ongoing ZimVAC.

A: ZimVAC is currently at data collection stage around the country with data collection reported to have been completed on Tuesday (reported by ZRBF who are part of the process). The team will be converging in Bulawayo and report writing is expected to start on Monday the following week. Initial data is expected to be available early June. Also important is that only organisations participating in ZimVAC will be part of IPC, if any IPC will take place. ZCC is also currently participating in ZimVAC in various districts where they have been involved in data collection.

Q: What are the timelines?

A: Timeline is available in the table below as provided by meeting participants and as presented by the FNC at the HCT

Activiy Schedule.

Period	Activity
April 2021	Completion of instrument development
23 rd – 24 th April 2021	Training of supervisors
2 nd – 5 th May	Instrument loading into iPad
5 th – 17 th May	Data collection (senior managers are encouraged to observer and monitor the process)
18 th – 22 nd May	Data Cleaning

23 rd May – 2 nd June	Report writing (all technical report writers to be staying at one central location as part of covid-19 mitigation measures)
1 st June	Report validation (participation of multiple stakeholders to enhance policy recommendation)

Q: What is FAO's role or involvement in ZimVAC?

A: FAO has provided funding in some aspects of the assessments and is also participated in the technical workshop in the design of the tools. FAO will also participate in the analysis process moving forward.

Q: Going back to the slides of the monthly achievements and trying to understand what is being presented, are you trying to analyse the response based on needs and try to identify where gaps are? This could offer an indication that if the gap is large or why the response is so low, and if the needs analysis was correct.

A: As food security cluster our job is to present information we receive from partners. The figures show all the report we have received from partners and we are confident that all major actors are reporting. When it comes to analysis and without drawing any conclusion the assumption was that the 5.5 million people were to be supported by the government while the rest under WFP forecasted assistance and the target indicated in the HRP. The data presented clearly indicate that the assumptions made in Oct-2020 within the IPC were not matched: very few of the 3.7m target people have been reached.

Comments: HRP is the driving engine. We have condensed analysis of HRP and non-HRP needs. Concerning the figures presented, what message are we trying to convey? Is it about the gap, people reached etc? There is need for more analysis and on top of reporting achievements. Also gap reporting would be useful side by side with the achievements. we also report gaps side by side. Further discussions need to be included at the HCT and other inter-cluster meetings and mid-term review of the response. Gaps should also be presented in the maps moving forward. A further analysis is also required to make the data and information more useful.

Q: Concerning the achievements, it would also be great to understand historically what the level of assistance from the government has been. There have been discussions around having an IPC analysis and if there was to be one, what would be the discrepancy on what would be reached by the government and the reality. Having historical figures would be factored in a little more realistically.

A: Concerning additional data from the government, we are in the enquiring phase in asking for more data with the indication that additional data from October – December 2020 would also be made available shortly. We will see what is possible following the recently opened good channel with the government counterparts.

Q: Would be great to know historically what the levels of government assistance has been in the previously years. There has been discussions and email exchanges earlier in the week to see if

there will be an IPC analysis. If there were to be one, something we need to think about is the discrepancies between what was noted in the assumption vs the reality as that would have a major impact in the projection. If we did have some historical analysis would need to be factored in.

A: Historical data of the government is a good part and we have struggled to get the information and now we have opened a communication channel we hope to continue working with moving forward. Regarding the coming IPC analysis, the process is at the enquiry stage and we are waiting updates from OCHA which we believe is engaging the FNC in these discussions. The IPC machine should move on as soon as the government calls upon it.

Q: Was the Crop Assessments Report shared by government who are informing that there is bumper harvest in the country? Could also this impacting on response?

A: Crop assessment report round two was presented at the previous coordination meeting two weeks ago and is available for download from the Zimbabwe Food Security Cluster website.

This should have an impact on response. Ideally, the purpose of response is to fill the gap. If there is a huge gap, there should be a bigger response, and if the gap is small, the response will also be smaller. Expectation of the response on the numbers taken by IPC was until the first quarter and did not take into account the good season. Discussions within the IPC analysis would then take into account the fact that most districts will have around 6-12 months cereal sufficiency. This discussion will be continued around IPC table moving forward.

Comments:

Unless organisations are participating in ZimVAC rural assessment/analysis, it is very unlikely that they will be asked to participate in IPC analysis and Food and Nutrition Council are very clear on this.

3. Best Practices series: Resilient sustainable agriculture and livelihoods/4 (Linda Kabaira - Schools and Colleges Permaculture Education (SCOPE))

Continued series of presentation by SCOPE on growing regenerative local cultures series 4.

Current pathways include:

Green schools for nutrition enhancement and climate resilience –School based feeding

Urban food - cultures – female youth nutrition enhancement – ROL lunchbox

Presentation available at the [link](#)

4. Anticipatory Action approach [FAO]

Anticipatory Action is an innovative approach which systematically links early warnings to actions that are designed to reduce the impact of a hazard or protect assets ahead of a hazard event.

Q: How do we deal with situation where we have committed resources and the situation turns out to be a false alarm?

A: Thanks for this question which is what sometimes hinders uptake of the approach. We always recommend a no regret approach. Let us take an example of say a cycle which changes its trajectory when we have already committed resources. If we already had prepositioning material for the purpose of anticipatory action, then we will proceed. Anticipatory actions are strongly linked around issues on wider resilience framework. If for instance one had prepositioned material to rehabilitate a water source before a disaster and the disaster does not take place, the community still benefit from a rehabilitated reliable water source.

Q: How can other partners working on anticipatory actions be part of the Community of Practice coming up and link up with FAO for collaboration?

A: Already have a community of practice that has some shared goals. We have come up with a leadership process that helps guide the activities of the community of practice. What we do is complementing the efforts of the government and we have co-chairmanship and at any point it must be the government and any other agency. We meet every month and are also in the process of developing a technical working group that helps to drive some of the technical aspects and we are riding a lot on some of the work that has been done by WHH. Anyone who wants to join that community of practice can reach out to Tlisi or Mr Kwenda from the meteorological department (email shared at the meeting) to share preliminary information about the community of practice and the schedule.

Comment: WFP has quite a lot of interest in this area and there is a broader move by regional office focusing on anticipatory action. Had a meeting past week to discuss and have districts where they are planning AA. There is room to collaborate and would be interested in getting more information about the technical working group and would like to reach out bilaterally to enhance cohesion and avoid cases of duplication.

Q: Wanted to appreciate FAO on the presentation. Our interest around early warning system and rapid onset of disasters. Would you please elaborate on what you are looking for in terms of monitoring and surveillance especially for the rapid onset of the flood risks and to understand the choice of Tsholotsho vs some other areas that are also traditional flood areas?

A: Flagged out as drought and flood as the main hazards that FAO focuses on. Drought is slow onset and flood is a rapid onset. The pilot phase focuses on drought and have identified Tsholotsho has a dual challenge and can pilot both drought and floods at the same time. Other districts that might have the same sort of challenge have some sort of initiatives already started and so no need to crown a single a location. As an organisation, we also look at areas where we already have linkages, we can ride on to make selection of district we work in.

Q: Could you confirm if the AA program in Hwange Tsholotsho has already started or it is still in planning stages. Has the risk analysis been done already?

A: Very much in its early stages and for those in the community of practice might have heard us outline a different set of districts. We have one through the process of engaging with national, provincial and district offices. Next stage is validation of indicators with local AgriTEX office, district authorities and district office and will move on to the phase of validation of with anticipatory action with communities and district authorities. Originally, this was to be done by June but has had to adjust the timeline and seem like will be up and running in the next quarter.

Presentation available at the [link](#):

5. Open contributions from Partners about any significant programmes' modifications due to COVID-19

No update shared.

6. Updates from partners

Nothing reported

END