

Meeting Minutes

Location: Microsoft Teams at 11:00AM - 12:30PM

Date: 22.1.2021

Agenda

1. Notes and comments on previous Minutes of Meeting
2. PA: Experiences and practices on Covid-19 lockdown
3. Partners round table on gaps on food assistance during the current lean season. Plans vs actual from partners perspective.
4. FAO: update on African Migratory Locust threat, and on agricultural forecast
5. Storm/Cyclone ELOISE forecast impact on Zimbabwe
6. FSLC monthly updates from partners: beyond numbers.
7. Updates from Partners

Participants

ACF, ACF/AAH, Assemblies of God Zimbabwe, British Red Cross, CARE, CBM, Cesvi, CRS, DanChurchAid, DG ECHO, FACT Zimbabwe, FAO, FNSWG, GOAL, IRC, IFRC, Jairos Jiri Association, Mercy Corps, Meteorological Services Department, NAZ, Oxfam, Practical Action, Tearfund, Terre Des Hommes (TDH) Italy, Trócaire, UNHCR, USAID, Welthungerhilfe WHH, WFP, World Bank, World Vision, Zimbabwe Project Trust, Zimbabwe Red Cross Society,

Discussion

1. Notes and comments on the previous MoM

MoM of previous meeting held on 8th Jan 2021 are approved without any comments.

2. PA: Experiences and practices on Covid-19 lockdown

Presentation by PA available from FSLC Website at the following link:

<https://fscluster.org/zimbabwe/document/covid-19-impact-assessment-survey>

Practical Action (PA) implemented the Planting for Progress (P4P) project which with the aim to reduce poverty and enhance food and nutritional security of 2,640 farmer households in Bulilima

and Gwanda districts. The Purpose was to assess immediate socio-economic impacts across the groups, gather information and verify the diverse coping mechanism the communities were adopting, assess knowledge, attitude and practices of the beneficiaries related to Covid-19.

Key findings

1. While the Covid-19 is a national and global disaster, in the surveyed wards it remains a hazard (as of July 2020).
2. Both males and females suffered disproportionately from **disrupted livelihoods and distorted markets**.
3. Communities aware of the pandemic
4. Poor state of preparedness both at household and community levels
5. Access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) was a challenge
6. Food insecurity worsening because of lockdown. Most of the respondents rely on remittances from across the border which was also affected by the pandemic.

Recommendations

1. Home-based care training for care givers (self-isolating cases)
2. Addressing food insecurity through the implementation of the Household Integrated Food Production (HIFP) model
3. Strengthening medium to long term livelihood strategies such as ISALs to ensure communities become more fluid
4. Training communities in soap/detergent and mask production using local materials
5. Water points rehabilitation to be prioritized across the two districts
6. PA is currently engaging with potential markets and developing a virtual market meeting place to reduce post-harvest losses once production kicks off

Q: From the study, what were some of the negative coping mechanisms identified ?

A: At the household level, people were reducing numbers of meals per day.

Q: How are women and girls coping from a gender perspective?

A: Most people indicated that they were much effected, had heard about Covid-19 but not experienced it or seen anyone affected. The study did not gather any specific information regarding gender perspective.

3. Partners round table on gaps on food assistance during the current lean season. Plans vs actual from partners perspective.

We are in the middle of the lean-season and the cluster tries to measure assistance by comparing numbers of planned beneficiaries vs reached figures.

IPC numbers to be supported IPC Phase 3 and above

✓ October – December 2.61 million people

✓ Jan – Mar 3.38 million people

December 2020 achievements : 1.5 million people

HRP 2020 target 4.4 million people

HRP 2021 target 3.6 – 3.7 million people

WFP:

Concerning the figures of people in need during Covid-19, an overall increase has been witnessed, especially in urban areas.

Concerning resource allocation, lean-season assistance target is 2.5 million and has reached a caseload of 1.16 million beneficiaries, while in urban areas the target is 550,000 targeted beneficiaries, with 326,000 people reached in December.

The overall funding gap is \$158 million dollars and are working with donors on how to fill this gap. Prioritisation should be redefined in light of this.

DCA:

Through the HRP have an ambitious plan to support more domains, and are currently trying to mobilize resources.

Q: To WFP: To what extent is the GOZ complementing through the Food Deficit Mitigation Programme (FDMP)? Are there any figures from Grain Marketing Board (GMB), the country's leading grain trade and Marketing Company reserve?

A: WFP seeks to support where there is substantial gap. There is also a need to know what is happening to the other population not targeted.

The Government has been trying to provide food support to a very high number of beneficiaries. However, they are not well resourced and do struggle to meet monthly requirements. In some areas support has been provided and, in some areas, there have been gaps.

In urban areas, support through NetOne platform for 180RTGS per month to support the most vulnerable. On paper, the support is there but resources have been a challenge to keep the process going.

On whether there will be an IPC analysis for urban data that would address some of the issues that came out of rural ZimVAC and IPC, a technical workshop will be held.

Q: Are there any information regarding food importation pipelines. Are there gaps based on recent Zimbabwe crop and livestock assessments? Are there any figures about access to grain and cereals, as we know the food situation is deteriorating in urban areas from anecdotal information? What is affordability vs access to food?

A: Figures should be available from one of the recent reports. Ministry of Agriculture is working on cereal balance and will try and get more information and share with the cluster members.

4. FAO: update on African Migratory Locust threat, and on agricultural forecast

See presentation shared available on FSLC Website at the link:

[link](#)

Q: What is the state of preparedness regarding AML?

A: There is funding made available from FAO and plans are underway to procure PPE. The extent of outbreak will determine the readiness. Information available is that there is currently no threat from AML in Zimbabwe

Q: In addition to planned assessment, is FAO also doing regular monitoring within the country and sub-offices?

A: Routine monitoring of food security situation in project areas is being carried out. However, FAO does not have sub-national offices

Q: What is the status of top-dressing fertilizer availability?

A: There is currently a shortage of fertilizer. Crops showing yellow leaves, and nitrogen is in short supply.

5. Storm/Cyclone ELOISE forecast impact on Zimbabwe

See presentation by the Meteorological Services Department Season outlook update 2020/21 available on FSLC website: [link](#)

Likely Implications of TC Eloise

- Manicaland, Masvingo, Mashonaland East and Matabeleland South likely areas to be affected. Rains expected from later today.
- Flooding alert in these areas (riverine and flash floods)
- Localised heavy rains
- Collapse of poorly constructed infrastructure

Q: There are so many coloured districts on the map. Does this mean they will all be affected?

A: Due to the cloud and rain system part of ELOISE, districts around the core area will be affected differently and the areas will receive different quantities of rains.

- Also Compared to Idai, this is a lower level, classified as a severe tropical storm
- Wind speeds are around 35knts as the maximum, and at times has been reaching 40, which is way low compared to Idai. Slightly stronger than Chalane but not in the same magnitude as Idai.

6. FSLC monthly updates from partners: beyond numbers

This point was not discussed due to lack of time.

7. Updates from Partners

Nothing to report