Meeting Minutes

Location:    Online, Microsoft Teams at 10:00AM
Date:       24/04/2020

Agenda

- FSL Cluster: Update on Zimbabwe HRP 2020 Addendum and GHRP
- FSL Cluster: MEB Update
- FSL Cluster partners: Updates from the field
- AOB

Participants

CRS, WV, DFID, Trocaire, USAID, CAFOD, ChristianAid, British Red Cross, ICRISAT, GOAL, RCO, UNDP, WHH, ACF, CBM, Mercy Corps, ADRA, FAO

Discussion

1. FSL Cluster: Update on Zimbabwe HRP2020 Addendum

   - Addendum:
     • Completed by 24 April and projects to be uploaded by the week of 29 April. The budget for all sectors on COVID-19 will be more than 100 million with high propriety projects.
     • Components submitted for consideration will be accepted in full bearing in mind the criticality of projects.

   - GHRP: (Information quoted from the GHRP published in March 2020)
     • Is a joint effort by members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), including UN, other international organizations and NGOs with a humanitarian mandate, to analyse and respond to the direct public health and indirect immediate humanitarian consequences of the pandemic, particularly on people in countries already facing other crises.
• It aggregates relevant COVID-19 appeals and inputs from UN and NGOs, and it complements other plans developed by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
• NGOs will be able to access funding mobilized in the framework of this plan and related country plans through partner arrangements with UN agencies, through pooled funding mechanisms, including Country-Based Pooled Funds, and through direct donor funding.

Q: What funds are available for organization?
A: (RCO) For Zimbabwe CERF is the main funding tool. The other avenue is the pool fund which are the only two funds that can repurposed for humanitarian programming. These funds currently target UN agencies.

Q: What is the summary of Zimbabwe GHRP one-pager?
A: (RCO) Main inputs for the GHRP are summarized Cluster inputs for the HRP 2020 Addendum. The inputs are implemented into a template shared by Geneva. It will be condensed into 800 words for review to be inserted into the next GHRP. It will be known hopefully by the end of next week what is going to GHRP Zimbabwe wise.

Q: What are the final projects under OPS?
A: (RCO) Number are relative to projects and will be uploaded to OPS and evaluated the same way as was done with the HRP 2020.

2. FSL Cluster: MEB Update
   - Cash Working Group meetings scheduled every Thursday at 2PM. Last CWG meeting presented preliminary work on the MEB. However, the final transfer amount hasn’t been validated yet and discussion is still ongoing on several very technical points.
   - All FSL Cluster partners should respect minimum humanitarian standards, in particular SPHERE, and to make sure that the assistance covers at least the essential needs of beneficiaries.

3. FSL Cluster partners: Updates from field
   - British Red Cross and ZRCS
     • Continue with cash and food distribution (ZRCS as WFP implementing partner).
     • Conducting the PDM currently. The results of the PDM will be shared with the FSL Cluster.

Q: Few months ago, there were issues with transferring money using EcoCash, have they been solved?
A: Following the PDM beneficiaries did not have problems receiving money into their wallets at least with the BRC current projects.

- Trocaire
  • Continues food distribution programs however, in Umzingwani some challenges occurred due to poor mealie meal availability on the market.
- Trocaire’s livelihood partners working in Bikita, Gutu Matobo and Insinza. Budget modified to provide leeway to adjust up to 20% for COVID19 complementary activities.
- Broadcasting COVID19 message in communities.
- Developed tools for data collection to monitor harvest.
- Planning to make sure that COVID19 posters recently received are placed in the strategic locations.

Q: Are there any other livelihood activities being done by Trocaire?
A: The major activities for this time have been affected due to social distancing. Indigenous knowledge collection activities continue. Lastly is the seed festival which usually start by the end of April but is currently on hold.

Q: Do you know if field colleagues face any challenges due to lockdown in terms of passing through the checkpoints manned by the police?
A: Partners made arrangement with authorities and were given access letters and so can travel and have not met any challenges

Q: Does Trocaire have any heath referral system?
A: Personnel from MoHCC is present at every distribution point.

Q: What are the case management handling of those showing symptoms of COVID19?
A: Yet not experienced that but if there is a case, MoHCC will take over.

- WHH
  - Farmers not able to sell their food in the market and cannot move as much as they would want to.

- CAFOD
  - CAFOD’s implementing partner CARITAS resumed in-kind food distribution in Chimanimani.
  - Other activities in Gokwe and UMP including soap and IEC material distribution into the FSC activities.
  - In Binga, CAFOD managed to secure additional funding to assist the community to continue with the current projects.
  - In Buhera, CAFOD managed to secure additional funding received to continue in-kind food distribution and recovery activities.

Q: How are you dealing with the technical advisory activities following the lockdown?
A: It has been realized that communities were not fully respecting social distancing. CAFOD thus started working with the communities to make them understand the risks involved. At the same time, each diocese has a health desk to deal with health-related issues hence started following the guidelines from Ministry of health.

Q: Do AGRITECH workers have PPEs?
A: In the process of procuring PPEs for all stakeholders from community and district based to reduce the risks around everyone.

4. AOB:
   - ICRISAT
     - Technical research organization based in Matobo with a regional office in Nairobi.
     - Mandate on small grains and dryland legumes research. Main interest is to work with organizations in anticipation of short falls in seeds in the next seasons.

   Action Point:
   Drop a one-page introductory document that will be shared with the FSC partners.

   - UNDP Zimbabwe accelerator lab
   - The project addresses the socio-economic impact of COVID 19 on the informal sector and agricultural supply chains in Zimbabwe. One of the project’s outputs is to mitigate socio-economic impacts through functional digital supply chain coordination platform.

   Action Point:
   UNDP Accelerator labs to make project's presentation for the next meeting.