LOCATION: Kyiv
DATE: March 26, 2020

AGENDA:
1. Key achievements of FSL Cluster partners in 2019
2. 2020 HRP Cluster Response Plan and Coordination Tool
3. Partners operational presence in January - February 2020
4. Updates from partners
   • COVID-19: FSL partners' presence and response capacities
   • Other updates
5. Cluster activity and products
   • Cluster Coordination 2020 and FSLC meeting
   • FSL Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring as of 2019
6. AOB.

Key achievements of FSL Cluster partners in 2019

- FSL Cluster partners were updated on key achievements throughout January – December 2019, across the three Cluster objectives. Key points included:
  o Out of the 1.1 million people in need, 80,000 people were targeted by HRP-funded activities and 49,000 people reached in 2019. In total, 122,000 beneficiaries were reached by FSLC across all three cluster objectives.
  o FSL partners received 49 % of the 2019 HRP funding requirement.
  o Cluster objective 1: Most vulnerable conflict-affected groups have immediate access to food. Some 69 % of the 59,510 individuals targeted for food assistance were reached.
  o Cluster objective 2: Affected populations improve food security status through rehabilitated agriculture and/or increased agricultural production for sustainable livelihoods. This objective was fulfilled at 61% with 5,530 households targeted.
  o Cluster objective 3: Affected populations have access to employment and income generating opportunities through rehabilitation/building sustainable livelihood assets. The objective was reached at 80 % with 7,150 individuals targeted.
- Partners highlighted the need for adjusted assistance to meet the specific needs of elderly vulnerable living in isolated areas along the ‘contact line’. It was recommended to include milk and other dairy products as part of regular food packages.

Action points:
- FSL Cluster team - to share with partners presentation with Cluster results as of 2019.
2020 HRP Cluster Response Plan, Activity Matrix and Coordination Tool

- Partners were briefed on humanitarian needs analysis for 2020 that highlights:
  - 1 million people in need, of which 400,000 reside in NGCA.
  - More than 530,000 people, including IDPs outside Donetska and Luhanska oblasts are food insecure and about 480,000 require livelihood support.
  - People residing within 0-5 km from the ‘contact line’ are mostly affected by food insecurity.
  - The need for agricultural assistance remains high along the ‘contact line’, due to mine contamination, water shortages and unstable irrigation.
  - Vulnerable population groups in need of humanitarian assistance include elderly, individuals and households with disabled members, households with unemployed members, female-headed households, single-headed HHs with children, people with chronic illnesses and IDPs in host communities.

- Cluster objectives for 2020 Response Plan:
  - Cluster objective 1. Ensure immediate access to food for the most vulnerable conflict affected people (0-5 km GCA and NGCA);
  - Cluster objective 2. Improve food security status through provision of emergency and time critical agriculture assistance (5-20 km GCA).
  - Cluster objective 3. Improve access to employment and income generating opportunities through rehabilitation/building of sustainable livelihood assets (20+ km GCA) approval.

- Partners were reminded about the FSLC 2020 Coordination Tool and encouraged to update the information.

- Partners were updated on COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan. Key points included:
  - March 25 - Virtual Launch of the COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan
  - FSL Cluster partners need additional funding for humanitarian response programming adjustment in additional market monitoring and needs assessment, scale-up in-kind food assistance, livelihood and/or income generation support grants, information dissemination, provision of cash transfers / vouchers for food.

Action points:

- FSL Cluster team – to maintain the FSLC 2020 Coordination Tool updated.

Partners operational presence in January - February 2020

FSL Cluster partners were updated on key achievements throughout January – February 2020 based on partners 4W reporting, across the three Cluster objectives. Key points included:
Cluster objective 1: Most vulnerable conflict-affected groups have immediate access to food. Over 1,000 individuals were targeted for in-kind food assistance and over 4,500 of those in need were reached with received transfers / vouchers. 5 partners reported on providing access to food in Eastern Conflict Area of Ukraine.

Cluster objective 2: Affected populations improve food security status through rehabilitated agriculture and/or increased agricultural production for sustainable livelihoods. Partners reported that over 110 individuals were provided with trainings on agricultural topics, including job skills, business consultation, workshops for farmers etc. during January – February 2020.

Cluster objective 3: Affected populations have access to employment and income generating opportunities through rehabilitation/building sustainable livelihood assets. Three FSL Cluster partners reported that over 250 individuals were provided with vocational and light trainings and over 250 people in need were reached with livelihoods and job creation grants.

Partners expressed interest in having access for the reference to interactive dashboard on Cluster partners’ presence.

Action points:

- FSLC partners – keep sending operational updates on 4W reporting to the Cluster team.
- FSL Cluster team - to include all partners’ reports to activities update.
- FSL Cluster team – to develop interactive dashboard on FSL Cluster partners’ presence and update it on a quarterly basis.

Updates from partners

- Prices increase.
  - Partners indicated increase in prices for basic essential products by an average 15% on both GCA and NGCA sides. One of the reasons of prices increase is raise wholesale prices. In general, the scope of current prices increase is not enough to be considered as a rationale for voucher amount increasing.
  - ACTED is at the final stage of the prices monitoring. The results will be available shortly.

- Restricted access to food.
  - Due to restrictions of movement as a quarantine measure, the working hours of mobile shops were reduced and public transport suspended. As a consequence, access to food for people residing in isolated settlements is restricted.
  - To minimize restricted access to food, some partners consider switching a part of activities from cash to in-kind assistance.
  - ICRC informed on the planned expansion food distribution in Sievierodonetsk. Contingency stock increased in Mariupol.
AirLight asked for improving coordination in providing food assistance and livelihood support for elderly and people with disabilities in Shyrokyne, Toretsk, Stanytsia Luhanska raions.

- Economic consequences of the COVID-19.
  - Partners express a need in developing guidelines and recommendations on providing livelihood support and grants for enterprises under COVID-19 circumstances and overcoming negative consequences of expected economic recession for small businesses.
  - FAO is launching grant programme for farmers in Donetsk and part of Zaporizhzhia region. Also the programme will include conferences on business planning.

- Food security and livelihoods needs assessment. Considering the COVID-19 outbreak, food security needs assessment should be conducted in remote modalities: using telephone interviews, online studies etc.
  - Due to the virus outbreak, NRC suspends planned Food Security Needs assessment. As an alternative, to perform data collection remotely, they consider providing rapid assessment, market monitoring, phone and online surveys.
  - Partners expressed interest to facilitate a joint FSL Cluster assessments in 2020.
  - IOM will provide online survey among beneficiaries to reveal their needs in livelihood support.
  - DRC switched to telephone interviews instead of direct monitoring visits to observe agricultural grants implementation.
  - Caritas is going to announce a bid for food parcels

- Protection of specialists operating in the field. Partners expressed needs in security trainings for specialists on providing humanitarian response, including food parcels distribution, under COVID-19 outbreak. The request was redirected to Health Cluster.

Action points:

- FSL Cluster team – share with partners the Economic and food security implications of the COVID-19 outbreak, Guidelines on food distribution and other relevant materials and guidelines once available.
- FSL Cluster team – to review plans establishment of dedicated assessment working group under the FSLC, once the Cluster Coordinator is recruited.
- FSL Cluster team - to facilitate timely referral of cases.
Cluster activity and products in 2020

- **FSL Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) as of 2019.** The FSLC partners were informed on the results of CCPM survey that was conducted in February – March 2020. The key highlights of Cluster performance monitoring as of 2019 are as follows.
  - **Supporting service delivery.** Overall satisfaction with the cluster: 83% of respondents estimated as satisfactory and 17% as strong. 70% of partners assessed frequency and location of FSLC meetings as satisfactory. 17% consider utility of information shared in 2019 unsatisfactory.
  - **Informing strategic decisions of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) and HCT.** 17% would like to see improved contingency plans, gap/duplication analysis provided by FSLC. 50% of respondents agreed the Cluster formulates priorities on the basis of analysis.
  - **Planning and implementing FSL Cluster strategies.** 17% consider the Cluster response plan (including strategic objectives, activities and indicators) guides partner organization’s strategy and activities. 17% consider food security section of the response plan should be more inclusive.
  - **Monitoring and evaluating performance.** Cluster information products and updates influenced partner organisation’s decisions in 33% of cases often and in 50% - regularly.
  - **Building national capacity in preparedness and contingency planning.** 67% of respondents were aware of Cluster discussion what partners might do to strengthen the response capacity in country.
  - **Advocacy.** 50% of respondents have issues requiring advocacy messages been discussed during Cluster’s meetings.
  - **Accountability to affected people.** 50% of respondents admitted the Cluster and its partners have discussed and implemented mechanisms to consult and involve affected people in decision-making. 17% believe the Cluster should raise and discussed with partners the key issues raised by affected people.

- **Cluster Coordination 2020** and FSLC meeting. Cluster resumed meetings on a monthly basis.

**Action points:**

- The next Cluster meeting at the national level is scheduled for April 2020. The next field-focused Cluster meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 2020.
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