Meeting Minutes

Location: Microsoft Teams at 11:00AM - 12:45 PM
Date: 28/08/2020

Agenda

1. WFP: Presentation on mVAM: Overview, methodology and current status in Zimbabwe
2. CRS: Food for Asset modalities
3. FSL Cluster partners: Updates from the field
4. AOB

Participants

WFP, CADOF, Mercy Corp, World Vision, FAO, Practical Action, WHH, IRC, Practical Action, OXFAM, Save the children, Tearfund, ECHO, CBM, CRS, OCHA, ZCC, Trócaire, ECHO, DFID, ACF, SOS-Zimbabwe, Christian Aid, GOAL, Coalition of Agriculture graduates,

Discussion

1. WFP: Presentation on mVAM: Overview, methodology and current status in Zimbabwe

With the extensive spread of COVID-19 cases across the world, WFP has been working to leverage and expand remote, real-time continuous food security monitoring systems. Through these systems, WFP has begun to collect new data that can inform responses in light of shifting circumstances brought about by COVID-19 outbreaks.
WFP has been using ‘live call’ remote monitoring e.g. in the Middle East since 2015, Scale up near real-time remote monitoring capacities in 14 priority countries from April 2020 onwards:
Southern Africa (5 countries): Angola, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania, Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe mVAM is joint effort of WFP CO HQ and RB in Johannesburg

Remote food security monitoring has various approaches:
Live voice calls (i.e. the approach to be implemented in Zimbabwe).
SMS (has been implemented e.g. in West Africa)
Interactive voice response (not as widely adopted)
Internet surveys (implemented e.g. in the Latin America and the Caribbean)

Near real-time food security monitoring systems active by March 2020 in 16 countries: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, CAR, Chad, DRC, El Salvador, Honduras, Iraq, Guatemala, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Syria and Yemen.
Weekly updated Snapshot dashboards expected to be available from October onwards

Action Point: Presentation to be shared with the FSL Cluster partners.

2. CRS: Food for Asset modalities

Implemented under the Drought Emergency Response Project (DERP). The projects goal is restoring households’ dignity & resilience through food provision and asset creation.

Registration & verification of project participants.
Following the baseline survey, vulnerable population who can work are registered to work with the project for an agreed upon days per month. The rest of the vulnerable population, who cannot work, are considered by other projects in the regions.

Main activities are around introduction of water conservation practices e.g. contour ridging, dead-level contours, infiltration pits, tied-ridging, appropriate water harvesting, harnessing & storage structures e.g. dug-out wells, weirs, low-cost storage structures.

At the end of the month, participants receive a conditional voucher for US$50 which they redeem at a local vendor for prescribed vendors. Vendors are then paid upon post distribution monitoring and verification exercise. CRS uses mobile vouchers and send messages containing a unique code that are validated by the vendors. The messages define commodities that the project participants have access.

Q: What are the voucher’s commodities?
A: Voucher value is 50 dollars and redeemable for 50kg maize meal, 5kg pulses and 4 litres of cooking oil.

Q: How are you managing beneficiaries within the covid-19 context?
A: There is minimal paper handling since the project adopted mobile voucher system. At redemption point, beneficiaries do not go in large groups as messages are sent in groups in small batches to avoid having large groups. While at the redemption locations, covid-19 guidelines are maintained.

Q: How do you conduct post distribution monitoring (PDM)?
A: PDM is conducted remotely. CRS is also exploring an online PDM form to be filled up directly by beneficiaries. However, this online PDM form would require data bundle distribution.

Q: Do you do any community training on how the community should be operating in terms of Covid-19?
A: Yes, there are trainings taking place in the communities from various stakeholders, coordinated by COVID-19 Task Force representative (Env Health Technicians, etc).

Action point: To share the presentation with the FSL Cluster partners.
3. FSL Cluster partners: Updates from the field

- **OXFAM**
  - Oxfam as WFP implementing partners in Caledonia will be supporting 14,000 people with cash assistance for 6 months up to February 2021.
  - Oxfam is supporting 500 households with food assistance in Bulilima and Chirumanzu through collaboration with the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) in partnership with AQZ. The project is ending in September 2020.
  - Oxfam as WFP implementing partner is supporting 14,976 people in Mangwe with IK food assistance up to September 2020 with possibilities of extending up to April 2021.

- **ZCC**
  - Gutu Food Aid Program- funded by Canadian Food grains Bank and United Church of Canada.
  - The program was supposed to end on 31 August, but it has been extended by additional 3 months (Sept - Nov 2020)
  - Targeting 3,110 beneficiaries with IK food assistance in Gutu ward 2 under the program during August 2020

- Zambia-Zimbabwe Joint Response Program - funded by the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA) in Marondera and Seke District
  - Targeting 1,000 beneficiaries with food vouchers in wards 12, 14 and 19 in Marondera during August 2020
  - Corn Soya Blend Porridge distributed to 800 children under 5s and 200 pregnant and lactating mothers in Marondera and Seke districts as well

- **International Rescue Committee**
  - IRC is working in a consortium with Save the Children, doing an emergency cash relief program targeting 10,222 individual beneficiaries in Chipinge and Chimanimani (ECHO).
  - IRC sees a need to coordinate activities at provincial and district levels in a better detail within the organisation working on the ground. IRC team noted that there is need for clarity in wards and villages so that the targeting reaches correct beneficiaries, this will enhance effectiveness and efficiency of aid. The coordination on ward and village meetings will need INGO responding to the crisis to share notes and have clarity of what % is each doing at village, ward and district level. This will help accountability to donor since we all received money from the same funding partner.

A: To increase coordination between FSL Cluster partners at the district level, the FSL Cluster is about to establish a district focal point network. At the same time, the cluster already produces maps (static and dynamic) at ward level on a monthly basis. Partners can always use the maps for desktop study and to also find out who is already working in the wards they intend to operate it.

- **Practical Action**
  - Resuscitating broken down boreholes within the communities and wards, working within Gwanda currently to improve access to reliable water sources, and ensuring setting up of tippy taps, working with local businesses to incentivise households in tippy taps per household by offering free soap bars to each household [incentive is under the LFSP in Manicaland only].
- Provision of PPEs to critical strategic local-level support services e.g. extension staff in Gwanda and repairing some WASH facilities in response to covid19, alongside the usual agriculture livelihood activities and solar irrigation in Bulilima and Gwanda.
- PA will be establishing solar irrigation systems while working with critical district authorities in the covid19 response plans rolling out PA also carried out a survey on the impacts of covid19 in targeted wards, on agriculture activities, nutrition at household level, and markets access, etc.. Assessment results being currently analysed.

4. AOB

None