FSL Cluster minutes of meeting – 13th May 2020
Venue: Virtual conference, JUBA Time: 11 am – 12.30 pm

Agenda

1. COVID update from South Sudan & Africa – (FSLC)
2. Addressing social stigma in the fight against COVID 19 – (FSLC)
3. Market price monitoring: why so important now; and extra challenges due to COVID 19 – (WFP/ VAM)
4. Heightened protection concerns around GBV during COVID 19 & what FSLC partners can do to mitigate the risk – (WFP/ GPU)
5. Importance of the use of a range of surveys (surveillance & impact) in the strategy to contain Desert Locust swarms (and the challenges of conducting them during C19) – (FAO/ Crop monitoring)
6. FSLC update:
   a. Finalization of the HRP COVID 19 addendum
   b. SSHF Single & Multi cluster partners

Main Discussion points

1. COVID update from South Sudan & Africa – (FSLC).
   ✓ The number of cumulative cases in Africa have doubled over the past two weeks; number of recoveries gone up by 128% while the number of deaths increased by 60%. For more details, visit the interactive dashboard [click on this link].
   ✓ In South Sudan, the number of people infected by COVID-19 increased from 34 to 194 over the past two weeks. 3 of the infected people are in the PoCs – raising concern of the possibility of the disease spreading very fast in the PoCs if control measures are not adhered to. Please [click on this link] for an interactive dashboard with the current information on COVID-19 in South Sudan

2. Addressing social stigma in the fight against COVID 19 – (FSLC). “Words matter” – there is a need to acknowledge the community culture and insist on the use of proper language in our communication since stigma can be the very reason for the community not to be responsive to COVID-19 control messages.

   For more details, please click here to [download the full presentation].

3. Market price monitoring: why so important now; and extra challenges due to COVID 19 – (WFP/ VAM). The presentation is an update of WFP’s analysis of cereal markets and food security implications of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Sudan

   For more details, please click here to [download the full presentation].

4. GBV concerns in South Sudan during the COVID-19 pandemic - (WFP/ GPU). The presentation highlighted the situation of GBV in South Sudan pre-COVID-19, possible scenarios during COVID-19
pandemic period and possible measures FSL clusters members can put in place to strengthen GBV prevention & response in their ongoing/planned interventions.

For more details, please click here to download the full presentation.

5. Importance of the use of a range of surveys (surveillance & impact) in the strategy to contain Desert Locust swarms (and the challenges of conducting them during C19) – (FAO/ Crop monitoring). Below are the summary points from the FAO colleagues in regard to desert locusts in South Sudan

A. DLC Monitoring
   1. FAO is using trained DL teams in Eastern Equatoria to collect monitoring data
   2. Use of County crop Monitoring Committee (CCMCs) teams in each county some of which are the DL teams
   3. We receive calls across the country about presence of locust (including recent reports of locust sighted in Renk and investigation now on going)
   4. DGs and CAD directors also call FAO team if they have news of presence of DL in their States/Counties

Constraints
   1. Training of CCMCs in DL control in other areas of the country halted when COVID-19 merged
   2. No e locust Apps and crop monitoring Apps (Kobo collect) provided since no training has been done in the rest of the States
   3. Mobility of technical personnel is difficult due to lock down, though there seem to be some window now
   4. Difficulty in conducting TOT training online due to internet difficulties

Way Forward
   1. List of TOT trainers for DLC in place and training o line will start later in May 2020
   2. Smart phones installed with elocusts3m and Crop monitoring Apps (Kobo collect) will be sent to the states as soon as possible
   3. Efforts are being made for the FAO office to provide incentives for those to receive the training

B. DL impact assessment on crop and pasture
   These tools will help to improve reporting on impact on crops and livestock pastures but still is work in progress and will be improved further. The only problem is access and mobility in counties otherwise we could be giving estimates of impact on crop and pastures

C. Corona Virus (COVID-19) Rapid Impact Assessment
   64 Counties have been selected and assessment done in these counties in four days. Due to few apps availability in the counties many are still entering the data into Kobo collect and may take another one week before the results come out. This assessment is done to give stakeholders a clear picture of what is going on in our different communities and what form of support can be provided to assist vulnerable households during the COVID-19 pandemic. The teams involved in the COVID-19 impact assessment are the county based CCMCs, Agro metrology, Livestock and Market who report regularly to FAO.
6. FSL Cluster updates: -

✓ Finalization of the HRP COVID 19 addendum. The FSLC cluster submitted its draft addendum to the HRP COVID 19 addendum increasing the target figures by 1.57 people on top of the current 5.3M (excludes refugees). Of these, 1.125 are urban population while 447,000 are market depended rural population. See the last slide on this presentation.

✓ SSHF Single & Multi cluster partners. The selected proposals for 7 counties (multi cluster) and 5 (single cluster) are now going through technical review process. The next step will be signing of contracts with OCHA and dispatch of funding for partners to start project implementation.