FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD CLUSTER

DATE 22 August, 2017
TIME 10:00
VENUE Kramatorsk
CHAIR Line Rindebaek (Cluster Coordinator)

AGENDA

1. Minutes / Follow Up Action Points
2. Brief Partner Activity Update
3. Winterisation
4. Update on Joint Food Security Assessment (FSA)
5. DRC Presentation: “Livelihoods Assistance Programme for Eastern Ukraine”
6. AOB

MINUTES

Cluster coordinator (CC) Line Rindebaek welcomed participants followed by a round the table introductions.

1. FOLLOW UP ACTION POINTS/ MINUTES (FSLC)

With there being no comments, the minutes from 14 June meeting were approved. The CC provided an update on action points from the previous meeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION POINT</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>FOLLOW UP</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Year Review of Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2017:</td>
<td>The final MYR Document will be released later this month.</td>
<td>None</td>
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<td>HRP Partners were encouraged to 1) share updates on food security / livelihoods needs and participate in the review process.</td>
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<td>Winterisation:</td>
<td>See agenda point 3</td>
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<td>FSLC to share updated Guidance Note for comments with reporting partners.</td>
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2. PARTNER ACTIVITY UPDATE (FSLC)

Cluster Information Management Officer (IMO) Anton Tovchenko provided an update of partner activities in Donetska oblast as well gap analysis for the month of July and for the partners’ plans – these were, as per normal, based around the three HRP-2017 objectives.

For “access to food interventions” (HRP-2017 objective 1) in July in kind food and food vouchers/cash was provided to around 51,200 beneficiaries in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA and NGCA, and nearly 12,150 beneficiaries in other regions of Ukraine. In Donetska region, there were seven active partners who reached nearly 30,850 beneficiaries. In GCA Donetsk, the assistance was provided through food parcels and vouchers to 25,990 beneficiaries, while on the NGCA side 4,860 beneficiaries were assisted with in-kind food. In Luhansk region, there were four active partners who reached nearly 20,370 beneficiaries. In Luhansk GCA, the assistance was provided through food parcels and vouchers to 8,640 beneficiaries, while on the NGCA side the assistance was provided through food parcels to some 11,720 beneficiaries.
For the agricultural inputs, (HRP-2017 objective 2), which include seeds and seedlings, fodder, other livestock, basic agricultural tools, and other agricultural inputs (through voucher or cash), livelihoods agricultural grants and which supports households with food production for sustainable results and food for assets activities, it was noted that for the period January – July 2017, some 21,070 HH were provided with assistance by five partners. Most of the assistance was provided in the area close to GCA contact line.

For the livelihood income generating activities (HRP-2017 objective 3), the IMO presented an overview of the number of households receiving different kinds of employment trainings, business grants, cash for work and other assistance for sustainable livelihoods. Activities were undertaken in almost all regions of Ukraine, mainly in oblast city centres. For the period January - July 2017, ten partners assisted a total of 16,900 HHs with different income generation activities.


3. Winterisation: 2017-18

CC advised the group that based on discussions during May and June cluster meetings in the field and in Kiev, the FSLC team had updated the cluster “guidance note on winterisation for 2017-18 on food security”.

CC explained that the guidance note now includes more narrative and advocacy messages with more details on:

- the context (preliminary findings on increased food insecurity)
- Price trends, coping strategies and seasonal impact
- The specific needs: augmentation of food basket
- Vulnerability criteria
- Coordination and targeting to ensure all information is easily available through one consolidated document.

CC noted that the original cluster activity recommendations remains unchanged:

- Customization of food distribution mechanism on page 4 of the guidance notes
- Semi–subsistence agriculture on page 4 and 5

CC also highlighted the link between Food security, livelihoods and household income levels and the guidance notes therefore includes a short section on livelihoods activities during winter on page 5. This has been coordinated with the activities of the Shelter Cluster and their winterisation guidelines.

However, it was also emphasised that there still is a vast gap between the needs and the planned winterisation response of cluster partners.

The following is planned under Winterisation Food Assistance:

- WFP (with plans of multiple rounds of in-kind food assistance with the majority in NGCA for 70,000 beneficiaries but also some CBT in GCA targeting up to 6,500 beneficiaries)
- Caritas (with provision of 1000 food parcels on the contact line in November).

Other food actors advised that they are planning on providing general food distribution in locations on the contact line where there are not access to markets. These areas will also be receiving MPC support for fuel.

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1 Winterisation link
2 Shelter link
Under **Winterisation Agricultural Assistance**:

- There is only one cluster partner planning specific winterisation activities: FAO will provide rabbits for 250 HHs in Oct, hay for 100 HHs in January – final number to be confirmed, Crushed grain/wheat/corn for fodder to 5000 HHs (Feb 2018)

For the new component of **Winterisation Livelihoods Activities**:

- NRC are planning provision of business grants for the production of briquettes.

Several partners are planning winterisation activities under **Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance**, which could have a positive impact on food security as well:

- Triangle (3600HH with MPV and 680 MPC)
- SCI
- PIN (Oct-April for 2300 persons in Luhansk GCA)
- ACF (Sept-Nov MPC for 1300 persons or around 620 HHs in 20 locations on the contact line)
- Dorcas
- Other FS actors

CC noted that based on the proposal from Shelter Cluster, there has been initial discussions with Shelter Cluster and WASH Cluster about potentially arranging a joint donor meeting to highlight the vast gaps in winterisation assistance and the potential risks of lack of funding. The purpose for FSLC is to highlight the key food security needs in winter (in a context of increased food insecurity levels as per preliminary joint Food security assessment findings) vs significant gap due to limited FSLC activities. This could potentially include “perspectives from the field” from a cluster winterisation partner (WFP/FAO/NRC/Caritas).

### 4. Update on Joint Food Security Assessment (FSA)

CC provided a brief update on the joint FSLC Food Security Assessment process:

- A total of eight different cluster partners (and KIIS) worked together on the first joint FSLC assessment in Ukraine.
- The data collection took place in June with a total of 2678 interviews (778 in GCA, 1,900 in NGCA)
- In addition, 7 Focus Group Discussions took place in July
- Preliminary analysis took place by FSLC IMO and WFP VAM in July to feed into key FSLC processes:
  - HRP Mid-Year Review
  - Winterisation document
  - Dashboard for January-June
- On 10 August, the FS Assessment TWG met and formed an analytical team (FSLC IMO, WFP VAM, KIIS, CARITAS & REACH) to undertake further and deeper data analysis and to work on context inputs and overall results. An Expert meeting will finalise the results. The timeline for this is 11 – 31 August.
- The team will then prepare the final report and presentation by 8 September
- FSLC will arrange a special meeting in Kiev after 8 September to present the final findings.

CC highlighted that preliminary findings have showed a significant deterioration of food security levels – especially in NGCA. The FSLC Dashboard for January - June containing further details as well as a map of food insecurity levels was shared with the group. The preliminary analysis showed that in NGCA as many as 26% (up from 13%) or up to 800,000 people could be severely and moderately food insecure with 5% (up from 1.7%) or up to 150,000 people being severely food insecure. The highest levels are seen in

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3 Link for Dashboard
Donetska NGCA. In GCA, food insecurity has increased to 15% in Donetska GCA (up from 6%) and 14% in Luhanska GCA (up from 10%).

One food actor raised the issue of the possible impact of reduced access to food assistance on the worsening of food security situation, especially in Donetsk NGCA. FSLC IMO clarified the food security is a complex estimation of consumption and livelihoods of the HH. From the preliminary analysis, HHs consume less food and apply more coping strategies compared to previous assessment. Therefore, the reduction of humanitarian food assistance is likely to have some impact on the HH food security.

5. **DRC Presentation: “Livelihoods Assistance Programme for Eastern Ukraine”**

As the FSLC move towards the planning phase for 2018 in a climate of limited humanitarian funding, CC highlighted the DRC project as a good example of linking early recovery humanitarian activities with recovery development activities.

Peter Chumak (DRC Programme Assistant) provided a presentation on the DRC Livelihoods Assistance Programme for Eastern Ukraine:

- **Impact (Overall goal):** IDPs and conflict-affected persons in eastern Ukraine achieve durable livelihoods solutions through better access to income generation opportunities, strengthened government capacity and improved legislation.
- **Total budget:** Approx. 3 mln USD funded by Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Department for International Development (DFID).
- **TARGET BENEFICIARIES:** IDPs and conflict-affected population residing in Donetsk (governmental control area (GCA), Luhansk (GCA), Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia Oblasts.
- **Geography:** Donetsk and Luhansk GCA, Zaporizhia and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts.
- **Implementation period:** 1 July 2017 - 30 July 2019 (24 months)

There are 6 elements to this programme which covers both early recovery activities as well as recovery activities:

1. **Create income-generation opportunities for IDPs and the conflict-affected population by supporting micro-business and household-level agriculture initiatives:**
   - Target: 600 micro-grants for small initiatives (including start-ups and restoration grants);
   - Grant amount: from 300 to 1,000 USD;
   - Priority to support eligible female applicants and people with specific vulnerabilities and protection risks, including the disabled and elderly

2. **Improve access to jobs by creating employment opportunities in cooperation with local private Sector**
   - Target: 250 new jobs for IDPs and the conflict-affected population;
   - Grant amount: from 2,000 to 10,000 USD;
   - At least 60% of the jobs created to be made available for women (60% due to lessons learned showing women most unemployed)
   - Employment contract for at least one year with monthly salaries starting at least from 3,200 UAH (120 USD) per month;
   - SMEs will have to provide co-investment of at least 50% of the grant amount received from DRC.

3. **Improve access to income generation and employment opportunities for IDPs and host population via needs-based vocational trainings and 4. support to the Regional Employment Centres.**
   - Target: 500 individual grants for vocational trainings to enhance professional skills and improve competitiveness on the job market;
   - Grant amount for VET trainings: up to 200 USD;
   - Support to regional and district employment centres (ECs);
- Lump sum for EC support – 100,000 USD, needs based approach;
- Need based trainings for at least 100 employment centres staff, including PSS.

5. Support community Based Initiatives in rural areas for rehabilitation of social-economic infrastructure and mobilization of the rural communities, thus improving living conditions and self-reliance

- Target: at least 10 community projects of social-economic nature;
- Grant amount: average 8,500 USD per CBI;
- Only for communities in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA;
- Local contribution required - at least 25%;
- CBIs implemented by local initiative groups;

6. Contribute to improvements in policies and laws affecting livelihoods of IDPs and host population via grass-roots learning and experience sharing with national level advocacy players.

- Advocacy work and wide consultations with the local entrepreneurs, as well as medium and large business representatives to identify obstacles which constrain economic development;
- Developing a very concrete set of recommendations, indicating ways how to improve current Ukrainian legislation and liaison with national level policy influencers;
- At least three priority advocacy issues affecting business and employment identified, solutions developed and shared with national policy makers.

The presentation was followed by Q and A:

DRC confirmed that this is a Hybrid project where they link emergency projects like MBGs and SMEs and VETs and then development / CBIs and advocacy. CC noted that this is an important example of linking early recovery with development, which might help other cluster partners looking into 2018.

DRC noted that their information campaign will start from 1 September, including on social media.

In terms of target area, the DRC protection team will visit rural areas close to contact line and identify potential communities. The target area will mainly be the areas close to GCA contact line and DRC will use some information from the REACH ABA assessment.

A question was raised on the approaches of evaluating and monitoring the project. DRC answered that they are working on the PDM methodology. Some consultations were already taken with some livelihoods partners.

DRC confirmed that they have met with ADRA to learn from their VET experience – and that UNDP (Severodonetsk) and PIN and USAID, all key stakeholders had been consulted.

A question was raised in relation to SME projects regarding the willingness of enterprises to contribute their own resources to the activities. Caritas noted that they provided grants for investment and on the point of co-investment, SMEs were not very interested the common projects therefore, they would be interested to see how this will work out. DRC answered that they will build on their previous experience. Caritas suggested to share with DRC some their experience.

Livelihoods Working Group: In terms of coordination of livelihoods activities at field level, the CC confirmed with group that it is felt that the ad hoc coordination between LWG members is sufficient at this point.
6. AOB

**HRP 2018** – CC briefed the group that it is currently not yet decided by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) whether the clusters will do a HRP for 2018 or whether it will be a multiyear HRP covering 2018 and 2019 and including stronger focus on linking early recovery with recovery activities.

**Next Meeting** – The next rounds of field meetings in Kramatorsk & Severodonetsk will likely be on Wednesday 27 September and Thursday 28 September due to overlapping training events for the FSLC team. The date and time will be confirmed via email.

**PARTICIPANT LIST:**

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<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization*</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>Olga Shevchenko</td>
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<td>2</td>
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