Cluster coordinator (CC) Line Rindebaek welcomed participants followed by a round the table introductions. The meeting was conducted in both Russian and English to accommodate all participants.

1. **FOLLOW UP ACTION POINTS/MINUTES (FSLC)**

With there being no comments, the minutes from 22 August June meeting were approved. There were no action points from the meeting on 22 August.

2. **PARTNER ACTIVITY UPDATE (FSLC)**

Cluster Information Management Officer (IMO) Anton Tovchenko provided an update of partner activities in for the month of August, based around the three HRP-2017 objectives.

For “access to food interventions” (HRP-2017 objective 1) in August, in kind food and food vouchers/cash was provided to around 49,000 beneficiaries in Donetsk and Luhansk GCA and NGCA, and nearly 13,000 beneficiaries in other regions of Ukraine. In Donetska region, there were seven active partners who reached nearly 30,975 beneficiaries. In GCA Donetsk, the assistance was provided through food parcels and vouchers to 22,642 beneficiaries, while on the NGCA side 8,333 beneficiaries were assisted with in-kind food. In Luhansk region, there were four active partners who reached nearly 18,087 beneficiaries. In Luhansk GCA, the assistance was provided through food parcels and vouchers to 11,039 beneficiaries, while on the NGCA side the assistance was provided through food parcels to some 7,038 beneficiaries.

**Winterisation & Food Assistance:** A GAP analysis table was shared which had been used to highlight the serious food assistance gaps going into winter, where needs are higher, to the donor community in mid-September. The gap overview reflects the tentative overview of planned food assistance (not augmented winterisation assistance but simply all planned food assistance including one off distributions) vs the overall need when aiming to cover the most severely food insecure groups going into winter. The table highlights the significant gaps in assistance vs needs. In the table there are two figures for the GAP: first one is 77,057, which reflect planned vs only the most severely food insecure and second, 285,850, which reflects planned assistance vs the needs if we aim to cover the severely food insecure plus 20% of
moderately food insecure (as we know that food insecurity increases in the winter period where many are at risk of falling deeper into food insecurity) and to reflect that 23% of the total population reported in the Food Security Assessments that they do not have enough food to cover their HH needs in January and February (more details included in the PPT).

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 – August 2017, some 22,821 HH were provided with assistance by six 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 20,375 HHS with different income generation activities.

Please find the overview in the PowerPoint presentation: http://fscluster.org/ukraine/document/fslc-meeting-presentation-kramatorsk-27

WFP shared a referral case: in Selidove, WFP identified more beneficiaries then could be covered by the programme. There are nearly 500 vulnerable food insecure elders, people with disabilities, single headed HH with children. WFP encouraged partners to cover these vulnerable food insecure people. It was also mentioned that these people are not IDPs but local population.

Action Point: Partners with capacity to respond are encouraged to contact FSLC – FSLC will also share referral with partners in the area.

3. Update on Cash & Voucher Value Revision

CC informed the group of the discussion and decision made at the Kiev meeting on 31 August which addressed the need to update the cash / voucher value (or Cash Based Transfer / CBT value) to reflect the increase in food prices:

In October 2016, it was decided to increase the cash / voucher value to 550 UAH (to cover the cost equivalent to 75% of 2100 kcal per day/month i.e. 1575 kcal).¹

¹ Calculations October 2016:

Food basket costs 668 UAH per WFP monitored basket (1900 kcal). Cluster partners aim to cover 1575 kcal. Therefore, the Equation to find the cost of 1575 kcal if 1900 kcal cost 668 UAH:

\[
\text{CBT value} = \frac{1575 \times 668}{1900} = 553.7 \text{ UAH} \quad \text{(October 2016 decision to increase the CBT value to 550 UAH).}
\]
The following are reasons for why the value should be increased: 1) **Food inflation** is high in 2017 (around 20% increase of food basket costs in July 2017 compared to December 2016), 2) a price stabilization is expected for August-October, however during **winter period prices** are expected to increase by 10%.

When applying the same approach which was used in October 2016, but using the current food prices (846 UAH in July on national level) to estimate the cost to cover 1575 kcal, the amount needed is **701 UAH**.2

**NEW VALUE:** The FSLC group agreed on 31 August to revise the **recommended value to 700 UAH per person.**

The FSLC group on 31 August agreed to recommend that cluster partners providing cash or voucher assistance are recommended to apply this value from October 2017 onwards.

There were no questions or comments on the updated value recommendation.

4. **Presentation of Joint Food Security Assessment (FSA) Findings**

CC thanked the organisations who had participated in the first joint cluster Food Security Assessment (FSA) as well as those who took part of the analytical work as part of the Analytical Working Group.

**PRESENTATION**

CC together with FSLC IMO Anton Tovchenko presented the main findings in English and Russian.

- For the detailed overview of findings please find the meeting presentation here:

**Questions/Comments:**

Save the Children asked about 2016-2017 poverty levels. FLSC IMO noted that as per latest 2016 State Statistics information the average poverty level remains the same as per 2015. In upcoming month regional statistics should be available were poverty indicators for Luhanksa and Donetska GCA will be available. It was also explained that Ukraine average is slightly better for economically active population but increasingly worse for vulnerable groups

**Brainstorming Session Discussion on how to address findings**

With food insecurity levels having doubled in GCA and NGCA, FSLC Team invited suggestions and ideas from the group on the following:

- MORE SPECIFICALLY: How can we address the increasing food security needs?
- MORE BROADLY: What can we do to help solve the reasons for the increased needs?

Save the Children underscored that, more broadly, the problems identified, especially when considering the contributing factors outlined in the presentation, is beyond what humanitarians can address through small scale cash grants, job creation cash grants etc. This can only be addressed with and by the

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2 The food basket costs 846 UAH in July per WFP monitored basket (1900 kcal). Therefore, the Equation to find the cost of 1575 kcal if 1900 kcal cost 846 UAH:

\[
\text{CBT value} = \frac{(1575 \times 846)}{1900} = 701 \text{ UAH} \quad \text{(based on July Prices)}.
\]
Government and Development partners. The group agreed and CC noted that this is an important point to have confirmed at field level. More difficulties could be expected within new Educational reform, which consider to close schools in small villages and instead open one bigger for several villages. Such reform might have negative impact on the unemployment among teachers in the rural areas, where is already big difficulties to find job.

Triangle reemphasised that the solutions go beyond a humanitarian focus in the broad terms. More specifically, based on REACH Area Based Assessment, which highlights the restructuring of basic service centres post conflict, perhaps this could assist humanitarians in targeting these areas to support the new structures including in terms of food production / markets etc.

FSLC asked MTOT for inputs in terms of projecting Government plans and budget. MTOT specialist answered that there is some budget, nearly 1 million UAH, in local administration for development of small business. It is also expected that there will be positive changes within decentralizations and creating local communities where government budget could be allocated. But this process has some difficulties as not all villages wanted to integrate in one community. It was mentioned that private investments are very limited as the risk is high. Some development projects are in process. For example, there are some discussion with NRC and the German Development Bank to have more comprehensive approach and build infrastructure (houses, markets etc.) for the scientists from medical university who migrated from NGCA. But this project is on the planning stage.

5. **AOB**


- **HRP workshops in the field next week (OCHA)** – CC briefed the group that OCHA will be conducting workshops for partners in the field to raise awareness on the HRP process. The workshop in Kramatorsk will be on 3 October. FSLC Team will forward OCHA’s invitation email when circulating draft minutes.

- **Next Meeting** – The next rounds of field meetings in Kramatorsk & Severodonetsk will be confirmed when possible pending the HRP / HNO time table for October. The date and time will be confirmed via email.
### PARTICIPANT LIST:

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<tr>
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* Agencies listed in alphabetic order

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