FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOOD CLUSTER

DATE 28 September, 2017
TIME 10:00
VENUE Severodonetsk, UN House
CHAIR Anton Tovchenko (Information Management Officer) with Line Rindebaek (Cluster Coordinator)

AGENDA

1. Minutes / Follow Up Action Points
2. Brief Partner Activity Update
3. Update on Cash & Voucher Value Revision
4. Presentation of Joint Food Security Assessment (FSA) Findings
   - Discussion on how to address findings
5. AOB
   - Winterisation Guidance Note in Ukrainian / Russian
   - HRP workshops in the field next week (OCHA)

MINUTES

Cluster coordinator (CC) Line Rindebaek and Information Management Officer (IMO), Anton Tovchenko welcomed participants followed by round the table introductions. The meeting was conducted in Russian.

1. FOLLOW UP ACTION POINTS/MINUTES (FSLC)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTION POINT:</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
<th>FOLLOW UP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PARTNER UPDATES</td>
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<tr>
<td>FSLC to share contacts of NGO</td>
<td>Links</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forum with NGO “East Hope”</td>
<td>Forum established shared.</td>
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<td>PARTNER UPDATES</td>
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<td>NGO “East Hope” to share the</td>
<td>Referral case shared with Shelter Cluster (HH in need of coal). Referral (food needs) shared with cluster partners.</td>
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<td>food security or/and livelihood needs with the FSLC.</td>
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<td>FSLC will update NGO based on Shelter Cluster provides update. Awaiting update from cluster.</td>
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NGO “East Hope” provided an update on the referral cases from previous meeting. No response from partners were received since last meeting. It was noted that Caritas provided food assistance in the previous month and had advised that the next round would not take place earlier than in half a year. NRC proposed legal assistance but it appeared this was not needed. The need for coal and briquettes for
heating within upcoming winter period was highlighted again. FSLC team will update on referral to Shelter Cluster when possible however, Shelter has advised that there are limited partner capacity to respond.

2. PARTNER ACTIVITY UPDATE (FSLC)

Cluster Information Management Officer (IMO) Anton Tovchenko provided an update of partner activities 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 Donetsk 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 7,038 beneficiaries were assisted with in-kind food. In Luhansk region, there were four active partners who reached nearly 19,087 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.

3. Update on Cash & Voucher Value Revision

IMO 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).\(^1\)

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.

NRC mentioned that they together with PIN and ACF are a finalizing market analysis on the contact line which will provide further information on the price trends. The report is expected in 2 weeks.

ACF asked question on cash/voucher value in NGCA as PIN is planning project due to the recent system LPR Republic Bank. It was mentioned that there is recent banking system was conducted in LPR and local authorities is using banking transfers to pay salaries for the employees. There is a projection to expand banking systems more widely in the region. It was noted that transfers to NGCA may be problem due to legal regulations. FSLC will follow up with PIN to get further details on possibility of transfers to NGCA.

**Action Point:** FSLC to provide recommended value for NGCA based on the methodology used for GCA (700 UAH) if required by partners.

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\(^1\) 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:
CBT value = \((1575*668) / 1900 = 553.7\) UAH (October 2016 decision to increase the CBT value to 550 UAH).

\(^2\) 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:
CBT value = \((1575*846) / 1900 = 701\) UAH (based on July Prices).
4. **Presentation of Joint Food Security Assessment (FSA) Findings**

IMO 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**

FSLC IMO Anton Tovchenko presented the main findings in Russian.

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

**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?

**NRC** highlighted that assessment findings totally reflect the situation in Donbass. Before there was an impression that the situation had stabilised however the findings demonstrates that the though there has been a stabilisation of the situation, this actually means that there has been a worsening because coping strategies have been exhausted.

**WFP** confirmed results of the assessment and noted that reality is even worse. It was mentioned that there is no investment to the region due to the high risk. Unemployment increasing significantly and in reality could be 25%. Prices has increased and especially after the cancelling price regulation by the government on some social food commodities. There could be a big variety in the prices in different markets for the same food commodities. In local chains, prices are higher. Some positive changes could be seen in increasing numbers of people applying for business grants however generally there is no projection for changing the situation. It was highlighted that for the referral cases there should be more pressure for the government as legally they are obliged to help people with disabilities, pay social benefits and give free medical aid.

IMO encouraged all partners to advocate with Government authorities within the worsen of the food security situation.

CC confirmed that FSLC will meet with MOA and MTOT in Kiev once Ukrainian / Russian copies are available and encourage partners to advocate for the sector needs at local level, based on the assessment findings.

NRC proposed to present the findings on the GCM meeting in the field and FSLC confirmed they would look into this.

5. **AOB**

- **Winterisation Guidance Note in Ukrainian / Russian** – CC informed the group that NGO Forum has supported with the translation of Ukrainian and Russian versions and all versions (English, Ukrainian and Russian) can be found here: [http://fscluster.org/ukraine/document/fslc-winterisation-guidance-note-2017](http://fscluster.org/ukraine/document/fslc-winterisation-guidance-note-2017). Hard copies were also distributed.
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. OCHA provided further details on the content of the workshop in Severodonetsk which will be on 4 October.

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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<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization*</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Olena Rosulova</td>
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<td>Team Leader</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Viktor Avtonomov</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Anton Kondratov</td>
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<td>LLH Business Monitor</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Line Rindebaek</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Anton Tovchenko</td>
<td>FSLC</td>
<td>Information Management Officer</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Antoinette Celestin</td>
<td>International Committee of the Red Cross</td>
<td>Ecosoc Delegate</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Nina Priadilya</td>
<td>NGO &quot;East Hope&quot;</td>
<td>Head of NGO &quot;East Hope&quot;</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Alexander Sheludenkov</td>
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<td>Coordinator</td>
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<td>Norwegian Refugee Council</td>
<td>M&amp;E Officer</td>
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<td>11.</td>
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<td>United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs</td>
<td>Field Assistant</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Alexey Tiutiunnik</td>
<td>World Food Programme</td>
<td>Field Monitor Assistant</td>
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* Agencies listed in alphabetic order

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