STRATEGIC ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

DATE 19 October, 2017
TIME 11:00
VENUE Kyiv
PARTICIPANTS WFP, FAO, PIN, RAF, ECHO, ADRA and FSLC Secretariat. Excused: Save Ukraine,

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

The SAG meeting covered the following points:

1. Update on FSLC Activities since last SAG in March 2017

Cluster Coordinator, Line Rindebaek, provided an update on activities that have taken place since the last SAG meeting in March 2017:

CHANGE IN CLUSTER SAG MEMBERSHIP:
– OFDA has advised the FSLC Team that they will leave the Cluster SAG as the focal point is now based in Budapest.
– PIN: Andrew Meyer is replacing Vanessa Merlet from PIN until further notice.
– ADRA: Artem Dikhtiaruk is replacing Larisa Kobzarenko who is no longer with ADRA.
– Membership may be revised in the new year.

UPDATE ON ISSUES DISCUSSED IN THE LAST SAG MEETING:
Livelihoods Working Group – Formalisation of link with cluster: The Livelihood WG is less active now since departure of Mercy Corps with bilateral coordination being preferred. CC consulted with field members during the August round of meetings in both Kramatorsk and Severodonetsk and consensus was that ad hoc coordination between LWG members is sufficient at this point with no need for the FSLC team to work actively to revive the LWG at this point. However, with the increased focus on livelihoods in 2018, this may be necessary then.

Strengthening coordination – Sub-national focal point in Kramatorsk: CC confirmed that, for now, FSLC still have sub national Focal Points (WFP field monitors) in Severodonetsk and Kramatorsk.

Proposed Cluster Assessment framework (hard copy shared): the Joint FSA was build on the Assessment Framework endorsed by the SAG in the last meeting (it was noted that the FSA findings were presented to the MOA and that FSLC and CLAs are planning to present to MTOT shortly). The Socio Economic Analysis was also undertaken in line with the framework.

Transition Plan – Next Steps (hard copy shared): FSLC Team has had initial discussions on a possible transition with Field Government Stakeholders, MTOT, MOA – however, based on recent joint FSA findings, the need to maintain a cluster structure for 2018 has been discussed and CLAs are supporting a review of transition plans (originally planned for end of 2017). It is expected that the FSLC Team will continue into 2018 – likely with both a CC and IMO position during the initial part at which point the transition activities to be re-visited in 2018. CC noted that FSLC Team are hoping to look at contingency planning (building on the inter-agency contingency planning workshop) in 2018 to ensure minimum and advanced preparedness activities are initiated.
2. Endorsement of HRP Approach for 2018:

The SAG endorsed the presented HRP 2018 approach for the FSLC following the below discussions:

Single Year Approach: The HCT has decided on a Single Year approach to HRP 2018 with view to revisit the Humanitarian-Livelihoods nexus in first quarter of 2018 – the HCT members of the SAG elaborated on the reasons for this decision.

Same Overall Cluster Approach as for 2017: CC underlined that with needs remaining, and even growing, it is recommended that objectives & overall activities remain as follows:

- **Objective 1**: Ensure immediate access to food for the most vulnerable groups affected by the conflict
  - Activity: Provision of Cash / Voucher or In kind food as appropriate

- **Objective 2**: Ensure sustainable food security of the affected population through improved agricultural production
  - Activity: Provision of agricultural support
  - SAG suggested that mine risk and protection is included – CC confirmed that this is identified as a need in the draft Cluster Humanitarian Needs Overview under agricultural needs.

- **Objective 3**: Employment and income generation of the conflict affected populations for sustainable livelihoods
  - Activity: Provision of employment and income generation support

Although going beyond the scope of the cluster, SAG members noted that the focus on livelihoods and the structural issues should be improved. It was also noted that ER activities will not have sufficient impact in the longer term and that this will be with development partners. CC clarified the role of FSLC to coordinate ER activities (mainly focussed on Donbas GCA/NGCA but also including humanitarian livelihoods activities for IDPs outside of Donbas such as those undertaken by IOM) but highlighted the need to work to improve coordination with development partners.

The SAG reviewed the 1-page FSLC Livelihoods Activity Overview prepared and consulted with cluster partners during April-May meetings (and based on bilateral SAG member discussions), which highlights geographic areas as well as “hot zones”, “calm areas” etc. (not related only to geography). It was noted by SAG members that FSLC should not forget pockets that needs assistance and NGCA and frontline communities (which for livelihoods could include greenhouses). It was also discussed to ensure protection as a crosscutting issue.

- **HNO Draft: 1.56 People in Need (pending final population figures)**

Responding to the comment to focus more on Livelihoods, CC clarified that the Cluster HNO *(hard copy shared)* starts by emphasising the socio economic situation to highlight to the livelihoods needs as a platform for all cluster needs. CC and IMO clarified the needs by objective in details and explained the methodology used. SAG members had no objections to the HNO approach.

- **HRP 2018 Timeline**

The SAG went through the timeline for the HRP Process (with different steps required) prepared by the FSLC Team. It was agreed that, like last year, the SAG will have the opportunity to endorse the CRC approved proposals via email.
Budget minimum: SAG majority agreed that there should be no minimum budget requirement for proposals. CC advised SAG that the number of proposals was likely to be similar to that of last year.

- Cluster Review Committee (CRC) Members:

  CC noted that the 7 members since 2016 have been:
  - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
  - World Food Programme (WFP)
  - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  - ACF
  - Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
  - Child Wellbeing Fund (CWBF)
  - NGO Forum (stepped down in October 2017)

NGO Forum stepped down in October 2017 but made recommendations for their replacement. Given the time constraints and following the CRC TORs which highlights that: “In the event that a CRC member seat becomes vacant and/or it is not possible to fill it with elections in timely manner, the Cluster Lead Agencies in consultation with the SAG can appoint a CRC member to a maximum period of 6 months. For this appointment the usual eligibility criteria can be waived.”

Based on NGO Forum suggestion, CC recommended that SAG appoint CRS/Caritas for 6 months. This was endorsed by the SAG.

CC noted that ACF currently were looking into whether they would be able to continue as a member. If ACF also steps down, FSLC Team will consult with SAG via email.

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