



# BANGLADESH FOOD SECURITY SECTOR

*Strengthening Humanitarian Response*

## Livelihoods Working Group Meeting

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**DATE** Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
**TIME** 09:30 am – 11:00 am  
**VENUE** WFP Meeting Room, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

### AGENDA

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1. *Introduction and Welcome*
2. *Livelihoods and IGA activities – Solidarités Internationale*
3. *Reforestation activities – FAO/ Arannyak Foundation*
4. *Monsoon and Livelihoods response Lesson learned – Concern Worldwide*
5. *Discussion on Monsoon/Cyclone impact on Livelihoods*
6. *AoB*

### SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

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- The FSS Coord to form a small taskforce (made of active Partners with experience in Livelihoods in CXB) to develop and adapt a Guidance Note on Emergency Livelihoods Programming for Monsoon/Cyclone Seasons. FSS Coord committed to share the Draft Guidance Note, based on one developed at the national level.
- EETWG's Chair invited FSS/LHs WG's Partners to share their experiences and projects on Environmental Protection, including on documentation, information on existing projects: such as those with Nurseries to share locations of those nurseries for native grasses for rehabilitation and landslides and erosion prevention, so that Partners who intend to purchase those grasses can do so easily.
- A small taskforce/group of FSL partners will be formed, led by FAO, to develop a technical guidance/set of criteria on Homegardening and micro-gardening activities: that will include, technical advice on agriculture related matters (seeds, size of land, etc.), targeting, including sustainability dimensions: SI, WVI, MUKTI, WFP, IOM. The group will report back in the coming weeks, to LHs WG.

### DISCUSSION

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#### 1- Intro

The FSS Coordinator opened the meeting with a welcome to all, followed by a round of introductions, noting that there is increased interest by FSL Partners to present on their ongoing Livelihoods activities, a very welcome move. Those who were present at the meeting are: Handicap International, Welt Hunger Hilfe, Solidarités Internationale, Energy and Environment Technical WG, FAO, MUKTI, Concern Worldwide, Cash WG, IOM, UNHCR, World Vision International, UN Women, Population Council, COAST, Arannyak Foundation, Christian Aid, WFP, SARPV.

#### 2- Livelihoods Ongoing IGA Activities – Solidarités Internationale (See PPT Presentation)

The Project, “Improving Access to Humanitarian Services for Rohingya Refugees in Cox’s Bazar (livelihoods and homegardening activities), implemented by SI and funded by ECHO and BPRM/IOM, started in June 2017 and were extended up to June 2018 due to the Rohingya refugees’ Influx. The activities are being implemented in 6 villages located in 2 Unions (Hnilla and Whykong) within Teknaf Upzila.

- There are some issues so far identified, such as delays in generating target populations, because it is a door to door targeting. Validation of door to door targeting takes up to 2 months sometimes and the consequence is that these delays affect the implementation timeframe and milestone, because agricultural inputs such as seeds distribution are season-bound;
- Targeting validation, needs to ensure that identification was sufficiently inclusive, participatory, and mainstreams gender, income, disability, etc criteria. The Committee which selects and verifies the list of targeted population, runs consultation meetings to find out whether the intended beneficiaries are truly interested and able to engage in home-gardening;
- Other consequences are that poor targeting process yields poor results of the project: e.g., if one only selects ultra poor villagers, the likely consequence is high levels of poor outcomes, given that their multiple vulnerabilities have an impact on the chances of success of the project;
- FSS/LHs Coord and other Partners suggested that we explore harmonising and perhaps developing SOPs for particular micro-agricultural projects. It could include criteria such as light proxy means test, and other screening methods;
- A smaller group of FSL partners could be formed, led by FAO, to develop a guidance/criteria on targeting, including sustainability dimensions of seeds distribution for micro-gardening: SI, WVI, MUKTI, WFP, IOM. The group will report back in the coming weeks, to LHs WG;
- There are issues of water scarcity, and the ultra-poor, vulnerable populations don’t have the means to hire labour to fetch water for them. Seeds distributed to this category of populations are sometimes sold because of limitations in monitoring and awareness raising pre-distribution on the benefits of self-sufficiency in terms of food security;
- Alternative ideas are needed to ensure sustainability, success, and etc. For example, choice between IGAs and home gardening (for crop production – with the aim to increase dietary nutritional intake for families)
- Importance of linking relief to early recovery.

### **3- Reforestation activities – FAO/ Arannayk Foundation**

(See PPT Presentation: A presentation by Arannayk Foundation on Alternative to Deforestation and Livelihoods)

- The Foundation was found to work on the implementation of a major Conservation Project which is funded by the US and Bangladesh Governments, for an 18 year life project, since 2003;
- The project targets key beneficiaries (such as resource poor’ inherited professions: wood cutters, a trade that is generally transmitted from generation to generation in some villages) of livelihoods (alternative and new skills, grants). Providing alternative livelihoods to some professions is not easy: if not well designed, some projects have failed to move some individuals to move from those professions dependent on accessing forests resources (timber, logging, commercial size firewood);
- FAO-funded project has been assisting with the establishment of native grass nurseries which will be cultivated in camps and around camps areas for land stabilisation and floods and landslides. This project is coordinated with Forestry Department. In next LHs WG, an official from the Forestry Department will be invited to share, and be part of discussions under the LHs WG;
- The key interventions (list from the Presentation) are very much in line with our Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning, particularly on the focus on host communities;
- EETWG highlighted that environmental challenges exist, but it is also important to think of opportunities for livelihoods, such as tree planting, etc. Chair of the EETWG invited Partners to share their experiences on Environmental Protection, including on documentation, information on

existing projects: such as those with Nurseries to share locations of those nurseries for native grasses, so that Partners who intend to purchase those grasses can do so easily.

#### **4- Monsoon and Livelihoods Response Lessons learned – Concern Worldwide (See PPT Presentation on Cash-based interventions)**

In 2017, Concern's START Project implemented a post-disaster recovery livelihoods project which reached 88,000 households using cash-based interventions, as the key modality. CONCERN assisted families (disaster-affected) with one-off multi-purpose cash grants, to prevent them from relying on negative coping strategies in the post-disaster period.

Some of the lessons learned from START Project, and applicable to other Cash Based Interventions as FS&L Partners are preparing themselves for the Pre and Pro-Monsoon/Cyclone recovery response:

- Cash based intervention is so far the best “*lifesaving*” but needs to have market functionality monitoring (e.g. access, availability, price, etc.); and if required, to engage/influence local government in market regulations e.g. price-hike;
- Cash gives households a greater degree of choice and permits them to spend money according to their own priorities;
- Cash can be spent on both food and non-food items and is easily invested in livelihood security;
- Empower the beneficiaries and increase the dignity of women and other vulnerable groups
- Cost efficient for programme operations.

Some of the key recommendations for future Cash based Interventions:

- Cash based programme is very suitable for all affected people if market is functional
- Well trained and Experienced staff for cash based programme is essential
- Training per business category is essential and post response linkage and follow up is required for sustainability
- Beneficiaries are mostly women but very few % of female colleagues and should make adjustments
- Never allow to recover loan money by anyone
- Functional CRM
- MMT is suitable/acceptable even though there are operational issues

#### **5- Discussion on Developing a Guidance Note on Emergency Seasonal Livelihoods Programming in pre and post-Monsoon/Cyclone**

- The FSS Coord committed to share the Draft Guidance Note, based on one developed at the national level. A small group is currently being formed. It will include those who volunteered to work on it: IOM, COAST, Concern, Cash WG, FAO, SCI, UN Women, CAID, and Solidarites Internationale. The draft Guidance Note will be developed by the smaller group meeting and then circulated to the wider mailing list and adapt it to CXB's context. Its purpose is to ensure that a set of context-specific and applicable recommendations for programming in emergency seasonal programming for Livelihoods can be developed and shared among all Partners investing in livelihoods projects for Rohingya Influx's Affected Host Communities near refugee camps areas;
- Once members of the Group will have met and decided on/worked on the parameters of the Paper/Guidance Note, they will seek FSS feedback on the final draft document to the LHs WG wide membership. More details on the Guidance an invitation will be shared in coming days, however, the entire process should not take more than two weeks.

#### **6- AoB**

- EETWG: In the process of finalising a pre-implementation evaluation exercise for the Pilot Project.

Next meeting on Thursday 03<sup>rd</sup> May.