



Tuesday 9 February 2021 at 02:00pm - 04:00pm PNG time | via Zoom

Chair

Chair: Mr. Brown Konabe, Director, Food Security Branch, DAL

Co-chair: Ms. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha, Food Security Cluster Coordinator, FAO

Participants

Refer to Annex 1.

Agenda

- a. Welcome
- b. Tari Emergency Response
- c. Brief on effects of COVID-19 and other shocks on PNG's food economy
- d. Updating COVID-19 4Ws for February
- e. COVID-19 Contingency Plan
- f. La Niña observation tool
- g. AOB

Welcome

1. Mr. Konabe welcomed all participants to the cluster meeting.

Tari Emergency Response

2. Ms. Sikas-Iha provide the following update to the cluster:
 - a. The tribal fighting resulted from a murder that occurred in mid-January 2021 at Pi Nakia village of Tagali LLG, Koroba Kopiago, Hela Province.
 - b. On 27 January 2021, tribal fight broke out in Mulipi community, Tari-Pori, as relatives of the deceased started killing people in the community indiscriminately.
 - c. As of 8 February, the number of displaced people is now over 2,924 persons, including women and children. Of these displaced persons, 430 households are displaced.



- d. To date, 21 people are confirmed dead.
- e. Temporary care shelters were provided for displaced persons and families in the following areas: Hoiebia (primary school classrooms and UCHR community centre), Kikita village, and Tari Town (Tari Women's Guest House and Nazarene Church)
- f. Sickness have been reported among those displaced and hundreds were injured.
- g. FAO has provided relief food items to the displaced persons in the care centers and communities. The food relief items include food baskets with dried goods and fresh produce from local fresh producers.
- h. Other coordinating partners and UN agencies including United Church Hela Region, UNFPA, UN Women, IOM, UNICEF, World Vision, DFAT, Palladium, ExxonMobil and others have provided relief support and services to the Tari emergency.
- i. Police and PNGDF personnel have been deployed for security on the ground. The tension till remains high.

Brief on effects of COVID-19 and other shocks on PNG's food economy

- 3. Dr. Schmidt from the IFPRI provided a PowerPoint presentation of the IFPRI research report "Effects of COVID-19 and Other Shocks on Papua New Guinea's Economy: A Multi-Market Simulation Analysis"
 - a. The study uses a multi-market simulation model of the PNG food economy that explicitly includes production, consumption, external trade and prices of key agricultural commodities to quantify the likely impacts of a set of potential shocks on household welfare and food security in PNG
 - b. The paper models economic shocks simulated across 20 household groups in the four PNG regions; rural, urban and metro households; and poor and non-poor households.
 - c. In summary, the research report states that PNG is not a stranger to unexpected shocks, especially shocks (El Niño, Cocoa pod borer, African Swine Fever, etc) that directly affect agricultural production. PNG has the potential to build from COVID-19 pandemic to pilot and identify a suite of targeted safety net programs that can address food consumption vulnerability in different regions of the country. However, PNG lacks important and up-to-date data on household production and consumption. Furthermore, greater investment in market infrastructure would lower the cost of trade and enhance food security by minimizing the effects of local production shortfalls.



Updating of COVID-19 4Ws for February

4. Ms. Sikas-Iha informed the cluster of that the Food Security Cluster Secretariat will send out the COVID-19 4Ws template to the cluster members for them to populate and revert before the deadline of 22 February 2021.
5. The collection of the COVID-19 4Ws is coordinated from the PNG Disaster Management Team (PNG DMT).

COVID-19 Contingency Plan

6. Ms. Sikas-Iha informed the cluster that the Contingency Plan is currently under development by DMT and respective clusters are required to provide their inputs in terms of response, recovery, plans, etc, to their cluster heads to report to DMT.
7. The deadline for cluster inputs to the Food Security Cluster is 6 April 2021.

La Niña Observation Tool

8. Ms. Sikas-Iha informed the cluster that DMT La Niña Observation Tool will be sent to cluster agencies to provide their inputs.
9. The La Niña Observation Tool provides a monthly update of the effects/impacts on rainfall, temperatures, water, food crops, food prices and market trends, flooding, health and nutrition.

AOB

10. The ASF Taskforce meeting was conducted today at the NAQIA Office.

Action Items

1. La Niña Observation Tool to be circulated to Food Security Cluster members to be complete - due 25th February 2021.
2. COVID-19 4Ws to be circulated to cluster members to complete – due 23 February 2021.
3. Cluster members to provide inputs on their COVID-19 activities for the COVID-19 Pandemic Contingency Plan – due 8 April 2021.
4. Drought-focused field monitoring tool for NGI region Contingency Plan to be completed by FSC Cluster Coordinator's – due date 8 April 2021.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 9 March 2021, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM PNG Time



ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST

Attendees:

1. Emily Schmidt – IFPRI
2. Brown Konabe – Chair-DAL
3. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha – CO-chair-FAO
4. Ian Laki – FAO
5. Melainie Raire – UNDP
6. Chanelle Taoi – UNHCR
7. Michael Constable – DFAT
8. Albert Tobalbal Oliver – World Bank
9. Caroline Ninnnes – Susu Mamas
10. Kay Javati – participant