Minutes Highlands Earthquake 2018/2

Thursday 5th April 2018 at 2:00 PM
Department of Agriculture and Livestock, Main Conference Room,
Central Government Office (CGO) Building, Waigani

Chair

Mr. Brown Konabe, Director Food Security Branch, Department of Agriculture and Livestock
Co-chair: Helmtrude Sikas, Food Security Cluster Coordinator

Participants

Refer to Annex 1.

Agenda

1. Review of last meeting
2. Security Situation Update
3. Coverage of food relief (by partners)
4. Gaps and constraints (by partners)
5. Recommendations for better targeting
6. Early Recovery – Food Garden Plans

1. Review of last meeting

- The chair, Mr. Konabe welcomed the attendees
- 3 action items were brought forward for review:
  1. Food Distribution Method
     - A copy of the Food Distribution Method is on the FSC website for partners who are delivering food and need assistance with community entry and engagement and who to capture as target beneficiaries
  2. Emergency Food Basket Required Items
     - Also found on the FSC Website
  3. DMT Response Plan
     - The Plan was shared by DMT. If anyone needs a copy, please email the cluster coordinator helmtrude.sikasiha@fao.org
     - EMPNG’s target beneficiary was corrected from 500 to 2500 households

2. Security Situation Update

- There has been escalated violence in Tari this week
While UNDSS is monitoring the situation on the ground, Tari is now off limits for UN agencies until further notice
Tari airport has been suspended for operations until further notice

3. Coverage of Food Relief

More food donations from the non-affected provincial governments, private sector and Donors to the affected people through the provincial governments
To date, over 58,000 people have received some sort of food assistance

EMPNG update:
Covered the Komo Margarima areas with food supply, water and few medical kits
IOM and Salvation Army assisted with rapid assessments in Komo Margarima
The company supplied 37 tonnes of food covering 7 LLGs (those marked affected by the earthquake) in Hela and SHP.
The company is now moving from response to the early recovery phase
The company’s Community Livelihoods Improvement Program has now shifted its focus from its usual livelihoods activities to food garden recovery
EMPNG’s latest assessment, briefly outlines that:
- Though food is still a need, rebuilding homes is the more priority need as people are now moving back into their destroyed villages, hence they need shelter kits to rebuild their homes and then food can come in as they settle in
- Additionally, communal hubs are not safe anymore and people want to move back to their own homes
- EMPNG will not be supplying bush knives and axes as per the FSC advice
- EMPNG recommends that the food garden activities must be accompanied by shelter activities
EMPNG offered logistic support to food security cluster partners

WFP Update:
Planning needs to be adjusted to really identify the where the needs of affected people are
183 metric tonnes of high energy food (can combine with rice) will be distributed
83 metric tonnes of food is already in Port Moresby ready for distribution
There is also consideration to stop buying rice and to re-adjust budget s
WFP suggested that while the affected communities are rebuilding their homes, WFP can supply a month’s immediate food supply, as food crops will take time to mature
WFP has now a staff based in Mt Hagen to assist with logistics coordination. Another staff will be placed in Mendi and at Moro
The Food Security Cluster will be getting a support staff from Global FSC and the RedR standby partner to support coordination in PNG
That person has visa issues that may require clearance; and there is no set date for arrival

FAO Update:
FAO has plans to do food garden recovery
- FAO plans to work through the cluster system
- Most of the seeds and planting materials will be sourced locally and local networks will be utilized to implement extension activities in this recovery effort
- Recommendation: FSC members requested if corns and pumpkin be considered to be distributed along the lowland affected areas e.g. Western Province

4. Gaps and Constraints

- Generally, the FS Cluster has information of what has been donated, however lack information on where most food distributions are taking place
- And for the areas the food has been supplied, there is no feedback if the food was received well
- People have congregated at care centres based on fear and not really in need for food hence, this has created opportunity for social issues
- The places where people are gathered together for relief assistance as informal communal hubs and not care centres
- Those living in informal communal hubs are now disbanding and people are returning to where they used to live
- The number of people in these informal communal hubs go up after there is an after -shock and if the after- shocks continue, the number of people also increase
- In the Para villages near Hides 4, engage more communities in food relief assistance
- Where the IDPs are living with wantoks (relatives), these relatives are equally vulnerable

5. Recommendations for better targeting

- Work through community leaders, churches and the local level governments, as well community based organizations to minimize bias implementation of emergency activities
- Key leaders from these groups should be able to assist verify target populations for distributions

6. Early Recovery – Food Garden Plans

- All Food Security Partners to take heed of the WESH Restoration Bill when conducting response and recovery/restoration emergency activities
- Partners with recovery plans will be implementing soon

**Action points**

- WFP to share distribution plan once it is ready
- FSC coordinator to follow-up with the WASH Cluster Coordinator regarding immediate food needs and food garden recovery assessments in the Bosavi area
ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST

1. Debbie Maraki, CDS Manager, EMPNG
2. Serah Kende, CDS Coordinator, EMPNG
3. Daniela Demel, Reports/IM Officer, WFP
4. Busisi Siwaka, Info Officer, DAL
5. Sally Loyd, Programer, Strickland Bosavi (WFP)
6. Don Pomb Polye, Facilitator, SIFEC
7. Kaskus Kande, Facilitator, SIFEC
8. Michiel Meerdink, Emergency Coordinator, WFP
9. Peter Murore, M&E Officer, IOM
10. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha, NFSAC Coordinator, FAO
11. Brown Konabe, Director FSB, DAL