Minutes 2020/3

Tuesday 5th May 2020 at 02:00pm - 04:00pm PNG time | via Zoom

**Chair**

Mr. Brown Konabe, Director Food Security Branch DAL

Co-chair: Helmutrude Sikas-Iha FS Cluster Coordinator FAO

**Participants**

Refer to Annex 1.

**Agenda**

1. Overview on coronavirus (COVID-19) and African swine fever (ASF)
2. NCD Food Bank
3. Lae Food Security Working Group
4. Updates from Cluster members
5. Action points and closing of meeting

1. **Overview on COVID-19 and ASF**

   1. As of 5th May, 2020, there are no new COVID-19 cases in PNG
   2. Number of cases remains at eight (8)
   3. Restrictions are still in place for domestic travel
   4. Primary schools resume as of 4 May adhering to the New Normal
   5. More donations of PPE from the Australian Government to PNG
   6. For ASF, the second deployment of mission team to the Southern Highlands province
   7. Report from ASF field team confirmed that the areas, Surinki and Kandep in Enga province, Margarima in Hela province as well as the Mendi-Munih in the Southern Highlands province are infected sites of the African swine fever
   8. The team had meetings with provincial governments of the infected areas to increase checkpoint sites and establish two more local disease control centres in the area

2. **NCD Food Bank**

9. The NCD Food Bank is non-partisan group comprised of citizens who came together with the concept of distributing food to those in need during emergencies crisis such as the current emergency from the impact of COVID-19
10. This is an area identified as a gap that they had identified that had little assistance from the government
11. The local NGO did their first lot of food distributions in NCD last weekend and reached 7% of their total target population (6,000 people) in the next two weeks
12. Their biggest achievement of the group is to have data come in from the food distributions and also to have their work acknowledged by the food recipients
13. Recipients of the food being distributed are those who had lost their jobs as a result of the lock down
14. Also the vulnerable groups in the city such as people living with disabilities, people with HIV/AIDS/TB, widows/ GBV survivors, pregnant women, elderly and unemployed youth
15. The NGO is targeting Port Moresby and has plans to roll out to other provincial centres if the SOE prolongs
16. They were also the same group that distributed food during the earthquake and back then they called themselves the Helping Hela Earthquake
17. Their distribution model is receiving fresh food and process food from donations and distributing through partnering agencies to the most vulnerable
18. Sponsors are BSP who helped with opening of account, Innovative agro industry donated fresh food, Stop n shop, Digicel and other business entities
19. They do not have a food supply source from farmers but rather heavily rely on in-kind donations of fresh food and processed food donations for sorting and distribution
20. Most of the donations have been so far given in kind and are mostly rice, flour, tea, sugar and fresh vegetables
21. Food hampers are packed in a value worth of K33-60 and the group tries to maintain a nutritious pack but really depends on what food are being donated
22. Food Cluster members acknowledged that this is an excellent concept and encouraged the team to do more
23. They are thinking of expanding to other centres if the need arises

### 3. Lae Food Security Working Group

24. The Lae group were commended by cluster members for the great initiative to respond to effects of lock down and the impact this had in various urban populations as well as the rural populations in Lae and Morobe province and
25. The Food Security Co-chair requested Mr. Ivan Pomaleu to provide a quick and brief update of the good work of the Lae Food Security sector working group
26. The group is working with the Lae City Authority to reconfigure the main Lae market
27. This is to increase the supply of fresh vegetables in Lae and at the same time encourage food vendors stay where they are to ease up on overcrowding in the city’s main market
28. The group are working to identify satellite markets in Lae and feeds into the main market
29. The group have ensured to establish order in the market and to adhere to the principle of social distancing at the markets
30. With this, the group aimed at building the concept of volunteering through Lae city authority especially those who had lost their jobs and benefit from the labour force to be created through this concept
31. The team have a draft of consolidated ideas and design
32. Mr Pomaleu requested to invite the Team Leader Paula Murphy who is the more appropriate team member to provide updates in the next FSC meeting.

4. Other agenda items – Summary to memos/papers

Rice price and household welfare in PNG
33. Ms Schmidt provided a brief summary on the memo on rice price shocks and household welfare in PNG
34. An international rice price shock will have significant effects on welfare of rice consumers in PNG and that model simulations indicate that a 40 percent rise in the world price of rice could decrease overall rice consumption in PNG by 14 to 21 percent, and reduce rice consumption of the poor by 20 percent.
35. However, IFPRI and the memo notably indicates that rice has different consumption levels in urban, peri-urban and rural households
36. From IFPRI surveys, rice is seen to be found in all different household food consumption baskets and is preferred differently from urban to rural households
37. For the households that are entirely dependent on rice, they would be the ones that will be hit hard.
38. Emily will send out the full technical report in the next few days

Mike Bourke – summarized a paper from Professor Glen Mola about COVID-19 in PNG
39. Prof Mola provides a useful insight to the coronavirus situation in PNG from a health expert perspective
40. PNG should not follow what the high income countries (HICs) are doing for coronavirus
41. PNG should look at the examples of Africa
42. PNG Health service has been stretched beyond its current capacity
43. The lock down has led to economic and social issues
44. Professor Mola disputes social distancing while Dr Bourke encourages social distancing and that PNG should not give up on social distancing
45. Professor Mola disputes that the immunity of Papua New Guineans is strong

4. Updates from Cluster member and updates
46. AHC- The Australian Consul-General and Food Security team in Lae are working with Lae City Authority to get a cash for work program including agriculture activities which
include disbursing cash to people having difficulty. This concept is considered for funding assistance. The Lae group is also putting together a Secretariat to monitor food security activities including food distributions

47. There was also a proposal to AHC to help support the safe operation of 40 markets, however, only 12 markets were considered.

48. DFAT team progressed discussions with E-didiman, MDF and GSMA on the Agritech program by DFAT.

49. Digicel will support the ongoing public message and James will get GSMA to join next cluster meeting

50. FAO agreement should be in place in the next week or so

51. IFAD, FPDA and DAL will have a program meeting and provide an update in the next meeting with regards to their response to COVID-19

52. There are massive communication gaps in relation to ASF in the highlands infected provinces hence FAO is working closely with Phamplus, AHC, DFAT and the CPP on fine tuning activities to respond to the ASF community messaging needs

53. Dr Mike Bourke reports that in Western province, there are reports of food shortages in Morehead area of the dry spell

**Action Items**

1. DAL, IFAD and DAL to provide update in the next meeting
2. IFPRI colleague Emily to share the full technical paper on Rice price and household welfare in PNG
3. FSC to include Lae FS sector working group Team Leader Mr. Murphy in the mailing list
4. FSC to share the FSC operational action items matrix

**NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 | 2 pm PNG time via Zoom

**ANNEX 1 – ATTENDANCE LIST**

Attendees:

1. Anna Kimam, DAL
2. Regina Nukundj, DAL
3. Steven Hoko, DAL
4. Emily Schmidt, IFPRI
5. Aaron English, ACIAR
6. Steve Burns, AHC
7. James Marshall, DFAT
8. Katie Francis, AHC
9. Lavinia Tovue, Phamplus
10. Alex Kerang, Phamplus
11. Mathew Kanua - MDF
12. Mike Bourke, ANU
13. Allan Oliver, World Bank
14. Geethi, World Bank
15. Clement Chipokolo, World Vision
16. Hudson Tabara, DMT Secretariat
17. Douglas Apeng, SUN movement
18. Janet Sios- NCD Food Bank
19. Rex Paura - NCD Food Bank
20. Brown Konabe, DAL, Chair
21. Helmtrude Sikas-Iha, FAO, CO-chair

Apologies - Tomoko Sato, Simon Kafu, Peter Murorea (All 3 from IOM) and Sergie Bang (NARI)