MINUTES – NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY SECTOR MEETING

July 2016

Monthly Food Security Sector (FSS) meeting was held on July 22\textsuperscript{nd} 2016 in WFP Office. The meeting was attended by 15 partners, including 4 UN Agencies, 6 INGOs, and 1 National NGO. Representatives from OCHA, WFP, FAO, WCN, American Red Cross, World Vision, MRF, UN Reach, CESVI, AVSI, Trocaire, and CDN-ZOA attended the meeting.

The following Agenda was adopted for the meeting:

1. Round of Introduction and Review of Previous Minutes;
2. Coordination updates;
   I. HRP six monthly reporting;
   II. Floods in Rakhine;
   III. FSS coordination in Rakhine;
3. WFP Transition Plan;
4. AOB
   I. Planned Simulation Exercise in Sittwe – Cyclone Preparedness;
   II. South East – potential assistance for Refugees from Thailand

1. Review of Meeting Minutes and Action Points;
   • The action point on developing a common tool for Rapid Food Security Assessment is still pending and will be followed in the coming term.
   • Discussions with Early Recovery Network held on the inclusion of Early Recovery, and midterm income generating activities in the targets and achievements of Food Security Sector. Some of the achievements were showcased in the current midyear reporting of HRR indicators, though it still remain challenging to separate emergency, recovery and development oriented targets and achievements separately.

2. HRP Six Monthly Reporting:
   • Participants were updated on the midterm reporting of HRP against the indicators and achievements. In summary, the food related targets were recorded with over achievements in both Rakhine and Kachin/Shin, while 68% of the floods affected target also received conditional food assistance in different zones.
   • The Rakhine food targets were revised to increase from the previous milestones as the anticipated return population at the beginning of 2016 were reduced from the targets but the same population still received food assistance in the first half of 2016 and planned to receive assistance in the coming period.
   • The data collected from partners in Kachin/Shan also shows a slight over achievement, largely because of new displacement and uncertain targets in the non government controlled areas of both Kachin and Shan. However, the FSS in Kachin is tasked to clarify this with active partners and inform back either to revise the targets in HRP with a clear strategy of assistance.
• The agricultural livelihood target were lagging behind largely because of lack of funding, challenging to implement agricultural interventions with displaced population (especially in camp areas) and challenging to separate emergency interventions from preparedness, and longer term development interventions.
• Solidarites International did pilot some agricultural interventions with displaced people in camp areas, they will showcase their achievement and lesson learnt in coming FSS meeting.
• In terms of qualitative achievements, cash based transfers have gradually expanded and replaced food baskets, which allow more room for logistics ease and preferred among affected community.

**Action Point:**
- *FSS to work further with ERN to best reflect livelihood interventions in the HRP reporting and revising targets onwards.*
- *Solidarites International to present experience sharing from their agriculture project with displaced population in upcoming FSS meeting*

3. **Floods in Rakhine:**
   • The heavy rain across much of Myanmar since 1 July has caused flooding and landslides in the country, the most affected regions are Rakhine, Sagaing and Kachin.
   • The floods displaced more than 28,000 people across three regions; Rakhine is the most affected region where 4 townships (Mrauk-U, Minbya, Kyauktaw and Ann) are severely affected;
   • Agriculture department preliminary reported more than 500 acres of damaged paddy field in the affected townships, including 30 acres of rice seed beds; however the damage estimate will be refined with better outreach and access;
   • Rakhine State Government is leading relief efforts with the support of technical departments; there is no formal request for response from humanitarian community; but active organizations on ground were encouraged to support with their available capacity.
   • WFP has received request of supporting for 10 days food ration while FAO received a request for supporting compound fertilizer;
   • It was agreed at the AHCT meeting that MIRA assessment is not required at this stage, however active organizations on ground did their preliminary damage estimates within their areas of presence.
   • Some organizations are already identified in the affected areas of Rakhine (Acted, DRC, RI, ICRC, Oxfam, and IRC) and the focal points are contacted for ongoing efforts;
   • The FSS is planned to be reactivated in Sittwe next week, to better orient and fulfill initially the flood response followed by employing longer term strategic work in the working of food security sectors;
• The coordination in Rakhine would be focusing on the floods response in terms of needs and gaps, response analysis, information and coordination needs in the Sittwe, and at townships level.

**Action Point:**

*FSS meeting in Sittwe to organize sector coordination and response with government departments and active partners*

*Partners are requested to encourage their Rakhine based colleagues to participate and strengthen the deliberations of Food Security Sector.*

4. **WFP Transition Strategy:**

- WFP updated on their transition strategy in Rakhine, shifting from direct food assistance to facilitate longer term and targeted livelihood interventions. The coverage of more than 128,000 people every month with food aid cost more than 2 million dollars
- The proposed transition strategy focus more on targeted lean season programs, supplementary feeding (nutrition), asset creation and return packages for returnees/relocated population.
- Different sources have been used to build on the proposed transition strategy; most of the indication came from livelihood assessment, post distribution monitoring, and vulnerability mapping of the targeted beneficiaries;
- The lean season interventions would specifically focus on female/elderly/orphan headed households, and HH’s with disabilities or chronic diseases
- Replying to the query of MRF on the inclusion of economic IDPs in WFP transition plan, the organization concerned was requested to consult with WFP field offices to identify ways and means to include economically affected groups both direct/indirect as much as possible within the broader framework of this transition strategy.
- Focal point from Trocaire was mentioning about the response in Kachin/Shan, either that is part of the transition plan for WFP; it was informed that the response strategy in Kachin is already targeted and focus more on livelihoods and asset creation; any further changes in that plan should be worked out more closely with active partners of Food Security Sector.

**Action Point:**

- *WFP to share the details of their transition strategy with associated targets*

5. **Simulation Exercise (SIMEX):**

- Participants were updated on the planned simulation exercise in Rakhine, organized by WFP, OCHA with government counterparts and humanitarian partners.
- The simulation experience of 2014 - cyclone scenario on Inlay Lake – was very successful to help partners with improved coordination roles in an emergency between government authorities and HCT;
• The current simulation exercise is planned for cyclone preparation in Rakhine, tentatively scheduled for 27 July to 1st August 2016 in Rakhine with an indicative caseload of 400,000 people;
• Participation of 50 relevant colleagues is anticipated from government departments and humanitarian community; more details will be shared by WFP focal points for effective participation and outcomes of the exercise.

6. South East Situation – Refugees from Thailand:
• The participants were updated on further positive developments for incoming Refugees from Thailand.
• Basic understanding has been reached between both governments to re-settle these people in Myanmar, the number still fluctuating but it should be between 8,000 – 15,000 people.
• WFP, UNHCR, IOM is coordinating the level and duration of assistance to these people; cash based transfer is one of the preferred modality of support however the strategy would be worked out more keenly in coming days.

Next Meeting: tentatively planned on 24th August 2016.
Annexure: Participant List

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