MINUTES – NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY SECTOR MEETING

September 2016

Monthly Food Security Sector (FSS) meeting was held on September 29th, 2016 in WFP Office. The meeting was attended by 22 partners, including 3 UN Agencies, 10 INGOs, 1 NNGO and 1 Donor representative. Representatives from OCHA, WFP, FAO, Trocaire, World Vision, Oxfam, CDN-ZOA, Solidarites International, ACTED, Welthungerhilfe (WHH), Plan International, MRF and Livelihood and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) attended the meeting.

The following Agenda was adopted for the meeting:

1. Review of meeting minutes and action points;
2. Update on Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO);
3. Initiation Process for Humanitarian Response Planning (HRP);
4. Orientation on FOOD SECURITY ATLAS in Myanmar – WFP/VAM;
5. Minimum Expenditure Basket – Update from CWG;
6. AOB
   i. Food Gap in Kachin (IDP camps in non-government controlled areas)
   ii. Update on Nutrition and Food Security Strategy in Northern Rakhine State (Maungdaw)

1. Review of Meeting Minutes and Action Points;
   • The action points agreed during the previous meeting were re-visited for follow up;
     o The draft template of 4W matrix is already shared with partners in Rakhine and it will be consulted further with MIMU in Yangon;
     o FSS included a caveat of including the recovery needs of floods 2016 people in the humanitarian planning process; though it was recognized to be part of the narrative but number of people were not quantified to maintain a level of coherence with other sectors/clusters;
     o The rollout workshop of GBV guidelines has undertaken in Rakhine, 25 representatives from Food Security Sector, Livelihoods and Nutrition sectors participated in the workshop. Participant organizations were facilitated to underline action plans to help promote these guidelines in the working of their organization mandate. The same rollout workshops are on schedule for Kachin and Yangon during the month of November.

2. Update on Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO 2016-17):
• Participants were updated on the pre-final draft of Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), which was circulated for final review among FSS partners

• As informed earlier, the scope of Humanitarian Program Cycle was limited to conflict emergency in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan; ‘people in need’ on humanitarian grounds were categorized between displaced population (camp and off-camp setting) and non-displaced (returnees, relocated/resettled and hosting communities);

• Food Security Sector identified 383,000 individuals with critical food security and livelihood needs in different geographical areas accordingly;
  - Rakhine: 260,000 individuals;
  - Kachin: 104,500 individuals;
  - Shan: 19,000 individuals;

• Critical Life saving food and/or cash assistance; prioritization of response (transitioning from relief assistance), livelihood diversification options in displacement (protracted crisis), and emphasizing preparedness/resilience building measures against natural disasters were some key elements associated with humanitarian needs in food security sector;

• The issue of ‘new displacement’ has been highlighted for consideration in the HNO document, though the number of newly displaced is hard to forecast in 2017 but the phenomenon should be cited as an important factor, as it has been expected from humanitarian community to respond the needs in any case; the proposition was accepted for further follow up with OCHA and ICCG;

• Responding to a query on the Transition Strategy of WFP in Rakhine, it was clarified that the strategy should not be defined as ‘phasing out’ from Rakhine; though the strategy is a targeted response based on vulnerability assessment and increase the scope of interventions in Rakhine;

• It was suggested that communication on the transition strategy need to be improved; FSS partners were welcome to provide ideas to WFP Myanmar on improving this communication further across the board;

• It was re-iterated that this transition strategy will help provide lessons for other sector partners on transforming the approach towards humanitarian response; the approach has been recognized in the humanitarian planning processes i.e. reflected in HNO and need to pursued further during HRP process.

**Action Point:**

- **FSS to consult with OCHA on the inclusion of new potential displacement in 2017, and with CCCM Cluster to check the new recent displacement.**

- **The transition strategy of WFP to be shared widely with FSS partners for bringing clarity and develop understanding, partners are welcome to provide ideas to improve communication on the orientation of the transition strategy.**
3. Humanitarian Response Planning – HRP:

- The successful completion of HNO led towards the next steps of Humanitarian Response Planning (HRP); HRP is the strategy of humanitarian community towards needs identified in HNO exercise;
- Response strategy and the funding requirements across different sectors/clusters constitutes the main essence of HRP exercise;
- Some basic clarity concepts about the components of HRP were highlighted, the narrative of the sectoral HRP section encompass targeting, intervention modalities, and approach in different geographical zones while the funding sections elaborate the financial requirements in ongoing humanitarian response;
- Partners were encouraged to visit relevant website for more detailed guidance on HRP processes
- FSS part in HRP 2016 was exemplified to highlight the required inputs of sector partners on approaching the planning process for 2017;
- Lessons learnt and challenges faced were quoted as well during the HRP 2016 progress to-date, partners were encouraged to flag more important issues to give the exercise practical orientation and make the process more inclusive;
- Inputs from partners will be required to stipulate sector objectives, activities, indicators, and funding requirements;
- Two standard protocols are in use globally for costing of HRP i.e. activity based costing and project based costing; both procedures has its peculiar advantages and limitations; Myanmar adopted activity based costing during last HRP and expected to continue the same in 2017;
- A template (Planning Sheet) was also proposed to that how the projection of geographical mapping of FSS partners, their interventions in food security sector and subsequent costing should work for the HRP exercise; these inputs are important to capture for revising the strategy, objectives and indicators of FSS in HRP;
- The participants were expected to provide inputs for moving ahead how to move ahead on the planning process for Food Security Sector; However, shortage of time didn’t allow further elaboration on the important. It was suggested and agreed to arrange more material on HPR process, especially the costing procedures for more clarity.

**Action Point:**

- *More guidance to be provided to FSS partners in further consultation rounds, after basic agreements at ICCG level.*
4. **Food Security ATLAS:**
   - WFP VAM unit facilitated an initial briefing session on the launch of Food Security Atlas in Myanmar;
   - The tool is prepared by Food Security Information Network (FSIN), market price data was analyzed during the period 2013-15, and food consumption score was used as a composite indicator for food security situation in the country;
   - The data is representative of more than 20,000 household in 278 out of total 287 townships in Myanmar;
   - Initial findings and food security map was presented as an indication, though the VAM team was still busy in finalizing the findings and a detailed presentation on FS Atlas is planned on 25\textsuperscript{th} of October and partners were requested to attend the session;
   - Responding to a query, WFP-VAM also updated on the ongoing exercise of Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA) in Rakhine; the terms of reference will be shared with FSS partners in Rakhine and Yangon for their feedback and any possible support during the implementation of the assessment round.

5. **Cash Working Group Update:**
   - Cash Working Group updated on their ongoing discussions on Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB); the exercise is to harmonize and define minimum transfer value for food, WASH and Shelter kits;
   - The MEB for emergency and early recovery is being separately calculated, depending on differential needs; moreover the MEB for development basket would be worked out the same manner in the coming period;
   - Partners were encouraged to consult with focal point of Cash Working (marc.gschwend@wfp.org) for more details on the MEB subject;
   - CWG also offered their due technical support to FSS for any guidance on cash based programming in HRP process.

6. **AOB**
   a. **Food Gap in Kachin:**
      - Participants were updated on the food gap issue raised through sub-national coordination in Myitkyina;
      - The food gap is happening 2 IDP camps (Hpun Lum Yang and Woi Chyoi) in the non-government controlled areas of Kachin; the camp was supported so far by HPA and accessible through China;
      - The food gap is for the months of October-December and an estimated 10,000 people used to live in these camps;
• FSS is pushing some funding through Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF), however other active partners are requested to look into situation and could extend their humanitarian support to these particular camps.

b. **Food Security and Nutrition Strategy in NRS:**

• Nutrition Colleagues from WFP updated on the recently held workshop of Nutrition and Food Security Strategy in Northern Rakhine State

• The workshop was held in Maungdaw during the last week of September and participated from 100+ participants from different organizations (WASH, Nutrition, and Food Security Partners) and respective line departments;

• The workshop identified 70 prioritized actions to address malnutrition and inter-linked food security situation in Maungdaw;

• The update was appreciated and it was suggested to include a brief session for the partners of FSS in Yangon, at an appropriate time later (after humanitarian planning exercise).

**Next Meeting:** tentatively planned on 2\textsuperscript{nd} week of October.
## Annexure: Participant List

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