



Meeting Minutes (November 2023)

Title: FSC Myanmar National Coordination Meeting

Location: Online via Microsoft Team

Date: 14.11.2023 (Tuesday)

Time: 3:00PM - 5:00PM (Yangon Time)

Meeting Chair: Laurent Gimenez (Cluster Coordinator)

Meeting Co-Chair: Majid Ali Shah (Cluster Co-coordinator)

PARTICIPANTS

36 Organisations including **4** donors, **22** INGOs, **4** NNGOs, **1 Red Cross** and **5** UN Agencies, (**64** individuals) participated in the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Presentation on the Impact of Flood in South-East and Rakhine (by FAO)
2. Updates of Sub-national clusters
3. Stock update considering the situation in Myanmar
4. FSC key achievements on the field since last FSC coordination meeting
5. Protection: Cross-cutting topics update
6. MHF SA2 => volunteer Technical Review (37 proposal with FS component)
7. AOB

SUMMARY OF MEETING DISCUSSIONS AND ACTION POINTS

PROCEEDING	Action Point/ Remark
<p>1. Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting commenced at 3:00 PM with a round of introduction of new participants, was chaired by the Cluster Coordinator. The meeting chair welcomed the participants to the meeting and presented the agenda for the meeting. 	
<p>2. Presentation on the impact of flood on agricultural livelihoods and food security in South-east and Rakhine, presented by FAO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since early August 2023, the flood affected the Southeast region and Rakhine, impacting around 80,000 people and causing significant civilian losses. The flood resulted in the need for new humanitarian supplies, infrastructure, and relocation efforts. Data collection for the assessment of food security and livelihoods was conducted by FAO and WFP in August before the flood. Following the flood, re-interviews were conducted with 511 households to assess the impact. Poor households, wooden houses, and those with no education were disproportionately affected by the flood. The main impacts included loss of income, employment, crop production, and livestock, with varying degrees among different types of households. Over 50% of households received flood warning information, with the government being the most frequent information source, followed by social media and various associations. More than 50% of flood-affected households took on debt, especially livestock producers. Cash assistance in the last three months reduced the likelihood of taking debt. Around half of flood-affected households reported the loss of farming assets, particularly farmland, seed stocks, and inputs. Losses included crops, livestock, protective assets, and transportation. Poorer households were more severely affected. Food consumption scores showed no significant change before and after the flood. Poor households continued to face food insecurity. Coping strategies included reducing expenses, selling assets, and changing food consumption patterns. Crisis coping strategies increased by 4% after the flood. Livelihood coping strategies involved selling assets and reducing expenses. A significant number of respondents reported selling or losing their houses. Overall, the flood had no significant effect on market accessibility. Challenges included transportation difficulties, road conditions, and security concerns. Around 15% of affected households lost stored food, with those in wooden houses more likely to experience such losses. Recommendations included focusing assistance on improving livelihoods, providing cash assistance, and supporting agricultural inputs and livestock for affected households. 	<p>Presentation: Impact of Flood on Agriculture, livelihoods, and Food Security</p>

<p>3. Updates from Sub-national Clusters</p> <p>North-West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Magway Region, FSC partners can implement ongoing activities, including cash-for-food assistance in Myaing and Pakokku townships. In Sagaing Region, one partner conducted 10 Rapid Needs Assessments and provided support through cash-for-food assistance to vulnerable populations. In Mandalay Region, partners engaged in outreach for development activities. Some roads in Magway Region, such as Pakokku-Myaing or Pakokku-Yaesagyo roads, are blocked. Communication is very limited particularly in Chin State. <p>Rakhine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to renewed fighting in Northern Rakhine, there has been a blockage of major routes, particularly along the Yangon-Sittwe Highway. Movement between townships is restricted, with many checkpoints and spot checks affecting the activities. Major activities are halted across most townships, except for the Sittwe where movement is still possible, mainly into the IDP camps, but not into rural areas. Observed potential increases in prices, starting with fuel. Prices of food commodities remain relatively stable, but transporting commodities from other regions into Rakhine by road may be difficult, causing potential shortages and price hikes. 	
<p>4. Stock update considering the situation in Myanmar, discussed by Cluster Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the limited funding and difficulties in movement, FSC will assess the available stock of food items and project capacities among the partners. The cluster coordinator will send the assessment form via email to all partners. 	
<p>5. FSC key achievements in the field since last FSC coordination meeting</p> <p>Responses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During October, one FSC partner and its cooperating partners successfully reached around 1 million conflict-affected people, including those impacted by MOCHA, in Rakhine, Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Bago, Magway, Chin, and Yangon peri-urban areas. The assistances were provided through various modalities such as food, cash, rice, or a combination thereof. Approximately 70% of the targeted population have already received cash or a mix of in kind and cash. Emergency food assistance is specifically allocated to 340,800 MOCHA-affected individuals in the five most affected townships in Rakhine out of the total planned assistance of 366,500 people. Moreover, 26,000 flood-affected individuals in Bago were provided food assistance through an in-kind modality. In Rakhine state, one partner distributed vegetable production packages including vegetable seeds kits to 2,000 households in Ponnagyun and Pauktaw in Rakhine state. One another partner also provided agricultural inputs to farmer communities in northern Rakhine State, continuing nutrition screenings and delivering nutritious food to undernourished individuals. Collaborative efforts for multipurpose cash assistance to displaced communities due to ongoing fighting were undertaken, limiting access to the last village. Fortunately, this partner provided aid to some remaining villages and is preparing for the next distribution round. A different partner has provided fishing equipment in various locations, covering 11 townships across the country. Additionally, they offered 	

<p>home gardening support, covering approximately 1,000 households in northern Rakhine. A different partner reached a significant number of beneficiaries, aiding various households with agricultural kits, food assistance, and multi-purpose cash support. Another organization implemented cash-for-work activities, conducted livelihood skills training, and distributed agriculture tools and inputs. Yet another partner distributed food in Chin and Rakhine, completing the distribution to 336 households in Rakhine despite logistical challenges. Another partner initiated Income Generating Activities (IGA) and provided support for fisheries, including a survey for the production of reusable pack items in the camps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Northern Shan state, one partner provided dignity kits to 500 IDPs (women and girls) in Lashio Township. A different partner aided 85 beneficiaries in 21 households, primarily through multi-purpose cash (MPC) support. • In Kachin state, one partner supported rice production and home gardening in October, concluding a Farmer Field School training for 25 farmers in Bhamo township. Another partner distributed crops, vegetables, and seeds packages to 3,235 agriculture households and provided multi-purpose cash (MPC) for livelihoods for 10 households, benefiting 64 individuals. Yet another organization and its cooperating partner distributed food assistance to 600 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and children under 5 years old, along with unconditional cash transfers provided to 585 PLW. • In Kayin state, one partner initiated home gardening activities across 14 village tracts, concurrently implementing Cash for Food initiatives in the same region. During October, a different partner distributed Food Assistance to a total of 492 pregnant and lactating mothers in Kayin State. • In Mon state, one partner distributed to a population of 2,200 in Bilin, Kyaikto, and Thaton townships, with a support amount of 46,000 MMK per person. • In Southern Shan state, one partner extended efforts to 142 beneficiaries in 39 households, focusing on multi-purpose cash (MPC) assistance. A different partner distributed agriculture tools and inputs. Another organization has initiated two agriculture-related projects. • In Eastern Bago region, one partner provided cash assistance to 681 mine victims and disabled individuals in Shwegyin, and Kyaukkyi townships, encompassing 7 camps and 60 villages. • In Kayah state, one partner distributed agriculture tools and inputs. • In Sagaing region, one partner provided cash assistance to small farmers to bolster agricultural inputs for crops in Kalay and Shwebo townships. Between August and September, a total of 703 farmers received MMK 200,000 each in cash assistance during those two months. 	
<p>6. Cross-cutting update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates 	
<p>1. MHF Standard Allocation #2, discussed by FSC Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the MHF (Myanmar Humanitarian Fund) and highlighted the ongoing standard allocation #2. Reviewing 37 proposals in the system with a component of food security is currently underway. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested volunteers from the group to participate in the technical review, explaining that it involves assessing various technical aspects, such as the description of activities and partner plans, to ensure coherence with the context. • Stressed the importance of having 3-4 persons of volunteers from the group to manage the workload efficiently within the three-day timeframe after receiving the proposals from OCHA. • Encouraged participation, even if organizations have not applied for MHF funding, as it provides valuable learning opportunities and insights into the decision-making process. 	
<p>2. AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared the Online FSC Response Dashboard , updated as of 30 September 2023. 	