MINUTES OF NATIONAL FSAC COORDINATION MEETING

Date: 27th August 2019
Venue: HAI Offices, Sana’a
Time: 11:00 AM

Attendance: WFP, FAO, OCHA, UNDP, EU delegation, ECHO, CARE, ACF, GC, ZOA, OXFAM, DA, GIZ, HAI, WC, DRC, IRY, MC, QRCS, YFCA, YDN, SYDF, PWP, RDP, TYF, SFHRP, YLDF, BFD, BFF, RRD, SOUL, IYCY, LMMPO, SMEPS, NAMCHA, MAI, MOFW, CAC bank.

Agenda:
1. Review of action points from the last meeting
2. Programme accountability framework
3. Funding shortfalls faced by FSAC partners
4. Expanded district level Famine Risk Monitoring Assessment plans and protocols
5. AOB

1. Review of Action Points from Last Meeting

- FSAC to circulate the draft technical guidelines for livelihoods related conditional cash transfer programming
  - Done
    - Partners to send additional comments/inputs by COB Tuesday 3rd September 2019
    - Indicated partners to send inputs on specific highlighted sections
- The Global Network on Food Crises to be introduced to the ICCM
  - Done on 20th August 2019

Send any updates and/or comments to FSAC Coordinator Gordon Dudi <Gordon.Dudi@fao.org>
The FSAC Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) to meet and discuss strategy of roll-out and expansion of GNFC in Yemen

- Done on 7th August 2019

FSAC to circulate the link for the OCHA online access tracking tool

- Not done - To be circulated later

**Action point:**

- *FSAC to circulate the link for the OCHA online access tracking tool*

### 2. Programme Accountability Framework

- There is a need for enhanced accountability for all ongoing humanitarian programmes

  **Programme Guidance and Standards:**

  - As part of on-going efforts to improve our collective accountability for the assistance we deliver, clusters (including FSAC) are in the process of establishing clear guidance and standards for each component of the programme accountability chain

  **First and Second-Line Activities:**

  - FSAC is in the process of establishing this guidance, in as much detail as possible, for each first and second-line activity as per the cluster strategy in the 2019 YHRP

  - The programme accountability framework involves the following:

    - the type of assessment required for the activity;
    - the criteria that will be used to select the beneficiaries for the activity;
    - the parameters for sharing (or not) information on the beneficiaries of the activity;
    - the best mechanism for registering beneficiaries of the activity;
    - the best delivery modality (s) for the activity;
    - the mechanism for selecting partners for the activity;
    - And the type of monitoring required for the activity.
Cluster Tracking:

- FSAC will be tracking how successfully projects meet the standards contained in the guidance. OCHA will assist clusters with this.

- FSAC Coordinator (and other cluster coordinators) will be regularly briefing the HCT on the status of the accountability chain for the first and second-line activities, and on the constraints that negatively impact the ability of partners to adhere to the cluster guidance.

Advocacy and Engagement:

- FSAC will recommend specific advocacy measures related to the food security response for the HCT to use in its engagement with counterparts/other stakeholders.

- All HCT members to actively support these recommendations.

Impact Tracking:

- This will assist the HCT to cross-track the operational environment with programme impact.

- FSAC will include the status and progress of each impact indicator for first and second-line responses.

  - **FSAC First Line Response**
    - Percentage of targeted households with Food Consumption Score (FCS) greater than 42
      - Baseline 33%
      - Target 50%
      - Reach to date 66%

  - **FSAC Second Line Response**
    - Percentage decrease in the number of households selling assets to buy food (LCSI)
      - Baseline 31%
      - Target 16%
      - Reach to date 28%

**Action point:**

- FSAC to circulate the template on programme accountability framework for partners to share their inputs.

Send any updates and/or comments to FSAC Coordinator Gordon Dudi <Gordon.Dudi@fao.org>.
3. Funding shortfalls faced by FSAC partners

- Humanitarian partners are collectively facing some major funding challenges
- The YHRP is only funded 34%, as compared to 65% the same time last year
- We have a clear overview of the impact of this shortfall on the Cluster Lead Agencies and UN partners
- We do not have the same level of information on the impact this is having on FSAC NGO (INGO and NNGO) partners
- FSAC NGO partners should highlight if they are facing a “major funding shortfall” impacting their program / projects should new funds not already in the pipeline be received (excluding funds that are already in the pipeline)
- NGO partners reporting funding shortfall should indicate whether the affected program / project is UN funded or not, and if yes by which UN agency
- This refers to ongoing projects/programs that have run out of funding, will be running out of funding in the coming 2 months, or projects that should have received funds but are yet to do so. It does not refer to potential proposals that partners might have wanted to submit
- The information will be CRITICAL in determining the focus of any upcoming pooled fund allocations
- The cluster will only be accepting programmes that are critical and life-saving

4. District level Expanded Famine Risk Monitoring (EFRM) Assessment plans and protocols

- The previous Famine Risk Monitoring (FRM) assessments were supposed to be conducted every three - four months. This however has not been possible due to the current prevailing operational environment in Yemen manifested by many access challenges
- The assessments were previously referred to as Famine Risk Monitoring (FRM) but will now be referred to as Expanded Famine Risk Monitoring (EFRM)
- This is due to the fact that the questionnaire has been expanded to include additional questions that will facilitate a deeper understanding of the household food security dynamics, and underlying causes of food insecurity e.g. detailed household demographics, household assets, household income, household expenditure, livelihoods (agriculture and fisheries)
- WFP/FAO/FSAC and its partners together with the Nutrition Cluster/partners are planning for the next district level Expanded Famine Risk Monitoring for all 333 districts, slated for some time in September (contingent on finalization of all requirements including the necessary permissions)
The draft objectives of the EFRM include the following:

- Comprehensive analysis of the food security situation (including but not limited to share of expenditure on food, household income for the last 6 months, household assets, characteristics of most insecure and vulnerable households, predictors of food insecurity, link between gender and food security)

- Indicative analysis of household access to micro and macro nutrients

- Updated analysis for multidimensional poverty in Yemen including to obtain proxies of money metric poverty

- Validate household targeting criteria

- Obtain estimates of Global Acute Malnutrition of children below 5 years of age at district level through MUAC/Oedema measurements

- Obtain updated agriculture statistics

- Obtain updated fisheries statistics

The questionnaire will comprise the following:

- Regular modules to cover IPC outcome indicators (Food Consumption Score, Household Dietary Diversity Score, Household Hunger Scale, reduced Food Coping Strategy Index, Livelihood Coping Strategy Index)

- Additional modules to profile the households and estimate poverty indices etc. e.g. will look into household characteristics, household assets, expenditure patterns, livelihood activities, assets, agriculture and fisheries and gradually into essential needs; however the modules are still under final discussions balancing various interests and time

- Nutrition component for MUAC and Oedema measurement

Sampling and methodology:

- Ongoing discussions with CSO on the methodology and sampling design
- The sampling will be a two stage sampling process with the 1st stage being either the Enumeration Area (EA) or Cluster, while the second stage will be at household level

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The sampling will be at district level with support from CSO; aiming for a minimum of 150 households per district and a minimum of 350 under-five children per cluster.

We will be sharing the detailed methodology and sampling procedures with all FSAC partners and stakeholders once discussions with CSO have been finalized.

- Based on potential quality issues faced in some districts for previous FRMs, WFP/FAO/FSAC/ Nutrition Cluster partners will be enhancing quality checks for the EFRM across all the stages of the assessment.

- Some of the enhanced quality checks (examples and not exhaustive) for the EFRM will be as follows:
  - Rigorous and competitive selection of enumerators, team leaders, and data entry clerks based on educational qualifications, professional experience, previous experience in food security assessments.
  - Training of Trainers (TOT) for all the trainers who will in turn train enumerators.
  - A five day training for all enumerators as compared to 3 days training last year (the last day of the training will involve conducting a pre-test of the methodology and questionnaire).
  - Only team members (team leaders, enumerators, data entrants) that will pass and/or demonstrate a thorough understanding of the questionnaire and methodology will be allowed to progress to the stage of data collection.
  - Enumerators will undertake data collection in a maximum of two clusters per day. This will allow ample time for thoroughness in administering the questionnaire and improve data quality. All completed questionnaires will be scrutinized by team leaders who will return back inconsistent or incomplete questionnaires.
  - Data entrants will accompany teams to the field locations which will allow undertaking of data collection the same day (or a maximum of one day later). This will act as another layer of quality checks and data entrants will highlight any data inconsistencies, missing values etc. that may emerge.

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- Enumerators might be sent back to the same location the next day in case major inconsistencies are flushed out.
- The sampling frame will be completed before the data collection starts. This will involve the random selection and pre-determination of households to be visited (an extra number of reserve household/samples will be available in case some locations are unreachable).
- Use of tablets where situation allows will enhance consistency checks and “real-time monitoring”.
- Consistency checks will be done on a daily basis (Team Leaders, Governorate Supervisors).
- Release of EFRM results (separate from IPC) for transparency.
- Sharing of EFRM data where possible (with very clear data sharing/exposure protocols).

- **Participation by FSAC partners can be either through:**
  - Providing a list of Enumerators/team leaders, or data entrants that meet the minimum requirements.
  - Providing vehicles for the data collection.
  - Providing potential trainers to undergo the TOT training.

- **Tentative EFRM Timelines**
  - Finalization of questionnaire - ongoing.
  - Training of Trainers (TOT)
    - 8th - 12th September.
    - A maximum of 30 participants.
    - Participants
      - WFP
      - FAO
      - FSAC Sub-National Cluster Coordinators
      - FSAC Partners
      - Relevant technical line ministries (e.g. CSO).

- The prospective trainers MUST be technically sound and available to train enumerators for the EFRM, and also participate in the subsequent IPC analysis.
Training of Enumerators
  o 15th - 19th September (Sana’a)
  o 24th - 29th (Aden)

Data collection
  o From 22nd September (Sana’a)
  o From 1st October (Aden)

Data analysis
  o 8th to 12th November

EFRM Preliminary results
  o 12th November

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)
  o Refresher training
    ▪ 11th - 14th November (Sana’a and Aden)
  o IPC analysis
    ▪ 17th to 27th November (Sana’a and Aden)
  o Release of preliminary IPC results to feed into the 2020 HNO/YHRP

Release of comprehensive EFRM report

**Action points:**

- FSAC to circulate the EFRM questionnaire for inputs/comments from partners once completed
- FSAC to circulate EFRM methodology for inputs/comments once completed
- FSAC Partners interested in participating in the EFRM to get in touch with the Cluster Coordinator
- FSAC to circulate the list of partners that will undergo the EFRM Training of Trainers (TOT)

5. AOB

- There was no AOB for this meeting

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