



MINUTES OF NATIONAL FSAC COORDINATION MEETING

Date: 16th January 2020
Venue: RDP Offices, Sana'a
Time: 11:00 AM

Attendance: FAO, OCHA, UNDP, CARE, NRC, GC, ZOA, OXFAM, WC, VHI, SCI, MC, ADRA, IRY, MOZN, DA, DKH, SDF, SFD, PWP, BCHR, ADO, NFDHR, YDN, SYDF, RDP, TYF, SFHRP, YLDF, KFD, BFD, BFF, SOUL, ITDC, IYCY, LMMPO, YWU, SMEPS, CHR, ECDF, Danish Red Cross, MAI, SCAMCHA, CAC bank

Agenda:

1. Review of action points from the last meeting
2. Updates on the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment
3. IFRR updates and enhanced FSAC partners engagement
4. Updates on the YHF 2nd standard allocation
5. Impact of livelihoods programming
6. AOB

1. Review of Action Points from Last Meeting

- The Livelihoods Technical Working Group (LTWiG) to convene a meeting to deliberate on the livelihoods resilience package, and revisions to the existing minimum emergency livelihoods assistance package
 - This was not possible due to engagement of key partners in the YHF proposal development
 - Most partners were also on the New Year holidays
- FSAC to communicate the outcomes of the Yemen Humanitarian Fund Second Standard Allocation (YHF 2SA) 2019
 - Covered in today's cluster meeting



Action point:

- ❖ *The LTWiG to convene a meeting to deliberate on the livelihoods resilience package and propose revisions to the existing minimum emergency livelihoods assistance package*

2. Updates on the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA)

- SCAMCHA has granted approval to conduct the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) as follows:
 - Refresher Training of Trainers (TOT) training to FSLA trainers - 18th January
 - Enumerator training - this will be conducted in two batches due to the high number of enumerators (over 900 enumerators):
 - 19th - 23rd January - first batch of enumerator training
 - 25th - 29th January - second batch of enumerator training
 - Training of monitoring team - 22nd - 23rd January
- Data collection will commence immediately after completion of the enumerator training
 - From 25th January - data collection for the first batch of enumerators
 - From 31st January - data collection for the second batch of enumerators
- It is envisaged that the field work for all districts in the North will be completed by the first week of March should there be no delays
- The data collection and field work almost complete for the South
 - Data collection remaining for only 3 districts
 - This will be completed by 19th January 2020
- The FSLA has replaced what was previously known as the “*Famine Risk Monitoring (FRM) assessment*”
- It was not possible to collect the light food security information through the FRM assessment every three months due to the challenging operational context
- The FSLA is a very comprehensive district level survey that captures key food security and nutrition elements as follows:
 - Detailed household profiling



- Household assets
 - Income sources
 - Expenditure patterns
 - Key Food Security indicators
 - Food Consumption Score (FCS)
 - Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS)
 - Household Hunger Scale (HHS)
 - Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)
 - Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)
 - Agriculture
 - Fisheries
 - MUAC
 - Oedema
- It also has a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) part that will help in triangulating the household data while at the same time providing possible explanations for any nuances in the food security situation
- The FSLA is led by WFP, UNICEF, FAO, and FSAC in close coordination and collaboration with CSO, MAI, MoPHP, SCAMCHA, and relevant local authorities
- A lot of quality assurance checks have been put in place in all the phases of the FSLA to ensure that the assessment reflects an accurate overview of the current food and nutrition situation in the country, while also safeguarding adherence to the rigorous standards as per international protocols
- These steps also ensure an independent, credible, and transparent assessment that meets international standards
- Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Analysis
- Aden - IPC to be conducted end of February
 - Sana'a - IPC to be conducted in mid-March (if there are no delays in the data collection)

Action point:

- ❖ *FSAC to provide progress of the FSLA in subsequent meetings*



3. Integrated Famine Risk Reduction (IFRR) Updates and Enhanced FSAC Partners Engagement

- Revised IFRR strategy
 - Identifying those most in need
 - Improving community conditions through concentration of response
 - Scaling up cash and market-based activities
 - Operationalizing humanitarian Access
 - Continued engagement with authorities to minimize delays in sub-agreements
 - Improve local coordination: Support to area-based coordination mechanism in/around priority districts
 - Increased field presence by partners
 - Technical advice and operational support (HAWG, OPsCen)
 - Analysis
 - Timely Alerts
- Why revised strategy?
 - Health facility centred (misses exclusion, misses catchment 3)
 - Full scale up everywhere wasn't realistic - Need to prioritize
 - Overlay of other vulnerabilities and factors; Cholera / disease, access, people in Acute need, displacement (existing and projected)
 - Target funds, capacities, energy and technical support
 - Targeted negotiation with authorities
- Lessons learnt
 - Enhanced commitment from IFRR lead organizations at district level, this should indicate what support they need
 - Need for the involvement of the local authorities in needs assessment & planning of the projects that help in identifying their perspectives and to facilitate implementation
 - Establish an IFRR Technical Group/Focal Points at hubs level for Leadership, Operational Coordination, and M&E Role with relevant stakeholders



- Linkage between partners and community volunteers to facilitate the intervention at the level of community
- Regular Orientation Workshops for Partners/Lead Agencies/Local Authorities at hubs/districts level on IFRR Full-Package Services
- Increased advocacy for the IFRR Strategy
- Need for regular coordination at the level of districts and ownership by all stakeholders
- Unified approach for joint need assessments and reporting tools
- Advocacy to reduce the access constraints in specific locations

➤ **Critical issues**

- There is a need to improve coordination of implementation by IFRR partners
- Need for concentration of response through all the four clusters activities
- The IFRR activities for each location should be based on actual needs on the ground (including community, technical line ministries, and authorities feedback)
- The IFRR lead partners to play a more prominent role in orientation and advocacy on the IFRR approach
- All the IFRR technical teams need to be in place to support partners and IFRR lead organizations in the implementation and monitoring of activities on the ground
- The focus is currently on the 45 districts which had populations in IPC phase 5. Nonetheless, all districts of the country should be having the IFRR approach
- The IFRR is not a separate activity but complements all the existing FSAC, WASH, Health, and Nutrition activities across the country
- The IFRR approach is implemented by many other actors funded by different donors (and not just YHF partners). The key is coordination and concentration of response with geographical convergence

Action point:

- ❖ *IFRR lead partners to reiterate their commitment to the coordination of the IFRR approach in their respective districts*



4. Updates on the YHF 2nd Standard Allocation (YHF 2SA)

- The Strategic and Technical Review Committee (STRC) of all FSAC proposals completed
- A total of USD \$22.3 Million allocated to FSAC partners for livelihoods related programming
- Project implementation from 1st January 2020
- The breakdown of the allocation partners is as follows:
 - 6 NNGOs (ABS, BCFHD, FMF, NMO, YFCA, YWU)
 - 6 INGOs (ADRA, CARE, HAI, NRC, OXFAM, ZOA)
 - 1 UN Agency (FAO)
- The breakdown of projects duration is as follows:
 - 6 projects - duration for 12 months
 - 1 project - duration for 14 months
 - 6 projects - duration for 15 months
- All the projects are currently in disbursement status

5. Impact of livelihoods programming

- There is a need to scale up livelihoods related programming in 2020
- It is critical to support and safeguard agricultural-based livelihoods in order to support families' ability to sustain or resume food production
- If scaled-up humanitarian assistance is not maintained throughout 2020, a further deterioration in the food security and nutrition situation is likely
- As highlighted previously, very little data is available to demonstrate the impact of livelihood programs undertaken by FSAC partners
- FSAC partners have many phased out or ongoing livelihood programs but no proper documentation of results/impact that the programs have achieved
- The impact analysis should go beyond indicating small improvements in FCS, LCSi etc.
- Partners with projects funded under the YHF MUST demonstrate the impact of their interventions at household level



- Partners should share any livelihoods related reports/success stories/ case studies for wider circulation
- Donors, FAO, WFP, and FSAC Partners (INGOs, NNGOs, ICRC/ Red Crescent, Technical Line Ministries etc.) have invested significant amount of time and resources in supporting the agriculture and fishery sectors
- The impact of these interventions, although assessed at the project level mostly, remains unstudied at the macro level and requires more deeper and holistic analysis
- In order to help advocate to donors and improve funding for livelihoods related programs, there are discussions on a proposed study to “*Assess the Impact of Agricultural and Fisheries Programming on Livelihoods in Yemen*”
- The proposed study will mostly rely on available secondary data to fill major information gaps on the impact of agricultural and fisheries programming on livelihoods outcomes
- It will also provide an overview of livelihood interventions implemented during the period 2017-2019, to consolidate available data on the results achieved and inform future programming
- This is a heads up, discussions are still ongoing, and we will come back to you once a road map and timelines have been finalized

Action point:

- ❖ *FSAC to provide more details on the proposed study “to Assess the Impact of Agricultural and Fisheries Programming on Livelihoods in Yemen” once the preparatory phase is completed*

6. AOB

- Partners request for support from FSAC on expediting the signing the YHF 2SA 2019 project sub-agreements. This due to the possibility of missing the planting season in case of delays
- FSAC partners prior engagement and coordination with authorities is critical for facilitation of a timely project start up
- More support needs to be provided to NNGOs (this however needs to be based on a thorough capacity audit)
- There is a need to scale-up the size of projects and target beneficiaries in order to have a noticeable and lasting impact at household and community level



YEMEN

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURE CLUSTER

Strengthening Humanitarian Response

- In 2020, there is a need for FSAC partners to focus on longer term support to communities (especially in agriculture which is a backbone to the country's economy) in order to increase incomes and lead to sustainable livelihoods