MINUTES OF NATIONAL FSAC COORDINATION MEETING

Date: 04th February 2020
Venue: WFP Offices, Sana’a
Time: 11:00 AM


Agenda:

1. Review of action points from the last meeting
3. FSAC monthly reporting tool
   - Timely and accurate reporting
   - Revisions to the monthly reporting tool
4. AOB
   - The fluctuating exchange rate and implications on the cost of the Minimum Food Basket

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 propose revisions to the existing minimum emergency livelihoods assistance package

   - Done on 2nd February 2020

   - Summary issues discussed:

Send any updates and/or comments to FSAC Coordinator Gordon Dudi <Gordon.Dudi@fao.org>
The draft/revised guideline of the minimum emergency livelihoods assistance package is expected to be ready by early March.

There is an existing Livelihoods Technical Working group (LTWiG) in Aden which was established in April 2019 but it has not been meeting regularly or following up on issues as expected. Discussions took place regarding ensuring that the Aden LTWiG is active, relevant and effective.

There is a need for the development of Livelihoods guidance tools (Needs assessment, post-harvest, PDM, and monitoring tools. A sub-working group on Livelihood guidance tools formulated to develop common tools.

Updates on the progress of the Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA)

- Southern Governorates
  - Data collection was completed on 22\textsuperscript{nd} January
  - Data cleaning and analysis in progress
  - Preliminary results by 17\textsuperscript{th} April
  - IPC analysis to take place from 22\textsuperscript{nd} February

- Northern governorates
  - The first round of enumerators training is complete, however there is still the 2\textsuperscript{nd} round of the training to be undertaken upon finalization of some pending issues
  - Discussions are ongoing with SCAMCHA, CSO, MAI, and MoPHP regarding these issues
  - The main pending issues are:
    - IT protocol and data collection, storage and processing
    - Finalization of enumerators list
    - Finalization of sampling frame
    - Deployment of enumerators to the field
  - A total of 108 FSLA teams (composed of 8 persons each) will be collecting data in the field at the same time, thus requiring huge logistics and coordination with all concerned stakeholders
➢ IFRR lead partners to reiterate their commitment to the coordination of the IFRR approach in their respective districts
  • IFRR lead partners to demonstrate commitment to the IFRR programming at the field
  • The Nutrition Cluster Coordinator is following this up (on behalf of FSAC, Nutrition, WASH, and Health Clusters)
  • An Impact assessment is needed to assess the success of the IFRR interventions, document lessons learnt, and suggest ways of improvement in 2020

➢ 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
  • More details will be shared when the preparatory phase is complete


➢ 2019 Cluster Objectives:
  • Increase access to food for highly vulnerable families across the country
  • Increase household incomes and rehabilitate food security assets in areas with high levels of food insecurity

➢ 2019 Funding requirements
  • USD $2.2 Billion
    o 1st Line Response - USD $1.7 Billion
    o 2nd Line Response - USD $500 Million

➢ First Line Response:
  • Reduce severe hunger among highly vulnerable families by:
    o Distributing food, cash, or vouchers to severely food insecure families in IPC phase four districts and areas with populations in IPC phase five
Distributing food, cash, or vouchers to newly displaced and host families in high priority districts

Distributing conditional, and season-specific cash or vouchers and employing adults on public works schemes including projects that rehabilitate public infrastructure and community assets in IPC phase four districts and areas with populations in IPC phase five

Distributing agricultural and fishery kits to severely food insecure rural households in IPC phase four districts and areas with populations in IPC phase five

- The first line response will be monitored through Percentage of targeted households with Food Consumption Score (FCS) greater than 42

Second Line Response

- Reduce severe hunger among vulnerable families by:

  Distributing conditional, and season-specific cash or vouchers and employing adults on public works schemes including projects that rehabilitate public infrastructure and community assets in IPC phase three districts

  Distributing drip irrigation kits and solar water pumps in IPC phase three districts

  Restocking small ruminants and distributing beekeeping kits in IPC phase three districts

  Supporting rural food processing and facilitating micro-enterprises in IPC phase three districts

  Providing support to targeted households in IPC phase three districts to help establish micro businesses

- The second line response will be monitored through percentage decrease in the number of households selling assets to buy food (the percentage of targeted households employing emergency coping strategies)

2019 Achievements

- Funding

  - The YHRP is 84.1% funded (USD $3.52 Billion received against the overall YHRP requirements of US$ 4.19 Billion)
An additional US$ 409.5 million has been mobilized outside the framework of the YHRP

FSAC is 72.9% funded (US $1.61 Billion received out of the US$ 2.2 Billion cluster funding requirements in 2019)

- **Response**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Target (Individuals)</th>
<th>Achievement (Individuals)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Food Assistance (distributing food, cash, or vouchers to severely food insecure households on a monthly basis)</td>
<td># of individuals provided with emergency food assistance (in kind, cash, or voucher transfers) on a monthly basis</td>
<td>12.3 Million</td>
<td>11.6 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Livelihoods Assistance (distributing agricultural, livestock or fisheries kits to severely food insecure households)</td>
<td># of individuals provided with access to emergency Agricultural, Livestock or Fishery kits</td>
<td>8 million</td>
<td>2.9 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distributing conditional, and season-specific cash or vouchers and employing adults on public works schemes including projects that rehabilitate public infrastructure and community assets</td>
<td># of individuals that have benefitted from cash for work and employment in public works programs</td>
<td>4.5 million</td>
<td>1.6 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Providing targeted households with longer term livelihoods support and assistance in establishing micro businesses</td>
<td># of individuals that have benefitted from longer term livelihoods support and established micro-businesses</td>
<td>2 million</td>
<td>0.15 Million (150,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Lessons learnt**
  - Livelihoods activities received lower funding leading to low achievements
  - The main feedback from donors is that FSAC partners have not adequately demonstrated the impact of the livelihoods assistance at the micro and macro levels
  - The 2020 strategy should be revised to address this shortcomings
  - Underachievement in livelihood activities in 2019 also emanated from the primary focus of many cluster partner on emergency assistance
  - Lack of reporting from some partners involved in livelihoods related programming also led to low reach levels

Send any updates and/or comments to FSAC Coordinator Gordon Dudi <Gordon.Dudi@fao.org>
The cluster Information Management tool should be revised to strengthen the reporting of livelihoods activities

Demonstrating the impact of livelihoods programming needs adequate time

Further support is required to build the capacity of partners in order to effectively measure the impact of their livelihoods programmes

FSAC Priorities for 2020

The priorities for 2020 will mirror the 2019 priorities with more emphasis laid on scaling up and advocacy for enhanced livelihoods programming

Emergency Food Assistance (Proposed Priorities)
  o Distributing food, cash, or vouchers to severely food insecure families in IPC phase four districts and areas with populations in IPC phase five
  o Distributing food, cash, or vouchers to newly displaced and host families in high priority districts

Livelihoods Assistance (Proposed Priorities)
  o Providing most vulnerable households in IPC phase 4 and above conditions with cash+
  o Distributing crop kits (cereal seed, vegetable seed and tools) to food insecure rural households in IPC phase 3 and above conditions
  o Distributing livestock feed and provide livestock health services to food insecure rural households in IPC phase 3 and above conditions
  o Distributing fisheries kits (fishing nets, ice boxes, safety jackets) to food insecure rural households facing IPC phase 3 and above conditions
  o Distributing conditional, and season-specific cash and employing adults on cash for work schemes (including projects that rehabilitate or construct public infrastructure and community assets)
  o Conducting mass livestock vaccination campaigns
Providing livelihoods restoration support to ensure recovery of vulnerable rural population (e.g. drip irrigation kits, beekeeping kits, solar water pumps, restocking small ruminants, small agricultural micro-enterprises, value chain development etc.)

Providing support to targeted households facing IPC phase 3 and above conditions to help establish micro businesses (non-agricultural)

Key issues for consideration in the 2020 cluster strategy

- Inclusion of urban livelihoods assistance activities such as micro and small enterprise development
- Exploring possible livelihoods and income generating activities for IDPs (based on context, hosting site, access to productive inputs etc.)
- Advocacy to donors on possibilities of increasing the duration of livelihoods programmes (over one year) to better measure impact. This is however with the knowledge that this depends on specific donor requirements and priorities with differing time-frames. Partners should align their livelihoods programming based on donor requirements (including project duration)
- The absolute necessity of involving relevant technical-line ministries in livelihoods programming to ensure technical standards are met during implementation
- Programme implementation modalities should be designed based on through operational, feasibility and contextual assessments
- Partners should invest significantly on appropriate staffing in order to build a pool of experts for livelihoods programmes, rather than having general staff (lacking the necessary and requisite technical skills)
- There is need for a livelihoods advocacy and fundraising strategy

The cluster priorities are still indicative and will be refined before the actualization of the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan due in April

Further discussions will take place at the Cluster’s Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) and the Livelihoods Working Group to further define the strategic direction and incorporate feedback and inputs from all relevant stakeholders
Action point:

- FSAC partners to provide inputs/comments on the cluster’s proposed 2020 priorities
- FSAC partners to provide inputs on the proposed 2020 livelihoods portfolio and programming

3. FSAC Monthly Reporting Tool

- A presentation was made on the FSAC monthly reporting tool
- The importance of the tool
  - Facilitates data collection, processing and response analysis
  - By producing project reports, info graphs and maps, the IM tool helps FSAC and partners to visualize gaps and overlaps of partner responses, and avoid duplication of humanitarian assistance
  - Consistent information sharing by partners facilitates project tracking and monitoring, and ultimately results in evidence based decision making for strategic intervention and improved implementation.
  - Use of the IM tool enhances the dissemination of timely and accurate information for advocacy efforts by FSAC
- The role of the FSAC tool
  - To FSAC
    - Makes it easier to collect information on partner activities and visualize data through generating the monthly FSAC response and gap analysis products to avoid gaps and overlaps/duplication of assistance
  - To FSAC Partners
    - Partners are able to directly capture their actual outputs
- Proposed revisions
  - We can preview what we have achieved and what is the gap to directly capture the actual achievement and go your product and to plan your intervention
- Changes in the format

Send any updates and/or comments to FSAC Coordinator Gordon Dudi <Gordon.Dudi@fao.org>
• Most of the information will remain the same except format changes to enable easier analysis
• The sub district code will be adding to the tool as attachment
• Sub-districts P codes will be attached to guide partners to report with the correct names (some sub-districts have same names and without P-codes it would be difficult to differentiate)

**Action point:**
- FSAC to circulate the revised monthly reporting tool for comments/inputs from partners by Sunday 9th February 2020
- Trainings on the revised monthly reporting tool to be undertaken for cluster partners

**4. AOB**
- The fluctuating exchange rate and implications on the cost of the Minimum Food Basket
  • The WFP - VAM Unit made a presentation on the fluctuating exchange rate
  • The presentation highlighted the evolution of the exchange rate and comparative differences in northern and southern governorates as follows:
    o Since week 3 December 2019, the spread between the currency exchange rates USD/YER in the southern vs. northern governorates has been sharply increasing, from between +/- 2 percent over the past year to up to 9.4 percent in the last week in January. However, the price spread for some of the main food commodities have not yet followed the same dramatic trend yet
    o For wheat flour the exchange rate spread seems to not have yet translated into the retail price differences, both in level and trend, at the moment the spread stands at 4.4 percent
    o For red beans, the retail prices in southern governorates have generally been higher than in northern governorates. However, price differences had come down from 15 percent in January 2019 to -3.6 percent in November 2019, after which it has been increasing to 5.4 percent
For vegetable oil, price spreads between averages of northern and southern governorates existed for some time. In general, retail prices were higher in the North, e.g. 14 percent in November 2018 and 13 percent in October 2019 with intermittent reduction in the spread.

Since 2020 however, the spread has changed its direction and prices in the southern governorates have become more expensive than in the North, at the end of January 2020 by 4.6 percent.

- The exchange rate fluctuations and depreciation of the Yemeni Rial have not yet translated into significant differences in prices of the commodities in the FSAC Minimum Food Basket.

- Any major price differences between commodities in the northern governorates and southern governorates will be manifested if the exchange rate differences continue for some time.

- The depreciation of the Yemeni Rial has not yet translated to increments in the price of commodities due to the fact that there are already enough food stocks in the country (enough to last for 2 - 3 months).

- Major price increments in commodities will most likely come into effect with new shipments of commodities (where the current USD to Yemeni Rial exchange rate will be a major determinant).

- In as much as the depreciation of the Yemeni Rial has not yet translated into any major price increments or differences between prices of commodities in the northern and southern governorates, there is a need to continue closely monitoring the evolving situation to inform any future or upcoming programmatic changes.

- At the moment, the exchange rate has not yet translated into major price increments for key commodities warranting the revision of the Minimum Food Basket.

**Action point:**

- All FSAC partners (led by WFP and FAO as the Custer Lead Agencies) to closely monitor the exchange rate situation and any impacts that this might have on the prices of key food commodities. This close market monitoring and associated evidence base will inform any potential changes in the FSAC Minimum Food Basket.
FSAC Partners to share any market price monitoring data capturing the exchange rate and prices of commodities in the Minimum Food Basket. Partners should provide the below key information as part of the dossier:

- The period that the data was collected (month/s and year)
- Methodology employed in collecting the data
- Number and type of markets monitored
- The frequency of the market price data collection (daily, weekly, monthly etc.)
- Comparison of prices in the Northern and Southern governorates