MINUTES OF CLUSTER COORDINATION MEETING

Date: 19th April 2016
Venue: FAO Office, Sana’a
Time: 10:30 am
Attendance: EU Delegation, HFY, YWEF, SYDF, Unicef, RI, RRD, RI, MC, NFDHR, YFCA, ACF, FSTS, DRC, NRC, ADRA, Arkan, MAI, ECHO, WFP, GC, CARE, LMMPPO, FAO, Life flow, SSD, Sanid.

Agenda:
1. Introductions
2. Review of last meeting minutes and action points
3. Potential risk of locusts in Yemen – Presentation by the Desert Locust Monitoring and Controlling Center (DLMCC)
4. The upcoming YHPF allocations
5. Updates on the flash flooding in the country
6. Discussions on how to make the cluster more effective
7. AOB

1. Introductions
All FSAC partners present did a round of introduction.

2. Review of last meeting minutes and action points
The last meeting minutes were reviewed and endorsed.

3. Potential risk of locusts in Yemen – Presentation by the Desert Locust Monitoring and Controlling Center (DLMCC)

- The Desert Locust Monitoring and Controlling Center (DLMCC) team (from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation) gave a presentation on the potential desert locust outbreak within the coming weeks, in the eastern governorates of the country
- The DLMCC is the responsible institution for all locust activities in Yemen in collaboration with agricultural offices in the governorates
- The current situation is that probably most of the locust infestations have shifted from the southern coast to the interior in the past week
- On 14 April, there were confirmed reports of at least one swarm and dense groups of adults that were copulating and laying eggs in several wadis in Hadhramaut.
- The full extent of infestations in the interior is not well known at present due to difficulties in mounting surveys in insecure and remote areas.
- More than 100,000 farmers in Hadhramaut, Al-Mahra, Al-Jawf, Marib and Shabwah could be potentially affected badly, if control operations are not undertaken on time. Beekeepers & herders could also be affected if pastures and foraging grounds are destroyed by desert locusts.
Challenges facing the DLMCC:
- Limited resources –
  - The Center relies mainly on FAO support which has helped make it functional again
  - All control vehicles belonging to the centre have been lost during the conflict.
  - DLC’s response is preventive (i.e. before the breakout), but the center does not have resources to conduct mass spray action as some rich countries in the region.
  - No budget from the government allocated for survey and control operations
- Survey and control operations in areas of active armed conflict in Marib, Shabwah, and Hadhramaut cannot be undertaken due to insecurity and access related issues.
- Bee keeping in some desert areas, especially in Shabwah, makes it difficult to spray pesticides.

Partners requested for the presentation and the FAO video link to be shared

There was a query on the potential predicted damages (in financial terms) that could be directly attributed to the outbreak. WFP would share a joint assessment report (WFP, FAO, and MAI) of the locust outbreak in the Tehama region in 2016, where damages were estimated at USD 270 million.

4. The upcoming YHPF allocations

- Total allocation of US$34 million, FSAC allocation of US$ 8 million
- Eligible partners - UN Agencies, IOM, and active national and international NGOs who have finalized their capacity assessment and confirmed as eligible partners to the HPF.
- All applications through OCHA’s online Grants Management System (GMS) from 6AM today, deadline for submissions of concept notes is 18:00 hrs, Tuesday 3rd May
- Main strategic objectives of the First Standard Allocation 2016:-
  ✓ Promote an integrated and coordinated response for IDPs in Yemen
  ✓ Encourage multi-sector programming and the use of different response modalities (cash, voucher and in-kind assistance) in responding to the needs of IDPs based on their vulnerability, preference and geographical location.
  ✓ Support innovation, partnership and learning by encouraging organizations to explore new response modalities and invest in strengthening the capacities of their sub-implementing partners.
  ✓ Create a multiplier effect by allowing clusters and organizations to leverage additional funds to build on activities funded by the HPF, including around partnerships and learning.
  ✓ Consortium/ Partnership approach encouraged
- Priority governorates – Taizz, Hajjah, Amran, Sana’a, Sa’ada, Dhamar, Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Al Bayda, Al Dhalee, Aden and Abyan
- Target Groups - IDPs (from 2015 onwards) and Host Communities, Returning IDPs (targeting should be based on FSAC vulnerability criteria)
- Cash programming encouraged:
  ✓ The HPF encourages the use of alternatives to in-kind programming as a response modality for partners with demonstrated technical capacity and strong knowledge and experience of cash transfer programmes
For the use of cash and voucher assistance, as part of the cross-cluster approach, organisations must prepare a protection risk analysis to ensure that cash can be used for its intended purpose and to mitigate any negative consequences. Partners must also provide information on the functionality of the markets and financial service providers, and demonstrate that cash will be equally accessible to men and women, according to vulnerability criteria established for each cluster and, as relevant, cross-cluster.

- FSAC Eligible Programme Areas - Improve immediate household availability of and access to food for the most vulnerable through conditional or unconditional cash/voucher transfers or in-kind assistance.

- The FSAC Strategic/Technical Review Committee to score/screen proposals would be composed of the following:-
  - Cluster Coordinator
  - Cluster Lead Agencies – WFP and FAO
  - 2 INGO representatives
  - 2 NNGO representatives

- Partners nominated to the FSAC SRC should meet the following criteria:-
  - Should be an active cluster member.
  - Should have good command of English (both spoken and written) – this is due to the fact that all concept notes will be in English.
  - Should have a sound Food Security and/or Agriculture related technical background – this is due to the fact that the proposals need some technical background in order to score objectively, taking into account all technical elements.
  - Committee members will be obliged to step out during the review of his/her organization’s concept note!
  - Nominations should be sent by COB, Sunday 24th April 2016.

5. Updates on the flash flooding in the country

- A number of districts in seven governorates have been inundated by severe flooding following heavy rains across Yemen. An estimated 4,000 families (24,000 people) have been affected and over 20 people are reported killed by flooding.

- Affected people urgently need shelter, food, non-food items (NFIs), water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), and health assistance.

- Humanitarian partners are working alongside national authorities to assess and respond to the needs. The number of people in need may change as assessments are carried out.
  - WFP is organizing assessments of flood damage in Amran, Hajjah, and Al Hudaydah, interested partners are invited to join.
  - Life Makers is undertaking damage assessment in Aden.

- Affected governorates - Al Hudaydah, Amran, Hajjah, Sana’a, Al Mahwit, Aden, and Marib

- Al Hudaydah -
  - 3 people reportedly killed
  - Nineteen villages in Az Zuhrah District have been affected and at least 1,200 families (7,200 people) displaced.
Seven villages have been affected in Alluheyah District and 900 families (5,400 people) displaced according to local authorities and community elders.

The population living along the Wadi Mour dry river bed are particularly affected.

Eighty-seven families are reportedly living in the open in Alluheyah District, for whom the priority needs are food and shelter and NFI assistance.

Al Safrah bridge in the Bani Matar District, Sana’a Governorate, which connects Al Hudaydah to the capital, has been severely damaged by the floods.

Amran -

More than 1,000 families (6,000 people) have been affected; many of which are now housed in public schools, including Aisha, Al Zubeiri, Muhsin Al Sa’ar, Al Habiq, Hurab, Al Hamzah and Al Hussein.

Initial estimates indicate that 200 houses have been destroyed. Damage is also reported to agriculture, roads and water projects.

Authorities have requested food and shelter assistance, as well as NFIs, health, water and hygiene assistance.

Hajjah -

Local authorities report 20 people killed in Sharas District, 100 to 150 households (600 to 900 people) displaced, and eight houses destroyed.

Initial reports indicate that 400 to 500 households are in need of immediate health, WASH, Shelter/NFI and food assistance. People living along the Wadi Sharas dry river bed are particularly affected.

The water infrastructure of Hajjah Governorate is reported to be in need of immediate repairs as a result of the floods.

Sana’a -

Dharawan area in Hamdan District is flooded.

Initial assessments across the district indicate at least 200 households (1,200 people) affected and reported deaths are being verified.

In Bani Dhayban District, 40 farms report significant impact and several water pumps used for irrigation and drinking as damaged. Those who are displaced need emergency shelter and NFI assistance.

6. Discussions on how to make the cluster more effective

- Partners suggested a number of actions to improve the cluster coordination as follows:-
  - Increase membership
  - Hasten the process of Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) formation
  - Activate Technical Working Groups (TWGs)
  - Encourage increased partnerships amongst cluster partners
  - Improve partner visibility through the IM Tool,
  - Develop harmonized technical tools
  - Include the government in the review committees
  - The co-chairs for both the national and sub-national clusters should be drawn from partners currently physically present in the country.

- The cluster will be working on the implementing of these suggestions (in consultation with the cluster co-lead agencies, and cluster co-chairs) according to the cluster mandate.

7. AOB

- No AOB for this meeting