

TYPE OF MEETING	Food Security & Agriculture Cluster Ad-hoc Meeting
DATE & LOCATION	Monday, 22 April 2019 – FAO Conference Room, MAIL, Kabul
CHAIRPERSON	Abdul Majid, FSAC Coordinator
NOTE TAKER	Barat Sakhizada
ATTENDEES	WVI, OXFAM, IRC, AKAH, RHDO, OCHR, NCRO, WFP, FAO, ECHO, AOAD, OHW, GAALO, ORCD, SCI, FEWSNET, iMMAP, CAHPO, ACTED, WHH, Concern Worldwide, CARE

MEETING AGEND

ITEM	SUBJECT	AGENCY PRESENTING
1	Introduction of participants	All
2	Humanitarian plan if there is 30 days conflicts de-escalation	FSAC/partners

MEETING ACTION POINTS

MIN	ACTION POINTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	Status
1	To ask partners to send the names of hard to reach districts in their areas of operation	Partners	Achieved

MEETING MINUTES

Agenda No.	AGENDA	FACILITATOR
1	Introduction	FSAC

DISCUSSION POINTS

FSAC Coordinator welcomed all the participants and provided a brief background information on the topic. Though the security and political situation seems to be fluid and volatile, however, FSAC Coordinator emphasized on being positive and leveraging the situation if there is a pause in conflicts. Partners discussed one-month conflict de-escalation plan in detail and agreed on the following points:

- **Timing:**
One month is not enough for partners to go into new communities throughout the country as needs assessment, targeting, community sensitization and mobilization of resources take time.
- **Resources:**

Except ERM, other partners do not have enough flexibility to re-direct their resources into new areas as their resources are committed against certain activities under different donor grants. This will require evidence of needs and agreement of donors to redirect resources.

– **Overview:**

FSAC response will be same as we have already identified the areas and number of people based on need not on access. We were able to reach all targeted areas for drought response, of course there were some delays in gaining access, so this one-month opportunity may ease our response work and help us to understand the needs better but principally we will have same response. Partners are also not clear about the scope and scale of access during this month.

– **Priorities/Opportunities:**

No change in principle as activities and locations are identified based on evidence from EFSA and IPC. However, if this one-month de-escalation means better and easy access, then this may help us to assess and evaluate situation in a better way that can result in some changes in response. But it will require evidence of increased need and fund raising. Another challenge for us is, we are targeting only conflict affected IDP's not conflict affected people in places of origin under HRP, so this may require a shift in HRP design/approach. Our partners are also concerned about acute vs chronic needs where we should not intervene as it will look like a political response.

Access: De-escalation of conflict may or may not guarantee access into hard to reach areas. Partners are concerned about the safety and security of their staff. It should be monitored by HAG and all parties should agree on bringing ease in access to ensure response. Yes, increase access will help to provide timely response to those who are not targeted yet with increased accountability. It will also help in assessing the needs and monitoring the response quality. FSAC is working with partners to identify these hard to reach districts. The list of districts will be shared with HAG and OCHA once finalized.

Cost: FSAC partner will require additional resources to identify needs through conducting assessments. Any increased humanitarian needs will be responded with existing resources (cash or in-kind) provided donors are committed to agree and replenish the already committed stocks. FSAC is already working with its partners to list all cash/in-kind stocks. Its important to mention that some of the stocks are already used for floods response. Cost can only be provided once we are clear on additional needs.

Challenges:

- Safety and security of aid workers will remain a great challenge as de-escalation in conflict doesn't necessarily means more access.
- While entering into new areas, humanitarian communities should maintain their neutrality and impartiality.
- In terms of logistics, moving resources and stocks will be easy within provinces, however, it will be difficult for partners to move their stocks between provinces or even regions. It will require donor's commitment and funding.

Red lines:

- Humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and operational independence.
- Response should not be influenced by any party. Beneficiaries should be selected based on needs through applying the already endorsed cluster beneficiary selection criteria.
- Tax from aid stocks and materials should not be paid to any group at any circumstances.