



FSC PARTNERS MEETING MINUTES

28th June 2021

Mode: Virtual - Zoom

Meeting Agenda:

1. Opening Remarks (MoAI, MoHADM and MoL)
2. Highlight on gaps – Middle Juba
3. FSC Response Updates
4. Integration Strategy
5. Upcoming SHF Allocation
6. Minority inclusion
7. Agriculture Technical Working Group Updates
8. Livestock Technical Working Group Updates
9. AOB

Action Points

- Agricultural Technical Working Group to hold meeting in July. Invitation to be shared with partners.
- The FSC to circulate the SHF strategy and priorities once this has been finalised and endorsed by the SHF Board.
- Partners should consider scaling up responses in locations where assistance is significantly below target (reference to analysis under FSC response update).
- The FSC secretariat will convene meetings with SAG and reporting partners to further discuss geographical targeting for the integration strategy.

1. Opening Remarks

Mr Mahmoud (Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation) opened the meeting. He appreciated the partners for their cooperation and coordination and responding to food security needs.

2. Highlight on gaps – Middle Juba

- Background: Middle Juba is bordered by the Somali regions of Gedo, Bay, Lower Shebelle (Shabellaha Hoose), Lower Juba (Jubbada Hoose), and the Indian Ocean. The region is named

after the Jubba River that runs through it. The region consists of four districts namely: Buale (The regional Capital) , Jilib , Sakow (is the largest district in the region) , Salagle

Livelihood zone

- Agro-pastoral livelihood zone covers Hagar, Jilib and Sakow districts in Middle Juba This livelihood zone mainly depends on cattle, sheep & goats and also maize for their livelihood.
- The agro-pastoralists rely on rain-fed dheshek cultivation, the latter being water holding depressions, where recessional cropping is commonplace. The main crop grown is maize.
- Sorghum is grown mainly in Sakow district, the maize-sorghum border area. Cowpeas are grown, largely for consumption, as well as sesame, for sale.
- Main sources of income are from sale of crops, labour while the main sources of food are purchase and own crop production.

Highlights on gaps:

Middle Juba considered inaccessible. As such, no reported humanitarian assistance as per table below.

Cluster Objective	Target	Response from Jan to May 2021	Percentage Gap.
Improved Access to food through conditional and unconditional transfers which includes (cash, voucher, in kind)	45,100	0	100%
Seasonal inputs and livestock asset protection. (Agriculture & Livestock)	30,700	0	100%

IPC population estimate May to June; Jul to Sep (FSNAU)

Region	Total Population analyzed	Minimal (Apr-Jun 2021) Phase1	Stressed (Apr-Jun 2021) Phase 2	Crisis (Apr-Jun 2021) Phase 3	Emergency (Apr-Jun 2021) Phase 4	Minimal (Jul-Sep 2021) Phase1	Stressed (Jul-Sep 2021) Phase 2	Crisis (Jul-Sep 2021) Phase 3	Emergency (Jul-Sep 2021) Phase 4
Middle Juba	286,539	183,939	57,500	45,100	-	177,039	58,800	50,700	-

Flash flood and locust infestation

- Middle Juba is flash flood prone area during raining season the riverbank bursts resulting crop destruction and displacement of people as it was witnessed on May 2021 Gu' rain.



- The flash flood was further exacerbated by weak river embankments and open riverbanks which likely intensified water run off causing detrimental impact to the livelihood of the community in the area.
- Desert locust infestation caused a significant crop destruction thus, adversely affected food production in the region.

Recommendations to meet gaps in Middle Juba

Since the area is inaccessible by the Government and humanitarian agencies, there were no control efforts with regards to desert locust infestation resulting in negative impacts to crop and livestock production. Crop destruction by desert locust contributed to decline in agricultural labour income and own-produced crops as a result, increased households' vulnerability, and food insecurity.

- Community Self-help initiative approach to community development seeks to optimally mobilize resources to improve the living standard of members of the affected community without external assistance.
- Community self-initiative support provides a basic support to the affected community through self-initiative resource mobilization using social media platforms to support affected population so as bridge gaps of government and humanitarian agencies.
- To strengthen community self-help initiative to reach inaccessible areas requires capacity building in resource mobilization and team building skills.
- Explore options of using home-grown community Based Organisations (CBO) and existing religious based organisations with credible track record of accountability to deliver humanitarian service to the vulnerable population.
- Establish a strategic Internally Displaced Persons(IDPs) receiving centres outside kismayo town probably at Bula gadud and its environs to receive influx of IDPs from Middle Juba, so that they could get the necessary emergency support and enhance their resilience and as well as reduce overcrowding of IDPs in Kismayo town.

3. FSC Response Update

FSC updated the partners on the responses for the months of January 2021 -May 2021 as follows:

Objective 1: Improved Access to Food

- In March 2021, FSC partners assisted 1,573,031 people out of 2,103,495
- In April FSC partners reached 1, 458,300 beneficiaries out of 2,652,000
- In May 1,516,843 beneficiaries out of 2,731,100 were assisted.

Objective 2: Livelihood Seasonal Inputs on Agriculture and Livestock Asset Protection responses

- The season started in February partners have managed to reach 764,441 people cumulatively for the months of February up to May out of a seasonal target of 1,250,300 (61%) achievement.

Districts with less than 30% for May I coverage in Objective 1:

District	Obj 1 Monthly Target	May response	% coverage (Actual_vs_Target)
Cadale	8,200	2,250	27%
Bossaso	169,800	45,803	27%
Qardho	23,800	5,532	23%
Rab Dhuure	4,900	1,003	20%
Gebiley	17,900	3,522	20%
Eyl	21,000	3,542	17%
Burtinle	14,300	2,244	16%
Garooowe	63,700	8,910	14%
Borama	76,300	9,679	13%
Banadir	260,600	31,729	12%
Iskushuban	16,800	1,482	9%
Afgooye	33,600	1,272	4%
Bandarbayla	5,000	162	3%
Wania Weyn	9,200	60	1%
Adan Yabaal	4,700		0%
Baraawe	8,400		0%
Bu'aale	12,300		0%
Buur Hakaba	27,500		0%
Ceel Buur	14,400		0%
Ceel Dheer	17,300		0%
Jamaame	18,500		0%
Jilib	22,100		0%
Kurtunwaarey	28,800		0%
Qoryooley	29,800		0%
Saakow/Salagle	10,700		0%
Sablaale	2,800		0%
Tayeeglow	10,500		0%

4. INTEGRATION STRATEGY

Some of the underlying causes of food insecurity and nutrition are interdependent hence the need to integrate the work of the following clusters

Clusters: FSC, Nutrition, Health and WASH

Priority Districts: FSC proposing 27 they include the following: Ceel Barde: Waajid, Xudur, Caluula, Qandala, Baidoa (Berdale), Diinsoor, Qansax Dheere, Cabudwaaq, Cadaado, Dhuusamarreeb, Doolow, Garbahaarey, Belet Weyne, Bulo Burto, Jalalaqsi, Marka, Balcad, Jowhar, Galdogob, Jariiban, Xarardheere, Ceel Afweyn, Ceerigaabo, Laasqoray, Berbera, Sheikh

The prioritisation of districts for integration will be guided by the following factors

- Partners presence/coverage
- IPC3&4, Nutrition assessments etc.



- Access



Integration Strategy will be at the following levels: Household, Community, Institutional

5. Upcoming SHF Allocation

Prioritisation with regards to the SHF reserve allocation is being finalised. The FSC has submitted priorities under the cluster specific envelope to include:

- Response to improve immediate access to food through provision of cash and/vouchers
- Provision of agriculture inputs for the Deyr season

The FSC is now awaiting final decision on the amount allocated and review of the geographical prioritisation: these elements will be shared with partners as soon as they are finalised.

6. Minority Inclusion

Mercy Corps provided a presentation to demonstrate how, for the project titled "*Innovation-Engaging Minority Youth in Productive Sectors (Agriculture and Livestock) in Somalia*", they managed to ensure minorities are included.

Donor: Somalia Stability Fund (SSF)

Program Start Date: August 2018 - June 2020

Program Duration: 2 years

Program target area: Balcad District-Middle Shabelle region- men, women, and youth

Program Goal: To promote economic development and livelihood activities and more broadly livelihoods across all productive sectors.

Approach: a conflict sensitive approach increasing inclusivity, the action in the productive sectors to create job opportunities, with a focus on improving agricultural productivity and small- scale business development.

Key Objectives

- To ensure that youth play vibrant and diverse roles across the productive sectors (Agriculture and Livestock) and
- create income-generating activities that brings out the individual potential skills contributing to the community economy.

Key priority to the most vulnerable youth includes:

- Minority youth (youth from minority clans/groups) that have interest in farming



- Jobless youth that has interest in farming
- School dropout youth
- Youth from culturally marginalized communities.
- Agro-pastoral and Pastoral youth
- *Youth without any access/ownership of productive land for agricultural cultivation*

ACHIEVEMENTS- Minority Youth

Engagement of Youth for Fodder production - 80% increase in fodder production for the engaged youth in the target areas according to Mercy Corps Internal evaluation.

- It also gave the youth an opportunity to generate income from the fodder production
- Training youth in Agri- infrastructure rehabilitation skills: Improved the income of the trained youth by 75%, technical services were made available for the community, Youth also supports Mercy Corps, MOA and other organizations in the district with the skills needed
- Youth Internship to have hand on experience. The internship gave the youth graduates an opportunity to interact with entities and acquire hand on experience skills.
- It gave the youth the hope that they can be absorbed within the entities they are working as volunteers when Mercy Corps incentivization ended on July 2020.

Challenges

- Natural Disasters affected crop productivity recurrent floods in the region affects the farmers production.
- Difficulty in sustainability as youth are bound to relocate in search of greener pastures

Lessons

- The transparent and inclusive process employed to identify project participants through the engagement of the village selection committee, women, youth and minority groups, and the endorsement of an agreed criteria (which was discussed in a consultative meeting), has contributed to stability as the community were jointly working on the common good and bettering their livelihoods.
- Effective coordination and partnership that exists between the project stakeholders and the community ensured the project to be community owned and government lead.
 - Despite the challenges in land access, especially for women and minority clans, organizations can support these groups in leasing land for farming, especially for individuals that have passion for farming



7. Agriculture Working Group

The Agric-TWG conducted a meeting on the 24th of June. Key discussion points were on:

- Updates on seed distribution in Somalia (based on collected data from partners and FS Cluster)
- Presentation on Gu 2021 seed distribution activities
 - Outcome of the distribution of seeds activities by FAO in GU 2021
 - Presentation by Implementing partners/agencies on activity implementation, challenges and lessons learnt. – **Mercy Corps**
 - Update on SARIS certification processes that facilitated seed distribution in Gu 2021- **MOA**
- Crop pest's management -**MOA**

The Working Group will be conducting a meeting in July and partners are encouraged to attend.

8. AOB

There being no AOB, the meeting was adjourned.