



**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY ABUJA FOOD SECURITY SECTOR MEETING**  
**WFP OFFICE, ABUJA**  
**16 APRIL, 2019**

NO	PROCEEDINGS	Action
1.0	<p align="center"><b>WELCOME, INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS</b></p> <p>The meeting was opened by the representative of the Chairperson – Mr. Anthony Amu prior to the arrival of Dr. Maimuna Habib (Director of PCU in FMoARD) and supported by the Food Security Sector Coordinator. The Chairman’s rep called for round table introduction.</p> <p>Dr. Habib was officially introduced as this is her first FSS meeting. Dr. Aisha (former Director of PCU) also participated in the meeting. NPFS has been re-structured to be under the Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.</p>	
2.0	<p align="center"><b>REVIEW OF ACTION POINTS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NPFS to update on the CH analysis discussion - DONE</li> <li>2. FSS to follow up with WFP-VAM, CWG and FEWS NET on the possible collaboration on joint market price monitoring (for both food items and NFIs) - Pending</li> </ol> <p>After the review, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November, 2018 was adopted.</p>	<p>Pending Item from the action point will form part of the action point for next meeting</p>
3.0	<p><b>UPDATES ON THE 2019 RAINY SEASON FORECAST BY NIMET</b></p> <p><b>Onset Dates of the growing season</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The onset date changes as we move northwards with areas around Sokoto, Katsina, Maiduguri, Dutse, Potiskum and Nguru predicted to have onset from June 16<sup>th</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Cessation Dates of Growing Season and Deviations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The earliest cessation dates are expected to be from September around the north-western part of the country.</li> <li>• The earliest cessation date is expected to start from September 28<sup>th</sup>. This will manifest around Sokoto, Kano and Katsina States.</li> <li>• Most of the Northern states are expected to witness an earlier than normal end of growing season.</li> </ul> <p><b>Length of Growing Season and Deviations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019, the Length of Growing Season is expected to range from 109 to 291days, increasing from north to south.</li> </ul>	<p>Sector to circulate the NiMet forecast update with all partners</p> <p>WFP to share the concept note on WFP/FAO growing season monitoring exercise to identify those that would like to join the project.</p>

**Shorter Length of Growing Season** is predicted for most parts of the country especially over Sokoto, Yelwa, Gusau Zaria, Kaduna, Kano, Dutse, Potiskum, Gombe, Bauchi, Lokoja, Enugu, and Ikom.

#### **Predicted Annual Rainfall and Deviations**

- The country is expected to have below normal rainfall season in most places.
- The least amounts of rainfall, within the range of 300 - 700 mm, are expected across the extreme north such as Katsina, Nguru and Sokoto.

#### **2019 Dry spell Prediction**

- The probabilistic dry spell forecast shows that northern parts of the country like Borno, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara are likely to experience severe dry spell in the month of June and July.
- This may last 10 to 21 days after the onset.
- Moderate dry spell that may last 8 to 11 days is expected around Yelwa, Shaki, Ilorin, Bida, Zaria, Funtua, Jos, Bauchi, Gombe and Yola in June, 2019
- The probability for dry spell in July is Moderate. However, areas around **Borno** (Jere, Mobbar, Abadam, Kukawa, Guzamala, Gubio, Nganzai, Mongono), Jigawa (Birniwa, Guri, Sule Tankarkar, Maigatari, Babura), Sokoto (Illela, Gada, Tangaza, Isa, Gudu), Katsina (Jibia, Kaita, Mai'Adua, Daura, Mashi, Dutsi), **Yobe** (Yusufari, Yunusari, Machina, Karasuwa), Kebbi (Augie, Arewa Dandi, Argungu) and Zangarewa (Shinkafi, Zurmi, Maradun, Bakura, Kaura Namoda) will experience dry spell in the first week of July for 8 to 18 days spilling from the June dry spell.


#### **Conclusion**

- The country is expected to experience late onset in most parts of the country, but this delay is likely to be more evident in the northern states. However, normal onset is expected over coastal and some south-east states.
- Most of the Northern states are expected to witness an earlier than normal end of growing season.
- Shorter Length of Growing Season is predicted for most parts of the country.
- The country is expected to have below normal to normal rainfall season.
- The probabilistic dry spell forecast shows that northern parts of the country like Borno, Jigawa, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, Yobe and Zamfara are likely to experience severe dry spell in the month of June and July.
- Farmers are advised to make good use of the information from the prediction and watch out for updates.

#### **Key advisory as discussed with partners in the meeting include:**

- **Need for critical sensitization to farmers on all these issues**
- Timely distribution of seed
- Drought resistant varieties
- Irrigation support should be provided where necessary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early mature varieties (within 100-day) crops</li> <li>• Though the rain is expected normal/below normal, it is compressed in short period of time. Therefore, farmers should still watch out for flooding in the later part of the rain season and avoid planting in water-logged areas. (Flood update will be provided by Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NISHA) and NiMet at the end of April).</li> <li>• Water-harvesting at community or household level</li> <li>• Intercropping so that farmers do not lose out on crop at once</li> <li>• There is need for soil and water conservation methods including mulching, soil bunds, zai pits</li> <li>• Partners observed the interlinkages between dry spells and food insecurity from last year’s analysis of food security situation in dry spell affected areas.</li> </ul> <p>According to WFP and FAO, they have identified a few potential areas of increased use of satellite imagery this year to monitor the growing season with a focus on the areas where livelihood assistance is provided to conflict affected communities as well in areas with phase 4 population. These analysis will give us more evidence about the performance of the upcoming growing season which can feed into the post-harvest response and going forward to the 2020 response.</p> <p>These analysis and assessment will be carried out in partnership between WFP and FAO at HQ and CO level, particularly the field work validation and surveys. It would be great to have more Partners that can contribute to the field work validation. WFP will share the concept note with partners through the FSS to identify those that would like to join the project.</p> <p>Please find the detailed NiMet presentation at the link below:  <a href="https://fscluster.org/nigeria/document/updates-seasonal-rainfall-prediction-srp">https://fscluster.org/nigeria/document/updates-seasonal-rainfall-prediction-srp</a></p>	
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION ON CADRE HARMONISE MARCH 2019, BY NPFS/FMOARD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The March 2019 CH analysis for Nigeria was jointly facilitated by the FMARD through the National Programme for Food Security(NPFS) ; CILSS and other development partners from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019.</li> <li>• The analysis was conducted at zonal (senatorial) level in 11 out of the 15 States as well as FCT and at Local Government Area (LGAs) level in Borno both for the current (March – May 2019) and projected period (June –August, 2019). However, for Sokoto, Adamawa and Yobe States, there were no valid outcome indicator to analyze the current period (March –May, 2019); however, the outcome of the projected period for October, 2018 was reviewed using contributing factors to provide the food and nutrition situation (FNS) for the projected period of June to August, 2019.</li> <li>• In the current situation (March to May, 2019). Fourteen(14) out of the Fifteen (15) states and the FCT were classified under the minimal phase of FNS; while the northern zone in Plateau is classified under stress. Consequently, Borno is generally classified to be under crisis and emergency except for some LGAs (Biu, chibok, Hawul, Kwayakusa, Bayo and Shani)in the southern zone which is classified in the minimal phase.</li> </ul>	<p>Sector to share the presentation slides.</p> <p>CH analysis to be updated to incorporate WFP EFSA results</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the projected situation ( June to August, 2019). Five(5) out of the sixteen(16) states and the FCT were classified under the minimal phase of FNS; However some zones in Bauchi, Gombe, Plateau, Kaduna, Zamfara and Katsina are classified under stress in the projected period. Consequently, the phase classification for the North East States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe is generally under crisis and emergency.</li> <li>- <b><u>Based on NPFS guidance and advice, the current CH March results may be updated based on WFP EFSA findings before the regional CH meeting in June. FAO will support GoN to facilitate the update exercise as soon as the arrangement is concluded. The next CH Technical working Group meeting in Abuja will discuss further on the outcome of EFSA and the CH update exercise.</u></b></li> <li>- Some partners raised concerns over how the projection was being analyzed as the current situation info is not available. The analysis was done by updating contributing indicators but not direct indicators (as data is not available).</li> <li>- NPFS emphasized the importance of partners’ participation.</li> <li>- Partners comment that for Phase 2 populations, there is need to conduct outcome analysis to understand how the humanitarian assistance (including livelihood support) impacts the food security situation of this population. (Are they in Phase 2 because of assistance, therefore, without assistance, they will fall back to Phase 3? etc)</li> </ul> <p>Please see the full presentation below:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>PP_PRESENTATION OF MARCH 2019 CH</p> </div>	
<p><b>5.0</b></p>	<p><b>UPDATES ON EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT (EFSA), BY WFP-VAM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of 16 April, 75% of data has been collected. Data collection (20,000 HHs) will be completed this week.</li> <li>• According to WFP, a joint EFSA Analysis and Validation Workshop is planned in the first week of May and following which the update of the March 2019 Cadre Harmonise could hold, based on guidance and advice of the NPFS.</li> </ul>	<p>WFP to present EFSA prelim findings in next Abuja FSS meeting</p>
<p><b>6.0</b></p>	<p><b>UPDATES ON REACH HARD-TO-REACH AREA ANALYSIS, BY REACH INITIATIVE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• REACH Initiative’s Hard to Reach (H2R) analysis, which scope includes Maiduguri, Monguno, Bama, Dikwa, Gwoza, Ngala and Kala Balge/Rann, corroborating the findings from the Bama H2R Case Study, both of which confirmed that pockets of people were indeed trapped in many of the communities currently inaccessible to the humanitarian community, albeit the scale of habitation (<i>population figures</i>) could not be ascertained.</li> </ul>	<p>Sector to share the presentation slides</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Households are currently under captivity of the NSAG and farming activities in these areas are grossly controlled by the group. There were less restrictions in northern part of Borno controlled by NSAG compared to those in southern part of Borno. Therefore, the food security and livelihood situation in areas with heavier restrictions was found to be more critical compared to counterparts with minimal restrictions.</li> <li>REACH is also exploring the possibility of leveraging Satellite Imagery Analysis to further enrich their H2R study and potentially pursue further collaborative efforts with other agencies, ex: WFP, in this regard.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compile a memo regarding joint analysis workshop conclusions (participated by NPFS, FSS, REACH, WFP, FAO, NiMet, and FEWS NET)</li> <li>Operationalize this information to the extent possible to provide services to people remaining in hard to reach areas</li> <li>Harness joint conclusions for access and advocacy purposes</li> <li>Utilize the Cadre Harmonise and the H2R task force within the FSS to continue collaborative work going forward</li> <li>Publish regular updates on a monthly basis.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7.0</b></p>	<p><b>SECTOR UPDATES:</b> Session cancelled due to the fire incident next to the meeting venue. Updates included in written format here:</p> <p><b>Discussion on Rainy Season Preparedness and contingency</b></p> <p>All sectors will start the inter-sector rainy season planning exercise. Thanks in advance for partners’ timely support/inputs (ex: stock levels, capacities, funding ballpark figures, etc.) throughout the process.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sectors were informed last week that this planning exercise would officially kick start soon. At the moment, we are waiting for any further info/next steps from OCHA. Similar as the past planning exercises we have done (HRP, 90-day plan, etc.), the planning figures will be estimated, agreed upon and shared as well as the template for sectors’ inputs, etc.</li> <li>A combined rainy season + response to military operation plan for 2019 will be developed (unlike last year, there were two plans).</li> <li>The 2019 plan will be a revision built on last year’s plan, not starting from scratch. The final draft is expected by end of April.</li> </ol> <p>Situation and Risk Analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vulnerabilities of the 7.1 M PIN become exacerbated during the Rainy season from June to September</li> <li>Access becomes restricted due to impassable roads, making the operational environment more challenging</li> <li>Two third of IDPs live in emergency or makeshift shelters</li> <li>According to CCCM 83 IDP sites hosting 490,332 individuals are at risk of flooding across the BAY states <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>47 camps hosting 303,557 IDPs are at high risk of flooding;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29 camps hosting 136,045 IDPs at moderate flood risk;</li> <li>• 7 camps hosting 50,730 IDPs are at lower flood risk and prone to damage.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in risks of waterborne diseases such as cholera, malaria and hepatitis E</li> <li>• Increase in the number of malnutrition cases with medical complications</li> </ul> <p>Outlook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The impact of planned military operation on ongoing humanitarian response</li> <li>- Impact of the rainy season – need for timely preparedness and resource mobilization</li> <li>- Insecurity shrinking farming space</li> <li>- Access to more land to decongest camps</li> </ul>	
<b>8.0</b>	<b>PARTNER UPDATES:</b> Session cancelled due to the fire incident next to the meeting venue.	
<b>9.0</b>	<b>AOB:</b> None.	
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Closing:</b> Cancelled due to the fire incident next to the meeting venue. The next Abuja FSS meeting date will be shared as soon as it is confirmed.	
	<u>Notes:</u> A fire accident occurred during the FSS Abuja meeting at WFP Abuja office meeting room at around 11:30am on 16 April. All colleagues have evacuated from the scene immediately and no one was injured. Apologies again for all the concerns and inconveniences to any of you who took part in the meeting. We will make every effort for a safe meeting venue and prevention of this kind of accident in the future.	

- **IN ATTENDANCE:** 22 partners were in attendance, 37 individuals (15 females and 22 males)

Government/UN/Donors/Others	INGOs	NGOs
1. NPFS of FMoARD	2. ACF	3. AHA
4. PCU of FMoARD	5. FEWS NET	6. WIHIN
7. WFP	8. CARE	
9. USAID-FFP	10. ZOA	
11. ARCN	12. SCI	
13. NCFRMI	14. Caritas	
15. ECHO	16. IEDA	
17. NiMet	18. REACH Initiative	
19. FAO	20. MC	
21. ICRC		
22. OCHA		