

MINUTES OF THE BORNO FOOD SECURITY SECTOR MEETING (Teleconference)

Location: Borno State Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (MoANR), Conference Room

Date: 14 April 2020

Time: 10:05am – 11:00am

AGENDA

1. Welcome, Opening Remarks and Round of introductions (5 min)
2. Review of action points and approval of minutes of the previous meeting (5 min)
3. Preparedness and Response for COVID-19 threat (20 Minutes)
 - o Presentation of feedback from the FSS COVID-19 Taskforce – Agricultural Livelihoods
 - o Updates on the implementation of the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response measures – Food Assistance
4. Sector updates (15 min)
5. Partner updates (15 min)
 - o Government stakeholders (MoA, NEDC, NEMA, SEMA, MRRR, NCFRMI, etc.)
 - o Others
6. AOB (5 min)

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

1. The sector to follow up on MC food assistance phase out in Bama host communities
2. The sector to verify the food gaps in Madinatu and African Mission Camp with SEMA, partners and other sectors
3. The sector to finalize the list of FSS focal points for key LGAs in Borno State, looking for partners for MMC/Jere areas
4. The sector to share the Expression of Interest and draft TOR for the position of FSS Co-coordinator/NGO Co-Lead
5. Sector to follow up with partners on potential gaps reported in Yejua axis, Gongolong, Malashari, El-Meskin, and Gusheri
6. WFP to share the joint market assessment report
7. Sector to convene Harmonization TF to further work on a harmonized approach to MEB
8. FAO to share information on the tomato processing factory.
9. FSS to work with the SGBV sub sector to review and update the SGBV audit document
10. Sector to follow up regarding challenges faced by fishereires farmers in other partners of Borno State especially regarding marketing.

No	PROCEEDING	ACTION POINTS
1	<p>Welcome, Opening Remarks and Round of introductions</p> <p>The meeting was opened by the Chair and followed by self-introductions. In the absense of the chair who was away on bereavement, the co chair led the meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Review of action points and approval of previous minutes</p> <p>1. The sector to follow up on MC food assistance COVID in Bama host communities – Ongoing</p>	Pending items from the meeting

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The sector to verify the food gaps in Madinatu and African Mission Camp with SEMA, partners and other sectors – Ongoing 3. The sector to finalize the list of FSS focal points for key LGAs in Borno State, looking for partners for MMC/Jere areas - Ongoing 4. The sector to share the Expression of Interest and draft TOR for the position of FSS Co-coordinator/NGO Co-Lead – PENDING 5. The sector to follow up with partners on potential gaps reported in Yejua axis, Gongolong, Malashari, El-Meskin, and Gusheri – ONGOING (With partners) 6. WFP to share the joint market assessment report - PENDING 7. The sector to convene Harmonization TF to further work on a harmonized approach to MEB – PENDING <p>After the review, the minutes of the meeting held on 17th March were adopted.</p>	<p>will be part of the action points for the next meeting</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Preparedness and Response for COVID-19 threat (20 min)</p> <p><i>(a) Presentation of feedback from the FSS COVID-19 Taskforce – Agricultural Livelihoods.</i></p> <p>Partners discussed on how the COVID-19 threat may impact the FSS Agricultural Livelihoods. Some of the key impacts put forward include but not limited to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In event of restrictions on inter-state movements will affect market operations for agricultural livelihoods inputs, reduced farmer movements and field presence of extension staff- > upcoming agricultural season may be interrupted. • It is also expected that agricultural input providers such as seed companies may not be operating at full capacity -> Some partners have reduced targets to 50%. • Borno state specifically was already facing significant challenges of insecurity, limiting access to land by the farmers and movements of inputs -> COVID-19 compounds the situation. • There is a high risk of completely losing relatively new livelihoods activities or investments where beneficiaries/livelihoods activities that had not stabilized getting affected. Majority of the farm activities are not insured either thereby not providing an option to cover some of these risks. • Post-harvest handling especially for fresh produce such as vegetables, fish, etc will become more complicated <p><i>(i) <u>Practical precautionary measures proposed by partners?</u></i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners have recommended temporarily stopping Public Works or Community-Based livelihoods activities. However, partners have recommended strengthening and supporting of Household/individual based livelihoods activities since they do not bring together large numbers of people. For instance, backyard gardening, small-sale poultry, etc • Partners recommended any form of waivers or subsidies to farmers during this time from the government would be helpful as it is anticipated that prices of inputs may rise • All measures to ensure social distancing, hygiene and SENSITIZATION should be emphasized at this time. For instance, one partner mentioned that they have continued with some livelihood’s trainings, however with precaution where they had to reduce the numbers per session and included handwashing measures in place. However, this took 10 days instead of the expected 7 days. SENSITIZATION on COVID-19 came out as key and a priority given the reports in some locations 	

some communities not aware about COVID19 preventative measures -> *Please refer to the [FSS COVID-19 guidance notes – Food Assistance](#)*

(ii) Key points for advocacy and other recommendations

- Partners will hope that the Points 39 and 43 from the first presidential speech, Point 57 from the second speech will guarantee access to humanitarian support to the affected communities as required.
- Partners also emphasized the need to upgrade and strengthen the Food Security Sector meetings in Yobe and Adamawa states given that those are the areas where agricultural livelihoods activities are predominantly implemented -> *Please attend when invited.*
- Partners also recommended early procurement and distribution of agricultural livelihoods inputs especially for household level livelihoods support, given that it will take a little longer this time round to get the inputs prepositioned especially with the restrictions.
- Public Works/Community-Based activities be postponed.
- With the reduced foot-print, partners also mentioned the need to strengthen the feedback mechanism and monitoring of cross-cutting issues that may come along.
- Partners implementing livelihoods interventions agreed that in event that there is as outbreak, they would be willing to join the main emergency response to provide relief to save lives when required.
- In areas where farmers saved seed from the previous season, they should be encouraged to reserve them for planting given that access to additional seed this season may be difficult. This is one of the ways community capacity can be tapped going forward.
- Assess the needs and potential effect of the COVID-19 threat on the livestock keepers especially while including the nomadic pastoralists. This is still a challenge up to global level

(b) Updates on the implementation of the COVID-19 Preparedness and Response measures – Food Assistance

Some partners are planning for two months' distribution through in-kind and are in the early phases of implementing it. For the partners providing assistance through CVA, some have started the two months distribution recommendation. However, there is a need to ensure that a rapid market assessment is done to ensure the two months distributions do not cause harm in the local markets.

The main challenges so far being faced by partners include;

- Reducing crowds to smaller numbers is delaying distributions and also requiring additional resources due to additional days of distribution->For CVA, some partners have increased the number of vendors in order to reduce the crowding.
- Partners have noticed that commodity prices have started to increase and the relative scarcity of some items has been observed.
- Significant forex fluctuations and an increase in the price of imported rice and red beans have been observed.
- **As per the end of March Market Monitoring, no impact has been mentioned on the SMEB. However, going forward this is a big threat and requires critical monitoring.** This will be confirmed with the April Market Monitoring Report.

- Partners have reported an increase in operational costs given the implementation of the precautionary measures for COVID-19.

(iii) FSS Important Taskforces for COVID-19

FSS Food Assistance Taskforce (COVID-19) -> Updates already mentioned above

FSS Remote (market) Monitoring taskforce (COVID-19) -> This is a multi-agency team that is working on monitoring weekly prices to inform programming. A few critical multi-sectoral items were also added. This data collection started last week with the focus of Kano as the main supply market to the BAY states. In Borno, the task force agreed to start with MMC/Jere markets since these are the main supply a significant number of LGA markets in Borno.

FSS Agricultural Livelihoods taskforce (COVID-19)-> Updates already mentioned above.

Regarding **Biometrics**, the Sector had the IOM-DTM team join the FSS sector meeting calls. They have confirmed that they will continue with biometrics with extra precautions. Some partners are looking into alternative solutions to biometrics as we are trying to minimize transmission risks. When there are any new updates on the alternatives, will be shared.

Discussions

- During the meeting, one of the additional reasons mentioned for price increases is the near-start of the Ramadhan season. During this time of the year, demand for food commodities also increases, hence prices.
- The sector also confirmed that the markets in Borno State were not fully closed, but there were restrictions regarding precautions on COVID-19.
- Partners also asked the sector to follow up to understand better as regards the issue of fish not being able to be transported from some parts of Borno to the markets especially in MMC.
- The sector again mentioned that there was no commitment yet on covering food gaps in isolation/quarantine centres in event of a large scale outbreak.

4	<p>Sector updates</p> <p><i>Operational Updates</i></p> <p>Food gaps in informal settlements in MMC/Jere -> Shuwari 5 camp 1118 HH, -Umara bolori camp 810 HH, -Doron бага camp 694 HH, -Tausayi camp 895 HH. Others include Annur, Dujima, Grema Mohammed, Gidan Mandara, Sanawuya, Bullet Quarters, Muna Primary totaling about 493 HHs or 2,702 individuals.</p> <p>SGBV Audit -> FSS to work with the SGBV sub sector to review and update the SGBV audit document to ensure SGBV and general protection measures are reviewed and where necessary updated at the various FSS activity points</p> <p>REACH Nigeria -> To support the humanitarian response to the ongoing conflict in Borno State, REACH Initiative has been conducting monthly data collection since November 2018 to map displacement trends and identify multi-sectoral needs in Hard-to-Reach (H2R) areas of Borno State, Nigeria. To provide information on H2R areas, REACH utilizes a remote monitoring methodology, "Area of</p>
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Knowledge". The findings are based on Key Informant interviews and Focus Group Discussions. Analyses of the findings are presented in **Situation Overviews** and monthly **Factsheets**. The Situation Overviews provide an overview of how the ongoing conflict has impacted displacement and affected the needs of IDPs and host communities living in H2R areas of Borno State, while the factsheets provide a sectoral overview on monthly basis.

Recently published Hard-To-Reach Assessments:

[Situation Overview, October to December 2019.](#)

Factsheets February, 2020:

- [Shelter/ Non-Food Items](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene](#)
- [Food Security and Livelihood](#)
- [Health](#)

Other relevant H2R publications:

Factsheets January, 2020:

- [Shelter/ Non-Food Items](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene](#)
- [Food Security and Livelihood](#)
- [Health](#)

[Situation Overview, June to September 2019](#)

[Research Terms of Reference of Assessment of Hard-to-Reach, December 2019.](#)

For All H2R publications see our [Resource Centre](#).

For general information on the work of REACH Initiative see [our website](#).

For any questions or further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Jannie Nielsen at jannie.nielsen@reach-initiative.org or Jessica Murphy at jessica.murphy@reach-initiative.org

HRP -> Approved \$ 839 million as the funding requirement for the Nigeria 2020 HRP instead of the overall \$ 869 million initial project submissions from the sectors. Sectors including FSS asked to reduce figures. FSS Final is reduced from 228 million USD to 212 USD. Partners will get updates later.

CH Food Security Situation Monitoring Taskforce

The March 2020 CH analysis did not take into consideration the COVID-19. The Sector is coordinating the early phases of set up of the CH Food Security Monitoring Taskforce to review the context and update the March analysis based on the various latest data that will come from partners for consensus-building on the evolving situation. A task force is already in place to update the figures and to hold the inception meeting on Thursday 23 April bringing together the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) – NPFS, National Bureau of Statistics, FAO, WFP, Action Against Hunger and Save The Children.

FSS and WASH partners coordination to ensure complementary delivery of hygiene services and messaging at FSS activities especially distributions. FSS and WASH partners should reach out to each other bilaterally in all locations to ensure this

5	Partner updates: There were no partner updates	
6	AOB: FAO to share information on the tomato processing factory. Some partners have grown tomatoes in neighboring LGAs and would like to know if it is possible to link them to value addition.	FAO to share information on the tomato processing factory.
7	CLOSING: With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00. The next FSS teleconference meeting will be held on 28 April 2020.	

IN ATTENDANCE: 24 partners were in attendance - 45 individuals (8 Females & 24 Males)

Government/UN/Donors/Others	INGOs	NNGOs
1. SWISS EMBASSY	2. AUN	3. IDS
4. WFP	5. SCI	6. GREENCODE
7. FEWS NET	8. CRS	9. FINDEF
10. MCRP	11. INTERSOS	12. REBHI
13. SCEU IPs	14. Mercy Corps	15. HLI
	16. CAID	17. HCDI
	18. CARE	
	19. COOPI	
	20. ACTED/REACH	
	21. ZOA	
	22. PLAN	
	23. NRC	
	24. TEARFUND	