MINUTES OF THE LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES WORKING GROUP MEETING

Location: FAO Maiduguri Office, Conference Room
Date: 02 May, 2019
Time: 2:10 PM – 3:30 PM

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. FAO Presentation: Linking Livestock beneficiaries to savings, loans schemes and agribusiness support (30 min).
4. Partners’ updates (20 min)
5. AOB (5 min)

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

1. The Sector with support from partners to set up smaller working groups to develop guidance on a) Livestock procurement and quarantine b) Common Diseases, signs and symptoms c) Livestock feeds production d) Harmonization of inputs for activities (including the minimum inputs required for each of the activities for sustainability).
2. Partners to share their training plans for August-December 2019 for compilation to encourage exchange/coordination

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<th>No</th>
<th>PROCEEDING</th>
<th>ACTION POINTS</th>
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| 1  | Welcome, Opening Remarks and Round of introductions | - The new Director of Livestock and Fisheries Al Haji Dahiru Mohammed was introduced and chairing the meeting. He thanked the partners who have been supporting the sector and encouraged the coordination to go forward.  
- This was followed by self-introduction by members. |
| 2  | Review of action points and approval of minutes of the previous meeting | 1. The Sector with support from partners to set up smaller working groups to develop guidance on a) Livestock procurement and quarantine b) Common Diseases, signs and symptoms c) Livestock feeds production d) Harmonization of inputs for activities (including the minimum inputs required for each of the activities for sustainability) - Pending  
2. Partners to share their training plans for the first and second quarters for sector compilation to encourage exchange/coordination - Pending  

After reviewing the action points, the minutes of the last meeting (21 March) were adopted | Partners to share their training plans for last two quarters of 2019 (August December) for compilation to encourage exchange/coordination |
Presentation: Linking Livestock beneficiaries to savings, loans schemes and agribusiness support – By FAO

Background

- The presentation summarised the progress made by FAO Group Savings and Lending Associations (GSLA) and Agribusiness in Borno State.
- The GSLA intervention aims to strengthen the resilience of communities-IDPs, Returnees & Hosts, especially women, youth and farmers through access to finance, diversified livelihoods and improved technologies.

Achievements

- 73 Groups trained, functional and have access to finance for micro businesses at household level
- 15 Community Facilitators identified and trained
- 1,293 participants; Women 865 (67%) and 428 Men (33%) reached
- 10 group projects started from their own savings (7 in Bakassi & 3 in Gongolong)
- 73 groups trained in Business Management
- 73 Group project proposals developed and funded from the revolving group seed grant.
- 6 FFS trained in GSLA Methodology
- No drop outs recorded to date

Primary and Secondary Groups Benefiting
15 clusters, 73 groups, 1,293 participants, 4,196 persons benefiting

Cumulative Savings

- Net worth: N2,235,600
- Loans Given Out: N2,911,170
- Cumulative Savings: N1,284,590
- Social Fund: N456,240

GSLA Grant Support to Livestock Group Businesses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Group Project Type</th>
<th>No. of Projects</th>
<th>Value (N)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle Fattening</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5,100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish farming</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6,600,000</td>
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Specific Support to Livestock Beneficiaries through GSLA/Agribusiness

- Provision of training on small business management skills
- Facilitation of collective products marketing, bulk sales of eggs and purchase of feeds and vaccines.
- Facilitation of linkages to agro-dealers and markets
- Facilitation of access to finance for scaling up livestock business

Importance of GSLA/Agribusiness Support to Livestock Beneficiaries

- GSLA serves as a means for providing social support to the participants
- GSLA also facilitates the easy realization of economies of scale in small businesses
- It empowers the participants collectively in terms of price negotiation through product bulk purchasing and sales.

**Lessons Learnt**
- The intervention is effective in building resilience as it empowers communities to initiate and manage their own development
- GSLA has capacity in increasing household livelihood security (assets, options and welfare
- Ownership and participation at both household and community level is enshrined in the project thus sustainability and continuity of this program is certain.
- The program enhances social cohesion and reduces donor dependency
- Since GSLA is being mainstreamed on other interventions, improved coordination within programme sectors is critical.

**Recommendations**
- Interventions in poultry should consider a larger scale approach to achieve economies of scale
- Livestock sector should emphasize grouping and proper training of target beneficiaries in animal husbandry and small business management prior to handing out livestock kits
- Proper value chain approaches should be taken into considerations in livestock interventions to achieve sustainability in livestock interventions.

Below is the link to the presentation

**Discussions in the meeting**
- FAO confirmed that the numbers above are from the pilot project in MMC and Jere. FAO intends to scale up in Borno and Adamawa targeting 2,910 households. In Yobe FAO together with Implementing partners are present in 5 LGAs including Fune, Geidam, Nangere and Damaturu. In Adamawa, FAO will not be there for now because the area is reported to be highly risky to the Avian Flu which is in the neighbouring state. In Borno, FAO will finalize the distributions of poultry in Dikwa, Mafa and Monguno where planning with security has to be done in advance because of the insecurity situation.

- The Sector also clarified for purposes of the new Director, that there are other partners implementing poultry other than FAO.

- Partners were encouraged to consult with the communities to design resilience activities that suit the different contexts, taking into consideration the fluid security situation.

- FAO also clarified that among the criteria for group formation included geographical proximity, “like-minded people” among others. Most importantly they are self-forming and self-functioning. Trainers offered potential group members trainings on basics of group formation and dynamics. Thereafter, beneficiaries went on to form their own groups, The GSLA integrates in all the different livestock activities. FAO
implementing partners have extension workers/volunteers titled community facilitators and trainers. They provide field reports form each group back to implementing partner on a weekly basis.

- 5 groups of beneficiaries form a cluster. Leaders of the groups become representatives in the cluster. Therefore, each cluster has 15 people coming from the leadership of the different groups. A group can only be a member of the cluster if its members are active.

- Regarding interests, there is no interest on group loans. However, membership fees are paid on monthly basis to support in running cluster activities. This is different from the joining fee. Instead of interest, groups are charged a 10% maintenance fee.

- Regarding poultry and other livestock, a partner asked whether there is any opportunity of livestock insurance. Among the members attending the meeting informed the meeting that there are two insurance entities in Maiduguri that may offer livestock insurance. The Sector will reach out for consultation.

- FAO also further confirmed that some poultry groups are now able to scale up their activities on their own after receiving the first round of support from FAO. Some were poultry farmers previously and some are new to poultry farming.

- Regarding the mobility of the IDPs and their cages, FAO mentioned that the cages are light and easy to move. They can easily be dismantled and moved by the locally used tri-cycle.

- The poultry farmers have also established a relationship with suppliers of feeds for instance in Bama, contributing to sustainability.

- For GSLA, the groups are formed with a recommended minimum membership of 10 and maximum of 25. There are a few groups where membership is up to 30. When the groups are formed, they make a constitution, facilitated to register with the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and Youth Development under the Cooperative Department before they can open a bank account for the group. Then for the cluster, they also open a bank account separately. The Ministry has offered to provide monitoring support now and after the closure of the project.

4 Partner Updates

Mercy Corps
- To start distributing poultry to beneficiaries in the next three weeks in Maiduguri, Dikwa, Gwoza and Damboa

FAO
- Started poultry kit distribution to additional 190 households in Bakassi; 150 households in Ngala will receive goats kit; 150 youths from various households to receive bullocks for fattening in Dikwa.
- Starting next week goats will be distributed to 240 women headed households in Biu LGA and an additional 240 households to benefit from poultry kit support.
5. **AOB:** As followed up by the Sector, partners reported that no outbreak has been reported yet of the Avian flu in Borno or Yobe States.

6. **CLOSING**
   - The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm. Next meeting date and time will be confirmed and shared later on due to Ramadan.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 11 partners were in attendance, 16 individuals (3 females & 13 males)

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<th>Government/UN/Donors/Others</th>
<th>INGOs</th>
<th>NNGOs</th>
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<td>2. INTERSOS</td>
<td>3. IDS</td>
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