



BANGLADESH
FOOD SECURITY SECTOR
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

Food Security Sector Meeting

DATE Tuesday, 24th April 2018
TIME 10:00 am – 11:30 am
VENUE IOM Meeting Room, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh

AGENDA

1. Food Security Monitoring (WFP VAM/FSS)
2. Nutrition Update and FSS monsoon linkages (Nutrition Sector Coordinator/FSS)
3. Update on Cash common rates for unskilled labour and "portering" (Cash WG and FSS)
4. GFD, Preparedness tracking, 4Ws Update (Food assistance and Livelihoods)
5. AoB (Relocation, dashboard, Livelihoods WG, etc.)

DISCUSSION

Intros and welcome

FSS Coordinator, opened the meeting with a welcome to all, followed by a round of introductions; FSS members who were present at the meeting are: Agrajatra, Oxfam, SCI, WVI, Cash WG, Nutrition Sector, UNHCR, MUKTI, EETWG, CCDB, ICRC, WFP.

1- VAM

The need for more frequent monitoring systems, beyond REVA, which was conducted in Nov/Dec 2017. A FSS/WFP light monitoring tool will be launched in end May. The reporting will take place around every two months on the situation of the food security for Rohingya refugees and affected host communities. There will be a REVA+ to be implemented in October 2018, one year after the first one. Nutrition Sector to give also input into the questionnaire. FSS/VAM will share the draft questionnaire, once it will have been revised, since the existing version is the one which was used for REVA. The key sources of the data for the new monitoring, in addition to the questionnaire will include also as secondary sources: IOM's NPM (...) and UNHCR Site Profiling. On Indicators, the question of dietary diversity was proposed as a key element to be added on the questionnaire. Partners wanted a clarification on the difference between reduced coping strategies and livelihoods coping strategies. There are 5 FS coping strategies, almost universally applicable. Selling Jewellery, for example, is a Livelihoods Coping Strategy not a "food related" coping strategy. Other questions also sought clarification on the relevance of using livelihoods and income indicators in the questionnaire, when there are almost no jobs for refugees, etc. But was reiterated that lots of cash for work is ongoing and would be very good to understand the impact in terms of FS. Other issues discussed under this topic include:

Partners expressed an overwhelming interest in getting a training on Food Security Consumption Score;

ICRC shared that it has commenced a PDM assessments in Chiprang, Chakmarkur and soon in Kopnabarra;

OXFAM is also in the process of conducting its regular bi-monthly Food Security Post Distribution Monitoring.

2- Nutrition Update (See PPT Presentation)

- The first Smart Nutrition Survey was conducted in October. A new one is ongoing now.
- WFP offered to include Nutrition Sector's GPS coordinates into WFP's travel time, showing BSFP/TSFPs, OTPs and SCs and access roads leading to these.
- Nutrition Sector has produced a number of camp-level maps, particularly those facing risks of flooding and which Nutrition Sector considers necessitating relocation, and/or requiring urgent strategic thinking in planning how key services will be delivered and facilities (Nutrition and GFD and others) will be strengthened, particularly in camp areas for which there is no plan to relocate populations.
- Nutrition and Food Security Sectors plan to closely plan and coordinate their response, under the Preparedness Plan, to ensure that families with malnourished children can be given first priority on relocation. Possible areas of collaboration between NS and FSS may include:
 - deploying Nutrition Officers to Food DPs/Sites to screen for SAM and MAM;
 - use of bracelets (e.g., red for SAM and blue MAM) and awareness for staff at Food Distribution Sites to recognize these bracelets;
 - adding RUTF supplies to the porter-based outreach to the most vulnerable households
 - Some concerns expressed included: the attention to other vulnerable people such as the elderly; pregnant women, etc...whether Nutrition Sector has existing statistics for SAMs and MAMs (the last survey conducted in October showed the existing 24% malnutrition in most camps/sites).
 - Looking at the two categories in the emergency, it is important to recognize that it is difficult to access children under 5, because some of the mothers do not travel with them at DPs/Sites.
 - UNHCR shared that on the primary target groups for Nutrition Programmes (children under under 5, PLWs) and elderly, cases are included on a case by case basis, based on their nutritional status and medical condition. Community Volunteers can do MUAC and other forms of screening at DPs/Sites.

3- Cash Update

A series of technical and coordination meetings took place in CXB in the last two months and have culminated at a consensus on labour rates for unskilled volunteers (that includes porters) and community volunteers. The rate of 50 Takas/per hour has been endorsed at the inter-sectorial level. It is important for FSS partners to stick by this rate. On Community volunteers, FSS will continue to have an intra-Sector discussion to adopt a monthly rate. Some Partners shared experiences from other corners around

the world, such as, for example, for some communities in the Horn of Africa's famine and drought response, substantial cash-based incentives to volunteers were considered, a scale of rates was adopted starting from 30\$ up to USD 50.00 per month. For the Rohingya crisis response, FSS Partners shared the following:

SCI pays its volunteers 2,500 Taka per month. There was a question is whether SCI had been considering the need to increase the rate for volunteer work undertaken by refugees. FSS Coord suggested a small team be set up to discuss harmonization of labour rates for community volunteer work at the FS Sectorial level.

Nutrition Sector's rates for community volunteers shared that some volunteers (such as mobilisers) were being paid an average of 600 Takas per day. Further discussion is ongoing on skilled labour rates, a final consensus on a common, harmonized system of rates has not yet been reached. Cash WG Coordinator will update on the final decision, once cash for work rates (currently working on the 350 BDT per day) will have been approved at the Cash Working Group (national, Dhaka-based).

4- GFD

Ongoing challenges, as highlighted by WFP, UNHCR, IOM and other FSS Partners.

- WFP updated Partners that a new FD Centre has been recently opened in Baluhkali 3, along the Military. This will reduce some pressures on Camps 17 and 8W. Discussions are ongoing to set up a new Distribution Site/Centre at Camp 20.
- RRRC expressed a preference for monthly reporting on GFD (volume of metric of tones of food distributed) at a meeting with WFP. FSS Team will have a bilateral meeting with WFP to discuss details of the new reporting tool, specifically for RRRC and perhaps other GoB relevant institutions. FSS Coord proposed to produce Distribution Graphs which show cash-e-voucher, and hot meals distribution.
- Nutrition Sector is concerned by the reasons why beneficiaries' sell some nutrition items distributed is for accessing fresh food, and asked if any organization is doing it. FSS Coord shared that OXFAM's paper voucher programme provides access to fresh food (eggs, onions, etc...).
- WVI, in collaboration with CAID have also intention to start paper vouchers system for 1,000 Households for access to a more diversified diet;
- OXFAM shared that it is aware that a number of other organisations are planning to do paper vouchers that are asking bilateral meeting. A FSS meeting to look into this issue to be organized.
- WFP encouraged the new agencies interested on paper voucher to coordinate on targets, geographical coverage to avoid overlap with shops .

Tracking for Preparedness

A meeting between MoDMR and ISCG will take place on Tuesday 24th April on Emergency Preparedness. HoSOs and Sector Leads will update the GoB authorities on challenges faced in their Preparedness Planning. FSS continues to do tracking of available food supplies (HEBs, dry food, ready

to eat food, cooked meals facilities) and ongoing DRR (FFA) work for structures' reinforcements at distribution centres and Nutrition Sites and rehabilitation of roads and paths.

4Ws Update

FSS Coord was pleased that there has been a steady increase in the number of FSS Partners willing to share their 4Ws, and thanked those who have been doing so, and invited those who are still reporting on an irregular basis, to see the benefits of regular reporting, for accuracy, coordinated response, accountability to affected populations, etc.

5- AOB: Relocation, Dashboard, LHs WG, Ramadhan Food Assistance Package

- **Ramadhan Food Assistance Package (Harmonisation):** Health issues and food safety. To avoid distribution of certain kinds of food which can have an impact. Given that Ramadhan will coincide with the Monsoon and the following recommendations should be taken into consideration and widely disseminated among staff of FSS Partner Organisations:
 - Cooking fuel is very limited (ready-to-eat food to be considered) and may become a serious challenge on the rainy season;
 - Camp conditions (lack of proper storage, density, distribution cycle, etc.) do not permit distribution of raw food (e.g. fresh meat or fish);
 - Public Health issues may increase during the rainy season; also, if certain products were to be distributed, ensure they have long life (expiry dates are not approaching. This is also relevant in case of emergency during the monsoon);
 - Carefully chosen targeting criteria and the use of No Harm Approaches in coverage and targeting: the most vulnerable (elderly, child headed HHs, etc.)
- **Livelihoods WG:** planned meetings include: a taskforce meeting will be held on Wed 25th April to discuss targeting on home gardening activities and another small group was formed to revise and adapt the nation-wide based Guidance Note on Emergency Livelihoods Programming, which will meet on Thursday 26th April.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

- FSS Coord to organize a workshop/training on Food Security and livelihoods outcome indicators (FCS, coping strategy index, etc.) given the importance of such technical knowledge for effective participation in FS and Vulnerability assessments;
- FSS Coord to have a bilateral meeting with WFP/Programmes and GFD to discuss details of the new monthly GFD reporting tool, specifically for RRRC.
- FSS to coordinate on the paper voucher/fresh food programming
- Nutrition and FSS to review the common approach on monsoon/cyclone emergency preparedness and response
- FSS actors to share their planned activities for Ramadan

NEXT MEETING ON 08 May 2018