Food Cluster Meeting

Islamabad, 22 September 2010

Participants

CWS
World Vision International
Muslim Hands
ACTED
Plan Pakistan
IRC
IFRC
Help in Need
Islamic Relief
SSTD
Klaus Euler/Sungi Development Foundation
IFRC
ICRC
WFP
UNICEF
UNIFEM
ECHO
AusAid
Canadian High Commission
ILAP
USAID

Agenda

1) Klaus Euler/Sungi Development Foundation presentation on Kohistan distributions;
2) OXFAM GB presentation on cash transfer programmes;
3) 3 W's presentation and discussion;
4) AOB.

Action Points

- The discussions on the EAD reporting templates have been postponed until the next meeting, due to unavailability of EAD representative;
- The Q&A on the Food Cluster 3W's has been postponed due to time constraints;
- The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 29 September**, time tbc.

Klaus Euler/Sungi Development Foundation presentation

Klaus Euler/Sungi Development Foundation provided a presentation on relief activities in the two Union Councils (UC) of Peachbela (the heli point) and Shared, Palas Tehsil in Kohistan District, KPK.

- Klaus Euler has been operating in the area since 2001, carrying out biodiversity conservation work and rehabilitation activities following the earthquake;
- 180 mt of shelters had been airlifted to 14 different locations in this 1300 sqkm area in 99 heli-sorties in winter 2005/06 and relief is currently being provided to the flood affected

population. Palas Valley is a good example of the access constraints that can be faced by humanitarian partners in the provision of relief efforts;

OXFAM GB presentation on Cash Transfer Programming

Oxfam GB provided a presentation on the rationale behind cash interventions in emergencies:

- Cash transfer programming (CTP) in emergencies includes all interventions aimed at using the market to support the people affected;
- During emergencies cash interventions can be an appropriate response. Not only are they often preferred by beneficiaries over in-kind food assistance, cash transfers stimulate local markets and trading systems while providing beneficiaries with the freedom of choice in terms of commodities;
- Cash interventions require market assessments (EMMA), a clear definition of intervention modalities and transfer modalities (cash vs. vouchers) as well as the determination of grant amounts;
- Oxfam GB supports 280,000 beneficiaries in KP and Upper Sindh with voucher, cash and in-kind interventions;
- Challenges include: transportation/movement of cash, the choice between cash and voucher interventions for each context/area of intervention, the (initial) identification of shops and a lack of capacity in banks;

Both presentations can be downloaded from the Food Cluster website (Support Documents):

http://foodsecuritycluster.org/pakistan-floods-2010/

Main discussions points

- In Pakistan, cash transfers occur through the use of checks or vouchers;
- Market analysis prior to CTP implementation is critical due to market instability during and after emergencies;
- Modalities for CTP coordination will be further discussed during the 23/09 sub-cluster meeting. The group will map ongoing CTP interventions in Pakistan in order to avoid duplications and develop common criteria;
- OCHA is setting-up an inter-cluster working group on cash interventions;
- The use of mobile phones (Telenor mobile) remains a valid option for transfers, OXFAM is currently working collaborating with Telenor to increase cash limits;
- WFP will gradually transition from in-kind relief to cash vouchers when the situations allows. Beneficiary eligibility, registration and other criteria still need to be developed and targeting will be carried out in close cooperation with the WFP VAM unit and implementing partners;
- The sub-cluster will further discussed voucher values (GoP distributes vouchers worth 20,000 PKR and vouchers distributed by Oxfam are worth 5,000 PKR/2 weeks);
- Oxfam engages volunteers to monitor prices in shops and markets on a regular basis, in order to ensure that cash transfer values remain adequate.

Any Other Business

- ECHO expressed concern regarding a proportion of affected population (40 percent, according to 2009 McRAM for IDPs) not receiving food assistance from WFP and partners due to the supposed verification process currently in place. According to ECHO, ration cards in Pakistan are issued on the basis of official identification instead of vulnerability levels. A large number of people have lost their ID's due to the floods and as a result, they have become excluded from assistance. WFP ensured that distributions take place according to needs and not the availability of government papers. In many cases, additional help is provided by community leaders in terms of identifying beneficiaries without ID at the distribution points;
- AusAid enquired on the measures being taken at food distribution sites to ensure gender equality among beneficiaries, and organized special modalities for women receiving commodities. Some partners distribute food directly at the household level, and for large scale distributions, crowd-control measures have been established. WFP works together with implementing partners to ensure that separate distribution points are set-up for men and women. It has been further recommended that food assistance partners increase the number of female staff at distributions points;
- It has been further recommended to establish links with existing community based channels that represent community and women's interest and to use these channels in the organization of community based security during food distributions.