

Food Cluster Meeting

Islamabad, 29 September 2010

Participants

CWS	Klaus Euler/Sungi Development Foundation
World Vision Int.	IFRC
HAI	PRCS
Muslim Hands	BRAC
Malteser Int.	OCHA
Internews	WFP
KWES	UNICEF
ZOA-ILAP	UNIFEM
FRD	USAID
Help in Need	PRDS
Islamic Relief	DFID

Agenda

- 1) WFP presentation on targeting, distribution modalities and gender safeguard;
- 2) CWS presentation on food assistance, short and medium term strategy;
- 3) The Food Cluster 3W's, the way forward.
- 4) AOB

Action Points

- WFP to circulate its October distribution plan;
- The next meeting will take place on **Wednesday 06 October, 14h00**.

1) WFP presentation on targeting, distributions and gender safeguard

WFP provided a presentation in order to update Cluster members on the food distribution situation, including the beneficiary targeting criteria used in the relief stage of the operation:

- In August and September respectively, WFP assisted 2.9 million and 5.5 million flood affected people;
- In October, WFP is targeting 7 million beneficiaries;
- The most severely-affected villages within known flood districts have been targeted following several assessments (incl WFP IVA and McRAM, IP assessments). Household selection is based on displacement, the destruction of homes, crop land and other assets. The Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) is used for beneficiary registration wherever available, in the absence of which the communities confirm the origin of the affected households. The CNIC is not a condition for WFP food assistance;
- Beneficiaries are informed by implementing partners on distribution schedules, the type of commodity provided, and required documentation;

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<http://wfp.org.pk/fsc/>

Cluster website: <http://foodsecuritycluster.org/pakistan-floods-2010>

- Social organizers distribute ration tokens to identified recipients and the distribution points are established in proximity to the recipient groups;
- During the assessment process, female-headed households are recorded separately in order to be treated on priority basis. Separate lines, counters and waiting areas are set-up for women, and workers are available to help women transport the commodities;
- WFP is collecting gender-segregated data among beneficiaries and households (currently 10% of recipient households are female-headed).

The full presentation can be downloaded from:

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

Discussions

- Concern was raised on the limited space provided to smaller organizations to report on activities carried out in specific localities, leading to gaps in response or duplication of efforts. Some organizations continue to experience difficulties in collecting detailed information from WFP implementing partners such as the assisted households identity and their location;
- The gender disaggregated beneficiary data is available but has not yet been fully processed by WFP. Distributions were launched in late July and in the early stage of the emergency, the priority is the quick distribution of the available food items more than detailed gender data collection;
- In August, WFP distributed 3 food commodity types (wheat flour, vegetable oil and high-energy biscuits). In September, the food basket was expanded to 7 commodities, with rice, sugar, iodized salt and tea;
- Partners expressed concern on WFP pipeline breaks, which could lead to security incidents involving other actors in the field. In the event of a pipeline break, WFP will resort to the distribution of rations with a reduced number of commodity types;
- Some WFP implementing partners are currently overstretched, but WFP continues to work with an increasing number of new partners in the most affected districts of Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan;
- WFP will share the October distribution plan with the Cluster.

2) Church World Service (CWS) presentation on food assistance

CWS has been operating in Pakistan for over 60 years. The main areas of work include disaster management, capacity building, social development and research and advocacy.

- Food distributions were launched in the first week of August, providing 2-month food rations to 91,200 individuals (112,200 are targeted) in KPK, Baluchistan and Sindh;
- Beneficiaries are informed of distribution schedules and are provided with tokens. Separate distribution lines and waiting areas are ensured for women;
- CWS has set-up a complaint handling mechanism and is carrying-out real time evaluations;
- In terms of early recovery, CWS plans on implementing food and cash for work activities for 19,900 individuals in Kohistan and Shangla.
- Voucher schemes for agricultural inputs and cash grants will be carried out for 74,400 beneficiaries in Swat and Khairpur;
- Agriculture input, fruit trees and poultry will be provided to 2,500 households in Swat;
- Operational challenges include political pressure, coordination with partners, lack of proper infrastructure and the overloading of partner capacity.

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Discussions

- Coordination remains a challenge, including access to information on assisted households;
- Food distributions will continue in October;
- Pipeline is 100 percent locally resourced;
- Political pressure is particularly experienced in Sindh;
- Food for work and cash for work will target mostly males but CWS will carry out assessments to identify the type of activities suitable for women.

3) The Food Cluster Who does What Where 3W's

The food cluster provided an update on the 3W's process, and the way forward.

- 38 partners registered in the system, but only 11 uploaded data;
- An updated overview of food distributions by district will be circulated to the Cluster;
- The 3W's was designed to collect quantitative data in the early stage of the emergency and is not capable of producing/collecting qualitative data analysis and avoid double counting of beneficiaries);
- The 3Ws was not designed to provide distribution information beyond the Tehsil level;
- The NDMA single format report is expected to be operational around mid-October, and will replace the existing 3Ws system to avoid duplication of efforts by partners. Until then, partners are encouraged to continue updating their data on the food database;
- The Food Cluster will organize a working session for cluster members to become familiar with the process and the type of data to report on;
- With the launch of the revised PFERP appeal, the EAD is reviewing its reporting templates on funding and expenditures.

4) AOB

As very few comments are made to the draft meeting agenda's, the Cluster enquired among the group whether the topics discussed reflect the actual issues that the Cluster members consider important and useful to discuss during meetings. The following suggestions were made in terms of agenda items:

- Experiences from NGO's working as WFP implementing partners: Difficulties, benefits and challenges;
- Discussions on lessons learned with regards to floods, with key reference to the documentation circulated among Cluster members;
- Briefing and discussions on the Survival Strategy;
- External pressure experienced by partners on operations in the field, and coping mechanisms used.

The next Cluster meeting will take place on **Wednesday 06/10, at 14h00.**

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