

Minutes of Food Cluster Meeting Multan, October 15, 2010.

Agenda

1. Introduction of participants
2. Review of previous minutes
3. Early Recovery programmes (presentation on strategic priorities by partners)
4. Presentation by SSTD on the Needs Assessment in Muzaffargarh
5. AOB
 - Upcoming assessments (WFP/FAO Recovery Assessment)
 - 3Ws updates
 - Cash Transfer Programming/Training

Deliberations:

1. Minutes from the previous food cluster meeting were adopted as a true record of what was discussed by those who attended the meeting.
2. It was acknowledged that relief interventions were scaling down and most organizations were shifting focus to early recovery. Participating organizations that were planning early recovery activities briefed the meeting on their priorities for the coming months. Some of the planned activities include
 - FFW and FFT (**Save the Children**),
 - FFW, Cash for Work and Education (**Agah**),
 - Agricultural rehabilitation (**WHH**),
 - Shelter, agricultural support, Cash for Work/FFW, Cash & vouchers for female headed households (**ACTED**),
 - Micro-credit finance to support livelihoods, shelter and tools (**TIPU**),
 - Cash transfer in RY Khan, FFW, School feeding, supplementary feeding for U5 (6-59 months) and PNW (**WFP**)

Concerns were raised on TIPU micro-finance loans to flood affected people who may not have sufficient financial capacity or stable incomes to repay back their loans. Some participants felt that it was still too early to introduce micro-finance services to poor HHs which are yet to recover from the impact of floods.

3. On GFD activities, WFP stated that there were still 9,000 households in Rajanmpur that were covered in the food assistance. The representative from WFP called on NGOs with sufficient capacity and interest to cover this caseload to contact WFP for discussion on how to support this caseload before the end of the month.
4. Welthungerhilfe (WHH) briefed members on its ongoing activities (and planned activities) in Kot Adou Tehsil as follows.

Union Council	No. of HH supported in Sep 2010	Planned No. of HH to be supported (October – December 2010)		
		Oct 2010	Nov 2010	Dec 2010
Dogar Klasra	2,000	4,400	4,400	2,000
Thatha Gurmani	2,000	4,000	4,000	2,000
Allurid	2,000	4,000	4,000	2,000
Sanawan	2,000	3,800	3,800	2,000
Kashifabad	2,000	3,800	3,800	2,000
TOTAL	10,000	20,000	20,000	10,000

A monthly ration of wheat flour 80kg, pulses 15kg, veg oil 4 liters is provided to each HH in the above stated U/C. WHH will simultaneously distribute a set of household items such as pots, plates, spoons, pans, blankets and mosquito net for some 10.000 HH in Kot Adou Tehsil (but not necessarily in the above same U/Cs). The NFI kit (a donation from ECHO) will be distributed alongside a set of WASH kits in two additional U/Cs, (Hanjrai and Patal) of Kot Adou. For the time being it seems that 5.000 NFI kits will be distributed in the five (5) U/Cs, which currently receive food assistance through Welthungerhilfe, while additional 5.000 kits will be allocated in other locations. The distribution of NFIs may take place in the second half of November. A total of 20.000 plastic sheets will be distributed to 10.000 HH in the very same U/C which receive food assistance. The distribution of plastic sheets is scheduled to take place parallel to the food distribution in October.

An agricultural rehabilitation project to support small scale farmers is being approved for implementation in Muzaffargarh District, though the exact Tehsils and U/Cs are not finalized yet. WHH is aware that seeds have to be distributed latest by mid December. The total number of beneficiaries is not finalized yet, but more than 10.000 farmers are supposed to benefit from this intervention. The WASH project has been approved at HQ level and is about to start by the end of the year 2010.

5. Society for Skills, Training & Development (SSTD) briefed the meeting on the needs assessment they conducted in UC Khairpur, Shershan in Multan district and Muradabad in Muzaffargarh district. The field assessment which was carried out on 7 October identified food, shelter and drinking water as needs that still ranked high for the flood affected population. Education also was being hampered by the lack of learning facilities for school children. The representative of SSTD noted that insufficient assistance was channeled to communities and recommended the provision of support for people to rebuild their houses, provision of food, safe drinking water and tents for temporary school shelter where buildings were damaged.
6. In response to the SSTD assessment, some participants cautioned against comments that undermine the immense support organizations have provided. It was acknowledged that some exclusion errors may occur in any emergency response but the areas that were seriously affected were supported to the capacity of all organizations involved. The remaining gaps are supposed to be covered through others sources such as government; military and private support groups/organizations. It was agreed that the SSTD assessment report would be shared with all cluster members for information and possible support.

7. Participants were briefed about the upcoming WFP/FAO joint Flood Recovery Assessment, which will be carried out in 4 provinces (Punjab inclusive) in Pakistan in November 2010. The aim of the assessment is to provide an up-to-date analysis of the food security situation in flood affected areas and also determine to what extent relief is still needed. The assessment will provide some baseline information needed to design and target early recovery activities. 760 HHs will be assessed in Punjab province.
8. The 3Ws matrix was discussed. Participants agreed that organizations which were not active in the provisions of food assistance be removed from the matrix to have a clear picture of what food needs are being covered. It was agreed to review the 3Ws and maintain only those agencies/organizations that were providing food assistance in October and beyond.
9. Oxfam will be conducting a training on Cash Transfer Programming in Multan from 21-22 October 2010. Interested partners were requested to contact Loreto (lpalmaera@oxfam.org.uk) directly to express their interest in the training. Save the Children/CARE would be facilitating in making arrangements (Venue) for the training on behalf of Oxfam. Partners with plans to implement cash for work/cash transfer activities were advised to consult the guidelines from the Cash Technical Working Group on harmonized payment rates in order to avoid disputes between communities/beneficiaries and the negative impact on market prices.

Participants:

1. Jennifer Bitonde (Cluster Coordinator)
2. Rizwan Bajwa (WFP Programme Officer)
3. Mike Bratzke (WeltHungerHilfe)
4. M. Husnain (Tipu Foundation)
5. Kamran Saeed (KWES)
6. Shahzad (KWES)
7. Nadeem (Save the Children)
8. Mohammad Usman (World Vision International)
9. Richard Mukhwana (OCHA)
10. Deirdre McArdle (ACTED)
11. Dick Stanworth (AMTF)
12. Shahbaz Hussain (AGAHE)
13. Saqib Awan (IRDO)

Next meeting: 22 October 2010, 11:00 AM

Venue: WFP Office 60-A, SherShah Road, Multan