

Nepal - Food Security Cluster (FSC) Meeting
Note for the Record
13 July 2020

Chaired by: Mr. Rajendra Bhari, Secretary and Shabnam Shivakoti, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD) - FSC lead

Participants: FSC co-leads: WFP and FAO and FSC Partners

Key decisions/action points:

1. The meeting endorsed the 2077 Monsoon Emergency Response Workplan submitted by MoALD to NEOC/NDRRMA and MoHA. The workplan will be shared by MoALD to the FSC partners and the partners can still provide include if any crucial/important preparedness and response activities are missing in the workplan.
2. As included in the 2077 Monsoon Emergency Response Workplan, WFP's remote-sensing technology based 72-hour assessment will be adopted by the cluster for rapid emergency food security and vulnerability assessment, hence, it is decided that WFP will prepare the working procedure of the assessment including role and responsibility of MoALD, provincial and local governments and cluster partners and submit to MoALD,
3. As included in the 2077 Monsoon Emergency Response Workplan, on behalf of FSC, the MoALD will request all seven provincial Ministry of Cooperatives, Land Management and Agriculture/provincial food security clusters to nominate a focal point for federal to provincial information sharing and cooperation and collaboration in emergency preparedness and response. WFP, FAO and UN system will facilitate the process of establishing provincial level cluster and provide technical support to prepare provincial contingency plan and strengthen the cluster system.
4. FSC partners to involve in monsoon related emergency response when required in coordination with respective local governments following the one door system of relief/disaster management through local government and share the response related information/reports to MoALD and provincial government on regular basis.
5. For now, MoHA has identified five districts as vulnerable and most affected by landslides/flood which may be changed during the monsoon season. The government can manage food for around 5 days for displaced families, hence, MoHA has requested FSC partners for additional food assistance. So, FSC partners are requested to provide the information on which organization can provide food assistance in which location for how many families. For this, MoALD will share a reporting format which will be used for regular reporting in the days to come as well.
6. MoALD to discuss with MoHA for clear guidance and government's decision on use of unconditional cash assistance for monsoon emergency response.
7. MoALD advised the partners for the coordinated information flow and sharing of damage information received from the field.

Summary of the discussions and conclusion by agenda item:

Agenda 1: Monsoon Emergency Response Workplan 2077 related sharing and endorsement

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development (MoALD)

- Briefed and endorsed the workplan. The Nepali version of the workplan will be shared by MoALD to the FSC partners. However, the partners can still provide comments and inputs on missing information.

World Food Programme (WFP)

- High energy biscuits being stored by WFP as part of ready to eat food. The biscuits are planned to be delivered to Nepal by end of July 2020. Delivery delayed due to COVID-19 impact worldwide.

Agenda 2: Focal person at Province level to prepare provincial contingency plan

- Plan to appoint a focal person at provincial level.
- UN focal agencies to coordinate with the provincial government and other major stakeholders already appointed in all the province. Province 1: IOM; Province 2: UNFPA; Bagmati: UNRCO; Gandaki: WHO; Province 5: UNICEF; Karnali: WFP; & Sudurpaschim: UNDP.
- WFP shared that the provincial Food Security Cluster has been activated for COVID-19 and plan preparation in process in Sudurpaschim and Karnali Provinces for monsoon response. No clear information on the other provinces.
- WFP requested to ensure communication of the focal person setup to MoALD in coming days.
- There is a need to identify the strength of the organizations working in various field and capacitate the provincial and local level government representatives for effective coordination and implementation of the activities.

Agenda 3: Response and assistance plan for population hit by monsoon disaster

- Total 20 districts already affected. Most affected as per MoHA are Gulmi, Sindhupalchowk, Sankhuwasabha, Myagdi, and Jajarkot.
- The organizations working in those areas are requested to coordinate with the local government and provide the support.

Agenda 4: Reporting on monsoon response from FSC partners

- MoALD to share a format for reporting of the response from different organizations.

Agenda 5: Presentation of COVID-19 Impact on Households Food Security Vulnerability and Livelihoods by WFP

- The Mobile Vulnerability Assessment and Monitoring (mVAM) survey, a phone based survey, was done by WFP with technical inputs from FAO to assess the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods and food security and identify the level of impact on different sectors and areas.

AOB/ Additional information sharing

- World Vision using pilot vouchers assistance for the people impacted by COVID-19. Using SMS notification to notify their entitlement of the assistance. This has created positive response and can be seen as part of accountability. The participants added of displaying the same on the spot to ensure accountability where phone/mobile access is not possible. Felm Nepal has also implemented vouchers.
- There was suggestion of using digital payment method for cash modality.
- There is need to assessing the market status and its functionality before planning and/or implementation of the modality.
- A result of survey by World Vision showed 47% families have sold assets to cover their food needs during lockdown.
- The participants requested MoALD to have clear guideline and advice on the implementation of the cash modality for the response. The cash assistance will not only be easy and quickly delivered, it will also ensure increased resources and sense of dignity for the beneficiaries, while enabling people to buy local products, and benefitting local farmers and economy.
