

Minutes

Food Security Cluster Meeting

Monday 17 May 2010, 3 – 4.30 PM
WFP Conference Room

Participants:

Ms. Kimberly Deni, WFP (chair)
Mr. Hem Raj Regmi, MoAC
Mr. Pitambar Acharya, DEPROSC
Mr. Ram Deo, DEPROSC
Mr. Kailash Rijal, DEPROSC
Mr. Sushil Thapa, DEPROSC
Mr. Rishi Khanal, NRCS
Mr. Anindra Shama, UNICEF
Mr. Bidya Mahat, ADRA Nepal,
Mr. Krishna Pathall, LWF Nepal,
Mr. Pradiumna Dahal, WVI Nepal
Dr. Pankaj Mehta, UNICEF
Mr. Xavier Bouan, FAO
Mr. Dilip Karki, FAO
Ms. Pooja Kana, HKI
Mr. Navindra Khatiwada, SAPPROS
Ms. Jenny Brav, OCHA
Mr. Amar Shrestha, OCHA,
Mr. Nartsh Mahartan, Caritas Nepal
Ms. Jayoung Lee, WFP
Ms. Helle Falk Jakobsen, WFP
Mr. Subhash Singh, WFP
Mr. Prem Singh, WFP

Action Points:

- Comments for Cluster TOR
 - deadline Friday 21 May
- Cluster members to share information on emergency stockpiles/funds via template
 - deadline Monday 31 May
- Cluster members to share comments and fill in information on contingency plan
 - deadline Monday 31 May
- Cluster lead to circulate suggestion for gender indicators for Cluster
- FAO to circulate draft Agriculture TOR when ready

Kindly send your information and comments to helle.falkjakobsen@wfp.org

1) Update and discuss CAP mid year review

A brief background was given on the CAP launch in February. The Nutrition and Food Security Clusters were this year combined in the CAP appeal. Projects from 6 organisations were submitted and two not approved.

\$ 92 million were requested for the Food Security and Nutrition Cluster. 47 % have been funded, but actual contributions this year is less than \$ 6 million, with most part being carryovers from last years.

For the CAP mid year review guidelines were expected to be circulated soon by OCHA – deadline for input for the CAP mid year review is 8 June.

As stressed by HC/RC Mr. Robert Piper, organisations have to make a strong case for inclusion of projects into the mid year review, seeking endorsement for inclusion from Ministry of Finance via the relevant line ministry (MoAC for the Food Security Cluster).

For the mid year review, all clusters have been requested to include gender indicators in the project proposals. WFP will circulate a suggestion of Cluster specific and relevant indicators as basis for discussion and comments at next cluster meeting.

2) Flood preparedness activities

Prior to the meeting, a template was circulated asking for information on the response capacity of the cluster members such as emergency stockpiles (food, MNPs, etc) or emergency funds. Participants were kindly asked to fill in template and share with Ms. Helle Falk Jakobsen (helle.falkjakobsen@wfp.org).

SAPPROS raised the question of addressing the problem of landslides affecting beneficiaries during monsoon season. WFP responded that number of affected people had previously not been high enough to warrant a response by the cluster and had normally been dealt with locally.

It was discussed to what degree food security and nutrition were discussed in regional disaster preparedness activities, trainings, etc. OCHA explained that food security and nutrition was discussed as part of a broader plan but not as a stand alone issue.

WHO suggested that supplementary feeding, responsibility of WFP, should be included as part of a joint contingency plan between Health and Nutrition clusters. The Food Security cluster currently does have a provision on supplementary feeding (wheat-soya blend) in its contingency plan, food basket annex, and this activity has been conducted by WFP, World Vision and Save the Children during the 2008 Koshi floods. This data on food basket can be shared with the Nutrition cluster. It was agreed that contingency plans should be linked.

3) Discuss revised Cluster TOR (draft)

The emphasis in the TOR remains on emergency preparedness and response, but the cluster will in addition look at a broader set of issues related to recovery and policy advice.

The TOR was discussed with FAO prior to the meeting in relation to the greater emphasis on early recovery and medium/long term food insecurity. FAO agreed to take the lead on early recovery and agriculture and will as an addition draft an Agriculture TOR. This will be circulated to the Cluster when ready.

In general, participants agreed with the broader scope presented in the TOR.

It was suggested to strengthen the point of district/level mechanism for cluster coordination and how coordination at country level relates to district/local level. MoAC clarified that there are disaster preparedness and response forums for coordination, respectively the DDRC (all stakeholders), Food Security Network at district level (supported by MoAC) and DADO.

It was also suggested by a cluster member to invite academicians and food security experts for broader discussions on food security issues.

On a general note, MoAC encouraged the cluster to invite representatives/focal points from MoSC and NFC.

Deadline for final comment on the TOR is Friday 21 May by sending them to Ms. Helle Falk Jakobsen, helle.falkjakobsen@wfp.org.

4) Discuss Cluster work plan May - December 2010

The work plan, tasks and timelines were explained and the members had no comments for the work plan.

The Cluster lead thanked the participants for the information received for mapping the projects carried out by cluster members and noted that there is a lack of information in donor group meetings, where the overview of this cluster can prove helpful.

5) Update on contingency plan earthquake scenario (latest draft)

It was stressed, that input from cluster members was needed in order to finalise the plan, specifically: the capacity and tasks to be undertaken as a cluster member in case of an emergency; timelines of response actions.

All cluster members are kindly requested to return operational plan with their comments and fill in information on organisational capacity.

An identified gap in the plan is in the first two weeks after an emergency. In order to address this potential shortfall, members were again encouraged to share information on emergency stocks and funds in the circulated template.

It was noted that early recovery could be included in the plan and FAO was asked to kindly include information early recovery as well when sharing the plan with their comments.

6) AOB

Nothing under AOB.