

## ***Bi-Weekly FSL Cluster Meeting (Minutes of the Meeting)***

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**Date:** 14 April 2021      **Chair:** Alistair Short, FSLC Coordinator      **FSLC Virtual Room on TEAMS**

Meeting attended by 101 Cluster members.

**1. COVID 19 context update for SSD and Africa – Monika (FSLC)**

In South Sudan, a total of 10,387 COVID-19 confirmed cases reported with 10,148 recoveries and 114 deaths. First doses of vaccination started from April 6, 2021 targeting the front-line health workers and persons above 65 years. 801 doses of vaccines have been administered. [Link to the presentation](#)

**2. New FSLC products for 2020 (Monika)**

Presented the new county level gap analysis products planned for 2021. This will provide analysis of the people targeted vs reached for both food assistance and livelihood support at county level for all states.

**3. 5W reporting of Cash in 2021 (Ali CWG)**

Six main questions to be filled in 5W related to cash and voucher assistance where

(i) Delivery Modality are Cash, Voucher and Hybrid (In-kind/Cash).

(ii) Cash Conditionality: If any kind of condition is attached to the delivery, eg. In kitchen garden, it is Conditional.

(iii) Cash Restriction: Cash and Hybrid are unrestricted by default while Vouchers are restricted.

(iv) Total transfer value (per HH) in USD:

(v) Cash Delivery Mechanism: Paper voucher; Direct cash (all cash including through bank); E transfers include mobile and any other electronic transfers/vouchers; If anything than these listed, put in "Others".

(vi) Payment Frequency: weekly, monthly, one-off, others

A concern raised regarding the categorization of "Cash for Seeds" activities.

[Link to the presentation](#)

**4. Bank of South Sudan Monetary & Fiscal reforms on exchange rate harmonization à LTWG/ ATWG/ CWG**

BOSS has issued a guideline to revitalize its exchange rate management and monetary policy framework.

This aims at achieving price and exchange rate stability to help end macroeconomic crisis. BOSS has been publishing exchange rate and gradually will adjust its official rate with market rate.

[Bank of South Sudan circular on Monetary and Exchange rate reforms](#)

**5. Brief update of weather forecast – Mark (FAO)**

The first dekad of April was drier than the previous (second and third) dekads of March. In the first dekad of April, rainfall decreased in northern parts of South Sudan while the southern parts experienced mixed patterns of rainfall. It is projected that in second dekad of April, most areas will receive less than 30mm rainfall. Similarly, moderate temperature in most parts of the country while warm temperature expected in Upper Nile. Under below normal conditions only support cereal (sorghum) production and green leafy vegetables. Further, this reduces pasture and water for livestock and causes slow ripening of wild fruits which will not be available for consumption during lean season. Prepositioning/provision of humanitarian aid is essential in areas expected to be cut off during rainfall season. Weather information available on CLiMIS and through radio programme.

[Link to the presentation](#)

**6. Update on the Emergency Livelihood Response Programme's Main Season Response (emergency cropping) – Mezbanur (FAO)**

Presented on FAO "Emergency Livelihood Response Programme 2019 – 2021" that aims to protect the livelihoods of the most vulnerable households and enhance food production while strengthening their absorptive capacity and building resilience. 100% of farming, fishing and agropastoral households in IPC

3,4 and 5 will be supported in main, lean and dry season. Each household gets three types of crop seeds, five types of vegetable seeds including one agricultural tool. If fishing areas available, will get fishing kits. The overall target is 1 million HHs while the main season target is 692,000 HHs through FAO partners, direct implementation and through RRF. A total of 9,813 tons of seeds will be procured (61% International and 39% Local). Local seeds however depend on the seeds availability with seeds company. Crop seeds have been procured and delivery started. However, there are logistics challenges due to COVID-19, road blockade and border issues. In terms of funding, only 35% has been received leaving a gap of 65% which is affecting signing contracts with the partners. [Link to the presentation](#)

#### **7. ICRC Seeds & Tools; post-harvest monitoring findings – Jennifer (ICRC)**

Presented findings from the “Post-Harvest Monitoring 2020 Seeds and Tools Program” of ICRC in nine counties. The criteria for selection of counties was conflict focused; population experiencing conflict, displacement, and population movement. The survey was conducted with 636 HHs in nine counties, project beneficiaries of ICRC particularly looking at the yield, how yield is leading to self-sufficiency and cover the hunger gap period and the factors contributing to yield. It was reported that the average harvest for lean season was 156 Kg/HH to satisfy the need of six members in HH for 2.5 months, after considering the post-harvest losses and in season consumption. The average yield was 306 Kg/HH which is 49% decline compared to 2019. Rain was one of the major factors contributing to losses during harvesting and in storage due to humidity. The communities are still in recovery phase and small events can affect them. It is important to look at the coping mechanisms to rain related weather events, local level solution such as seeds better adapted and build on practices of farmers to move through this situation.

[Link to the presentation](#)

#### **8. Experience & learning for integration in Akobo – Taban/ Karolina (PAH)**

Presented on the multi sectoral project from SSHF that included WASH, FSL, Protection, Health and Nutrition in Bor South and Akobo by PAH with CMD and HAA from June 2020 to June 2021. Some of the challenges highlighted were:

- Delay in start of the project which did not align with the crop calendar. This impacts overall agriculture production.
- Access challenges as the project started in rainy season and delivery of supplies was difficult and also due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Displacement of people in some payams of Bor South that were initially targeted which led to readjustment of areas to reach the targets planned.
- Difficulty in delivery of supplies due to flooding.
- Delay by Logistics Cluster in delivering the inputs and inconsistencies in information sharing.
- Delay in FSL pipeline and release order, missing of some items like okra and some poor-quality items like fishing hooks.
- Political situation and coordination challenges.
- Delay in response from the clusters in approving the change/shift in areas.
- Increase in the cost of the project implementation due to increased casual labour as a result of inflation.

Despite the challenges, multisectoral projects should be strengthened and maintained as it is cost effective where different organizations can pull their resources together benefiting the beneficiaries.

[Link to the presentation](#)

#### **9. CCPM consultations:**

The findings from the CCPM survey were discussed with SAG members on April 1, 2021. Discussion will be held with national NGOs on April 16, 2021.

#### **10. On-going IRNA training across six State:**

94 persons across six states (Western Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile) have been trained. Among the total participants, 78 were men, 12 were female and 4 unspecified. The next training is scheduled on 21<sup>st</sup> of April for Warrap and Lakes.

**Next FSLC meeting will be on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.**