

Food Cluster Meeting June 2, 2008 at 11 am

Participants:

ACF, ACT, AMURT, AUSAID, Association François-Xavier Bagnoud, CARE, DIFID, Entants du Monde - Droits de l'Homme, GAA, Islamic Relief, KNH, METTA, Norwegian People's Aid, NDRP, OSG, PFB, Save the Children, Welt Hunger Hilfe, WFP

1. Update on Food Supply

- Contract for procurement of another 10,000 tons of rice and 3,000 tons of pulses will be finalized this week. This is in addition to the previously permitted 10,000 tons of which 1,200 tons have been delivered to the delta.
- 1.600 tons of vegetable oil from the US in-kind contribution will be imported beginning next week.
- Additional 500 tons of oil will be imported from Malaysia.
- Although no response received from the government regarding requested rice import permit, Request for customs clearance for the in-kind donation of 400 tons rice from French government was approved. The consignment is expected to arrive at Yangon port on June 5.
- WFP expects to receive permission on 400 tons of salt importation from Thailand that was once denied by the Ministry of Commerce last week.
- WFP expects a pipeline break **by the end of July** due to two factors;
 - 1) Resource availability; WFP received confirmation for about 30 per cent or USD 25 million in contribution against the total requirement of USD 70 million. Although it forecasts that 60 percent will be covered eventually, the immediate availability of cash in hand may be a problem.
 - 2) In-country availability of rice; The total requirement for the rice for the 6-month operation is 46,500 tons; WFP would likely need to import up to half of this amount to source without unduly impact the domestic market. Delay or denial of import permit by the government will result in the pipeline break.

2. Update on Distribution

- WFP and Cooperating Partners distributed about 4,000 tons of food to half a million cyclone affected population. The ration at the moment is varying from 3 days to 6 days rations, mostly rice.
- WFP and Cooperating Partners will start providing full food basket of rice, pulses, oil and salt starting this week, and plans to reach 663,000 beneficiaries by June 10. The ration for the first round will likely be half month ration.

3. Update on Field Level Agreement

Some of the FLAs are still to be finalized pending to two points to be cleared;

- 1) Transport rate: Transport cost to the remote villages in the delta is not yet determined. Presently FLAs are made on the assumptions that the ceiling for transportation is to a ceiling of 20 USD per tons.

- 2) Transport arrangement: WFP seeks to place its warehouses close to the distribution points of cooperating partners in coordination with Logistics Cluster. Also supply/rental of small boats for distribution is under coordination with the Logistics Cluster. Partners are also advised to coordinate these with the cluster so that the cost and overlap is minimized.

4. Assessment

Tripartite Core Group Joint Assessment

- TCG plans to conduct cross sector assessment with the following schedule;
June 2-3 Preparatory Workshop
June 5-6 Training of Enumerators
June 7-8 Field Test
June 9-21 Data Collection
June 15-21 Data entry
June 24 Preliminary report
July 12 Final report
- The coverage of this assessment is 130 village tracts in 30 townships. The sampling exercise will be done early this week.
- The unit of analysis will be village tract level.
- While the government of Myanmar will provide 54 persons from 18 ministries and ASEAN 15 persons, all the Clusters were requested to provide support to this exercise in terms of logistics and staff.
- Food cluster will support this exercise to the extent possible but caution should be made not to disrupt the food distribution activities of each cluster members.
- Cluster members will make decisions on the possible contribution once the cluster lead will provide the feed back from the preparatory workshops on parameters of the planned assessment in terms of geographical coverage, the duration of the staff commitment, other required support.

5. Supplementary Feeding for Children under Five

- WFP food basket for the Emergency Operation currently has no commodity to cater for children under five. WFP plans to include this component.
- As discussed in the last meeting, the cluster will look into the possibility of local production of bended food for young children.
- Targeting parameters for under-five supplementary feeding should be discussed with partners.

6. AOB

- TA facilitation for Cooperating Partners by WFP is not an advisable option at the moment as the procedure for obtaining permit set by the government is changing almost daily basis and highly unpredictable.
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- Next food cluster meeting in Yangon will be on June 9 (Mon) at 11 am.
- Food cluster meeting schedule in other areas:
 - Bogale: Wednesday
 - Labutta: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 - Pyapon: Saturday