

Food Cluster Meeting May 29, 2008 at 11 am

Participants;

ACF, Action Aid, ADRA, AMURT, AZG, Burnet Institute for Medical Research & Public Health, CARE, GAA, ICCD, Johanniter, METTA, Norwegian People's Aid, OSG, Partners in Progress, Relief International, Save the Children, Terre Des Hommes, UNICEF, World Vision, WSPA, Partners in Progress

Overview and Update on Cluster Activities

1. Food Supply (WFP)

1.1 Local Purchase (update from WFP)

Rice: Permission for procurement of another 10,000 tons of rice was granted from Ministry of Commerce on May 29. This is in addition to the previously permitted 10,000 tons of which 1,200 tons have been delivered to the delta.

Pulses: Permission for procurement of 3,000 tons pulses (chick peas) was granted from Ministry of Commerce on May 29. This is in addition to 1,000 tons being delivered now.

1.2 Importation of food commodities

Rice: No response was received from the government regarding requested rice import permit. WFP expects pipeline break in the **end of July** if the import permit is not granted.

Oil: 1,600 ton of vegetable oil from the US in-kind contribution will be imported beginning next week.

2. Distribution Plan and Field Level Agreement (update from WFP)

- Field Level Agreement with WFP partners for food distribution with caseload and geographical coverage has been finalized and now in signing stage.
- Total caseload and tonnage for the 6 month operation are as follows:
 - Total caseload: 663,000.
 - Total Tonnage: 62,242 (with complete food basket of rice, pulses, oil, salt)
- WFP will have some extra tonnage for each commodity ready to cover gaps if any is identified.
- Though FLA has not yet signed, to date WFP and partners distributed approximately 3,000 tons of food to the cyclone affected areas. Complete food basket is not available yet but distribution is underway with the available commodities. Current food basket is mainly composed of only rice; staple food in the country, and oil, and biscuit where available and appropriate.

3. Delivery modality (update from WFP)

- During initial months, WFP's food delivery will be primarily to the hubs where it has warehouses: Bogale Labutta, Mawlamyng Gyun, Pathein, Pyapon, as pre-positioning food commodities in those locations in preparation for the coming monsoon season when the long

distance transport of the food may be difficult is a priority.

- Partners are expected to pick up the food from those hubs for further distribution. The transport and handling fee for distribution will be reimbursed to the partners with the ceiling of USD 20.00 upon presentation of the invoice.
- The above-arrangement is subject to change depending on the evolving situation after the first round of distributions are completed and more information is collected on storage capacities.

4. WFP Food Quality Standard (update from WFP)

WFP ensures that all food commodities it delivered to the affected areas meet its standard quality. For rice, WFP standard in Myanmar is Eh Ma Hta 25% (25 per cent broken), which is used in WFP operations elsewhere in the country. Beneficiaries in the delta, large rice production area, generally eat higher quality under normal circumstances, thus it is expected that some of the beneficiaries may be dissatisfied with the lower WFP standard.

5. Supplementary Feeding for Children under Five

WFP's food basket currently doesn't contain commodities for young children – WFP agreed with UNICEF to explore with interested NGO partners the inclusion of fortified blended food in its food basket. Cluster agreed that it will recommend augmentation of the in-country capacity of production of blended food. WFP, prior to cyclone, identified three producers of blended food in the country for its regular programme and will re-start the negotiation with the producers to cater for the young children among the beneficiaries of Emergency Operation.

6. Distribution data for Non-WFP food

The updated data provided by the cluster members were circulated in the meeting. Cluster members were requested to provide updates to WFP.

7. Cash Transfer programme in Yangon.

Distribution with four partners is planned to start by June 1 Monday for a total of 220,000 beneficiaries.

Coordination

1. Cluster coordinator in field hubs

- Food cluster needs to identify a cluster coordinator for Mawlamyine Gyun, Pyapone.
- Cluster will not have a coordinator in Pathein, as the cluster expects the caseload will move out from the location in near future.
- WFP will continue to be the coordinator in Bogale and Labutta where its sub-offices are on the ground, it requested the key partners to nominate the coordinator in the other locations by the next cluster meeting.

- WFP delegates coordination role among WFP partners to its two Head of Sub-Offices. Gaps and overlaps identified should be communicated to responsible Sub-Office.

Contacts are;

WFP Labutta Sub-Office

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Ward (4), Labutta

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Head of Sub -Office: Kyaw Oo Maung(Mr.)

WFP Bogale Sub-Office

Tel: 09 859 1732/09 858 0850

Current Head of Sub-Office : Khin Moe Aye (Ms.)

New Head of Sub-Office to be deployed soon

Subhash Singh (Mr.)

- WFP introduced its new Head of Sub-Office Bogale, Subhash Singh who is to replace the current Head of Sub-Office soon.

2. Distribution data for Non-WFP food

The updated data provided by the cluster members were circulated in the meeting. Cluster members were requested to provide updates to WFP.

AOB

- WSPA informed that it will commence distribution of food to cattle and wild animals in delta under collaboration with FAO as a part of Early Recovery assistance and clarified that;
 - It will not be part of the food cluster activities;
 - The food will not be sourced from WFP but their own source;
 - It will not request WFP to support the delivery.
- The frequency of the meeting has been changed; the cluster will hold a weekly meeting on every Monday at 11 am. The next meeting will be on June 2, Monday at 11am.

(End of the Minutes)