

Food Cluster Meeting Yangon, June 16 at 11 am

Participants

ACF, ADRA, AFXB, CARE, CESVI, DFID, GAA, International Medical Corps, Japan Heart, METTA, OCHA, PIN, PACT, Salvation Army, USAID, UNICEF, WFP, World Vision

1. Food Movement and Stock

Rice

- Delivery of the first batch of 10,000 tons is on-going and will be completed this week.
- Another 7,000 tons is expected to arrive this week from Thailand expected in mid-July.
- A rice pipeline break is still expected in early July although WFP is exploring ways to cover the gap.

Oil

- A total of 2,187 tons has arrived from USA and Malaysia.

Iodized Salt

- 200 tons local purchase is now being re-bagged and will be delivered beginning June 23. The rest of salt will be imported from Thailand.

Pulses

- Delivery of total of 4,050 tons commenced today.

With the arrival of salt, complete food basket of rice, pulses, oil and salt will be in place next week.

A pipeline break for rice is expected in early July.

2. Flash Appeal and Caseload Revision

- Cluster lead informed the members the schedule for new appeal presented by OCHA as follows:
Cut-off date for narrative input: June 20 (Fri)
Cut-off date for budgetary input: June 23 (Mon)
Launch of Appeal: July 3 (Thu)
- Cluster members confirmed that WFP will be the primary source of food commodities for their food security related activities except two organizations (AFXB and Save the Children) planning activities for small targeted caseload or for filling gaps on a short-term basis, therefore WFP will draft the appeal on behalf of the members.
- Cluster agreed that WFP is to circulate a draft appeal to members by noon on June 17 for the review by members.
- Revision and confirmation of caseload is ongoing in the field level between WFP sub-offices and cooperating partners to have revised caseload in the appeal. Cluster members in Yangon are requested to encourage and support their field office to actively participate in this process.

3. Resourcing

USD 30.2 million contributions are confirmed against USD 70 million requirement for WFP's appeal for Emergency Food Assistance Programme.

4. Supplementary feeding for Children

a. Ready to Use Food for Children (RUFC)

- 35 tons of Ready to Use Food for Children (RUFC—WFP product for children developed recently in India) arrived in country and additional 10 tons is expected. WFP is finalizing targeting caseload and areas with four partners (ACF, MSF, Save the Children and MERLIN).

- Given the small tonnage available as well as the need for ensuring effectiveness of nutritional intervention for children with RUFC, the partnership on this consignment will be limited to the above four organizations that would provide other nutrition related inputs for the same caseload. Depending on the outcome and perceived needs, coverage may be expanded hence the new partners may be sought.

b. Local Production of Blended Food

- WFP had meetings last week with three factories that were previously identified as having potential to produce rice-based blended food. The factories are subsequently to respond by June 18 Wednesday detailing cost estimation and plan for increase the capacity of production, and quality control.
- WFP estimates the cost requirement to start up the local production about 200,000 Euro.
- UNICEF emphasized the need to systematically include a commodity for supplementary feeding for young children in the food basket. Nutrition cluster concerns that, despite the fact that the acute malnutrition rate is still low at the moment, the number of children in ‘at risk’ category is high---recent survey in Bogale found about 30 percent of under-fives are in this category.

5. AOB

- While coordination in Labutta is going well, within and between clusters, townships of Bogale, Pyapon and Dedaye requires better participation. Members are requested to encourage their field staff to participate food cluster meetings in their operational area.
- Delays in the deployment of field staff of partners in several areas were noted to be problematic for implementation of timely response as well as for coordination.
- WFP Labutta reported that the authorities requested 11,000 persons currently residing in temporary shelters to return to their villages of origin. The government requested WFP to provide food for these people as return package. Decision is pending on more details regarding the modality of return and on the food distribution history in their destination.

Next Food Cluster meeting will be held on June 23 at 11 am.