

MINUTES

Participants:

AAR Japan, ACF, ADRA, LRL, Myanmar Chefs Association, OCHA, Save the Children, Solidarites, WFP, World Concern, World Vision.

1.) Re-cap: EMOP Budget Revision & Strategy

- Expanded EMOP strategy: general food distributions (GFD) and additional early recovery activities until April 2009.
- Final review of the budget revision is underway. Approval is expected to be forthcoming by the end of the week.
- In order to facilitate coordination and promote forward planning, suggestion was made to create smaller working groups related to each early recovery initiative: food for work and supplementary feeding. **AP: *Partners interested in participating, with a view to implementing these activities, should revert to WFP.***

Supplementary Feeding:

[Please refer to attached programme outline]

- To commence in September 2008 across the Ayeyarwady Division only (although could be expanded to incorporate additional needs as identified).
- Targeting all pregnant/lactating women and children below 5 years of age in the households receiving general food distributions.
- Objective is not to address the needs of beneficiaries who are already malnourished (UNICEF), but rather to prevent a deterioration of nutritional status in those groups that may otherwise fall 'at risk' nutritionally.
- Will involve adding fortified blended food (CSB or WSB) to the GFD food basket.
- Issue was raised that CSB/WSB is likely to be a new commodity for the targeted population, necessitating some education/training materials on its preparation and use. Appropriate measures will be taken in advance of September.
- Clarification on distinction between WFP and UNICEF activities. WFP supplementary feeding will take place through a blanket distribution, while UNICEF is conducting targeted supplementary and therapeutic feeding activities.

Food for Work

- To commence in November 2008, and targeting marginal farmers (owning less than 0.4 hectares of land).
- Decisions regarding specific activities to be made collectively during working group discussions.
- WFP will continue to look into the feasibility of conducting alternative cash for work activities among the same target group.

Ongoing Challenges / Concerns to note:

- More accurate distribution reporting (need to overcome time delay and account for discrepancy between dispatched and distributed figures).
- Refined beneficiary targeting criteria, and more uniform mechanism.

2.) FLA Revisions

- Revised tonnages to be finalized bilaterally with cooperating partners, and an addendum attached to existing FLAs.
- Concern raised over forthcoming caseload reductions (from September), despite the fact that the pipeline situation has resulted in many beneficiaries from existing caseload still not having received distributions. Informing these households that they will not receive future rounds either is problematic for staff in the field.

3.) Update of Food Stocks / Movement, Resourcing & Pipeline

[Please refer to attached Pipeline Snapshot]

- Acknowledgment of critical pipeline issue – break will be forthcoming in August, and tonnages dispatched are still not allowing for full planned distribution.
- Primary reason for this is the prohibition of local rice purchase by WFP, due to government concerns over national availability.

4.) CP Food Purchase: Modality & Procedures

- Given the pipeline situation, suggestion has been made for WFP to procure rice from cooperating partners, who retain the option of purchasing locally. In this case, partners would be considered suppliers of WFP *[please see attached memo on proposed modality]*.
- NB: Partners will need to coordinate specifications and price for each area where purchases are made.
- **AP: Partners to discuss and revert to WFP with estimated quantities they may be able to procure, and price – for planning purposes and discussion with WFP HQ on finalizing modalities.**
- Suggestion made to prioritize the purchase of parboiled rice: faster, less costly and fortified with vitamin B1. WFP has already procured 3,125MT of parboiled rice from India (500MT now received, 750MT arrived in Yangon on 27 July, and third tranche expected on 6 August).
- While regional purchases are being prioritized and some progress has been made, ongoing delays associated with importing (stemming from import clearance processes, delivery lead times and supplier availability) are posing a serious problem to WFP's pipeline.

5.) Upcoming Assessments

- On 23 July, WFP and UNICEF conducted training for enumerators participating in the upcoming Food & Nutrition Survey that will be jointly carried out with the National Nutrition Centre (of the Ministry of Health). Questionnaires have been completed, and final scheduling – as well as division of responsibility for data analysis, report writing etc. – is being discussed.
- The Household Food Security Assessment will be conducted concurrently, and implementation and analysis modalities are also being worked out.

6.) Inter-Agency Real Time Evaluation

- Kimberly Lietz (OCHA HQ – on behalf of the IASC).
- Preparatory mission for the upcoming Inter-Agency Real Time Evaluation (IA RTE) (scheduled for August).
- Objective of the IA RTE is to examine the planning, coordination and modalities of the response, and to provide insight into factors that may influence better results.

- This type of evaluation is typically conducted by a single agency in the immediate aftermath of the onset of a natural disaster. In this case, the term 'real time' denotes: light footprint, rapid, and information/findings fed back instantaneously.
- Please contact lietz@un.org for further details / feedback / observations / recommendations.

7.) **AOB**

- OCHA sub-office presence in the Delta is currently being scaled-up. Please contact OCHA for further details.
- ***AP: WFP to resolve issue of advance payment for World Vision.***
- Call for information: updated distribution figures to be supplied at the sub-office level, and details on any distribution of non-WFP food resources.
- Call for information: any points for the Food Cluster input to the OCHA Sitreps, please send to Jedda.Constantine@wfp.org by lunchtime Monday / Thursday.

The next Food Cluster meeting will be held on 11 August 2008, at 11:00 a.m.