

Food and Security Working Group (FSNWG)

2.30 pm, Thursday, 07 May 2009

FAO Regional Emergency Office for Africa (REOA)

Present:

Name	Organisation	Name	Organisation
Raoul Nteziryayo	Solidarités	Lisa Parrott	SCUS
Laurent Dufour	OCHA	Allison Oman	UNHCR
Nina Nepessova	World Vision	William Amanfu	FAO/ECTAD
Silke Pietzsch	ACF USA	Sabrina Mayoufi	FAO/ECTAD
Justus Liku	Care Kenya	Gabriele Giannini	FAO Kenya
Lydia Tinkamanyire	IFRC	Francesco Del Re	FAO REOA
Alex Crosskey	RELPA/PACAP	Cyril Ferrand	FAO REOA
Iris Krebber	GAA	Sophie Green	FAO REOA

Agenda:

- 1) Latest information and clarifications on the spread of the H1N1 disease (William Amanfu, FAO/ECTAD)
- 2) FSNWG work plan – finalization and priority setting (Francesco Del Re)
- 3) Presentation on the results of early warning/response analysis meeting (Alexandra Crosskey, PACAPS)
- 4) Action points

Francesco Del Re welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked them for their presence. He then proceeded to announce the meeting agenda.

Review of Action points from the previous meeting

Action points	Who	When	Comments
Review the working plan and email comments to Francesco Del Re	FSNWG members	April 09	
Information sharing towards contingency plans at regional levels	FSNWG members	First 2 weeks of April 2009	
Organise press conference on current deteriorating food security situation in ASAL regions	RHPT	April 09	Tentative

1) Latest information and clarifications on the spread of the H1N1 disease (William Amanfu, FAO/ECTAD)

Unlike what was widely announced in the media, it has been officially declared by FAO/OIE/WHO that the virus should not be classified as swine flu virus, but should be designated as Influenza A/H1N1. It is only recently (May 3rd, 2009) that A/H1N1 was isolated on pigs in Canada. The pigs were exposed to the virus by a farm worker who recently returned from Mexico with flu-like symptoms. This shows that human-animal transmission of A/H1N1 is possible.

The WHO declared the outbreak of cases of A/H1N1 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern under the IHR (2005) and has raised the influenza pandemic alert from phase 4 to 5.

The Influenza has been reported in 22 countries around the world, with the majority of cases in Mexico (822 cases of which 29 deaths). So far in Africa, only South Africa and Benin have suspected cases. There is a clear link between all of these countries and Mexico, which has been identified as the epicenter of the epidemic.

So far FAO response has been the following:

- Prompted Governments to increase surveillance in pigs and offered its support for the shipment of suspicious samples to international reference labs.
- Encourages Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) surveillance to report unusual symptoms in pigs, especially those attributed to respiratory diseases.
- The Team FAO crisis management centre animal health is on mission in Mexico since 29 April 2009.
- The FAO Global Early Warning system (GLEW) continues monitoring the situation on a daily basis in coordination with OIE, WHO, USDA-APHIS, CDC and other partners.
- Information sharing/awareness raising to counter false statements (e.g. the A/H1N1 is not transmitted through pork consumption, the ban on imports of pork is illegal etc.) and misinformation spread by the media, and which have led to inappropriate government response in some countries, e.g. the slaughtering of pigs in Egypt.

2) FSNWG work plan – finalization and priority setting (Francesco Del Re)

Suggestions for improving the FSNWG work plan and the FSNWG priority setting were agreed upon as follows:

- FSNWG meetings to emphasize on response analysis and to move away from a simple information sharing platform on food security and nutrition situations in the region. Specific thematic issues (e.g. population movement and drought etc.) should be identified prior to the monthly meetings and related presentations should be shared in advance. This would enable FSNWG members to better prepare for and engage in the meeting discussions and would facilitate the identification of action points and related relevant actors (i.e. “who does what”).

Actions:

- All FSNWG members will send in advance a list of thematic topics of discussion that they would like to see discussed in the meeting.
 - The work plan will be re-circulated for FSNWG members to review which working group (s) they would like to participate in according to their areas of expertise and specific interests.
 - Other working groups could be organized (e.g. food security) on the example of the nutrition working group in order to discuss issues that cannot always be addressed at the FSNWG monthly meeting. A lead or chairman/women should be identified for the food security working group.
- To develop a FSNWG communication strategy in the objective of refining the link between information sharing and rapid response (action): Messages need to be shaped according to the donors and other stakeholders' interests. Identified urgent action should be immediately followed by the formulation of a message by the FSNWG members (e.g. through a press conference). Various channels to keep donors updated should be exploited, e.g. the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Team. All relevant events that are taking place in Nairobi and in the region should be covered by at least one representative member of the FSNWG, who will share the information gathered with the other FSNWG members.

Actions:

- All FSNWG members will draft a list of events that they are planning to attend or would like to get feedback on if they cannot attend.
- To improve information sharing, FSNWG members should systematically give feedback (incl. reports sharing) to the group on relevant events (e.g. workshops) they have attended in Nairobi or in the region.

3) Presentation on the results of early warning/response analysis meeting (Alexandra Crosskey, PACAPS)

Alexandra Crosskey gave a short presentation on the Early Warning/Response Analysis Meeting for the Mandera Triangle response strategy for pastoral communities that took place on April 9th 2009.

The objective of the response analysis strategy is for organizations and stakeholders to adapt their logframe/indicators according to agricultural/local climate calendar in order to ensure that projects planned respond to the needs of the targeted beneficiaries and that activities implemented are most appropriate and cost-effective (e.g. water trapping, food aid, fodder distribution, cash alternatives etc.).

For further information, please refer to the presentation as well as to the report of the meeting attached to these FSNWG meeting notes.

It was suggested that a presentation on cash transfer could be done by ECHO during the next FSNWG meeting.

Francesco Del Re closed the meeting by thanking all participants for their coming and announced the date of the next FSNWG meeting on Thursday 11th June 2009, 2.30pm at the FAO REOA office.

4) Action points

Action points	Who	When	Comments
To send list of desired thematic topics of discussion for the next FSNWG meeting	All FSNWG members	By 4 th June 2009 (1 week ahead)	
To review the FSNWG work plan and decide on which working group to participate in	All FSNWG members	By next FSNWG meeting (11 th June 2009)	
To draft a list of events that FSNWG members are planning to attend or would like to get feedback on if they cannot attend.	All FSNWG members	By next FSNWG meeting (11 th June 2009)	
To share relevant meetings/events/workshop (etc.) reports with all FSNWG members	All FSNWG members	Systematically	
To identify a lead (“chairman/women”) for a food security working group.	All FSNWG members	By next FSNWG meeting (11 th June 2009)	
Presentation on cash transfer	ECHO	Next FSNWG meeting (11 th June 2009)	Suggestion