

## National Food Security and Agriculture Working Group Meeting Islamabad, Pakistan

Date: 07 March 2019  
Place: WHH Office, Islamabad.  
Timing: 11:30 – 12:30

No. of Participants: 28  
Participant Organizations: 20  
Male and Female: 15:05

### Meeting Minutes

Agenda Points	Deliberations	Action Points/Decisions
<p><b><i>Update on Balochistan Drought Needs Assessment (BDNA)</i></b></p>	<p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The assessment was conducted by Natural Disasters Consortium (NDC) with the following specific objectives:</li> <li>▪ To assess the impact of the drought on agriculture (crop cultivation, production, water availability and livestock), livelihoods and food security, access to water and sanitation and hygiene practices of the households and communities.</li> <li>▪ To provide recommendations to the Government of Balochistan, PDMA Balochistan, NDC partners, humanitarian organizations, donors and other decision/policy makers to prioritize actions (short, medium and long term) in relevant sectors and geographic areas to address immediate needs, build back better and increase future resilience to drought.</li> </ul> <p><b>Methodology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In total, 4,918 households were interviewed during the assessment in 328 Revenue Villages (Mozas) of 177 Union Councils, located in 39 sub-districts (Tehsils) of the 14 drought affected districts in Balochistan (Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Chaghi, Kacchi, Loralai, Washuk, Panjgur, Kech, Gwadar, Dera Bugti, Awaran, Nushki, Jhal Magsi, and Kharan)</li> <li>▪ Assessment was carried out in December/January 2018/19</li> <li>▪ Of 4,918 surveyed households, 12% were headed by women.</li> </ul> <p><b>Findings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Draft report on preliminary findings of the assessment were shared with PDMA Balochistan in last week of February for their feedback and inputs.</li> <li>▪ The DG PDMA has given valuable feedback and final report will be shared after incorporating his feedback.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Discussion/Suggestions:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recent rains might have slightly eased the drought conditions in few drought affected districts in Balochistan.</li> <li>▪ This would slightly improve water availability for crop cultivation. It is also need to be seen whether</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Updated findings after incorporating feedback from PDMA Balochistan, will be shared with FS members in next meeting.</b></li> </ul>

	<p>livelihoods patterns have changed because of recent rains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ National FS&amp;A WG should liaise with provincial government to know the needs of districts considering the drought and floods.</li> <li>▪ PDMA Balochistan has the list of affected population for both disasters and the findings of BDNA may be lined up with that too.</li> </ul>	
<p><b><i>Update on Drought Response in Sindh and Balochistan</i></b></p>	<p><b>Drought Response Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Overall 5 million people were affected by drought in Sindh and Balochistan.</li> <li>▪ Out of which 2.06 million will be targeted through drought response interventions.</li> <li>▪ A total of 35 million USD is the funding requirement for drought response in prioritized districts of Sindh and Balochistan.</li> <li>▪ Main areas of interventions include crops and livestock support, construction/rehabilitation of critical small-scale structures and coverage through government social safety nets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Updates from NDMA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Presently 8xDistt of Sindh and 18xDisstt of Balochistan are experiencing moderate to and severe drought</li> <li>▪ NDMA organized a National Consultative Workshop on Drought (NCWD) on 18.01.2019.</li> <li>▪ NCWD Report has been shared with all stake holders.</li> <li>▪ 6 x Working Groups have been activated/notified under National Coordination Structure on Drought Response Pakistan-2019</li> <li>▪ Nomination of Focal Persons Received from different Ministries/Departments has been shared with UNOCH.</li> <li>▪ Nomination for Nutrition Working Group is still awaited from M/o NHR&amp;C.</li> <li>▪ Drought Response Plane 2019, US \$96.3 Million is papered.</li> <li>▪ Drought Response Plan 2019 is submitted for approval of the Prime Minister.</li> <li>▪ A total of 158.803 million PKR support was provided for drought response so far including 96.575 million PKR for non-food items and 62.228 million through food items.</li> </ul> <p><b>PDMA Sindh Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 50 Kg Wheat distributed among 361,111 families in Phase I, 259,424 families in Phase II and 194,026 families in Phase III.</li> <li>▪ 46,206 Spl ration pack distributed amongst Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs) in Tharparkar and Umerkot in phase I, 76,189 in phase II, 81,229 in phase III.</li> <li>▪ Over 100,000 patients have been treated hospitals and Medical Camps.</li> <li>▪ 289 doctors have been recruited for District Tharparkar.</li> <li>▪ 467 additional LHVs recruited for district Tharparkar.</li> <li>▪ Over 3.0 million vaccine doses administered to save livestock.</li> <li>▪ Irrigation department prepared tentative Rabi Plan 2018-19 (Rotation Plan) to distribute water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>FS&amp;A WG Dashboard will be shared with FS members.</b></li> <li>▪ <b>FS&amp;A WG members requested NDMA to share the updates from PDMA Balochistan in next meeting.</b></li> </ul>

	<p>equitably and judiciously from different canals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A total of 573.727 million amount was allocated/released, while 395.109 million has been utilized so far and 178.617 million are in pipeline for utilization of drought response.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Drought Resistant Agriculture Technologies by PARC</b></p>	<p>PARC has successfully tested and introduced several varieties of different crops/grasses/plants, which are of short duration, consume less water and are resistant to water/heat stress.</p> <p>PARC and other organizations like PCRWR have developed and demonstrated drought/desertification control technologies in the Cholistan, Ummrkot, D I Khan, Quetta and other areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grassland development, Rainwater harvesting, Range management, Arid horticulture, Livestock production, Afforestation, Saline agriculture, Agriculture with good quality rain water stored in the ponds.</li> </ul> <p><b>Development of Heat and Drought Resistant and Salt Tolerant Crop Verities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Kharif crops:</b> Millet (08), Sorghum, Mungbean (08), Guar, Castor, Cluster bean (42), Sesame (08), Moth (02)</li> <li>▪ <b>Rabi crops:</b> Barley, Rape, Mustard, lucerne, cowpea, horsegram, sunhemp, Lentil (Shir-AZ-96), chickpea, mashbean, safflower, seasum and cereals</li> <li>▪ <b>Forage:</b> Legume (Kuhak-96) in Quetta</li> <li>▪ <b>Fruits:</b> Pomegranate, Fig, Olive in Balochistan, Dhaki date palm in DI Khan, Ber, Guava, Date-palm, Fig, Pomegranate and falsa at Umerkot and Bahawalpur.</li> </ul> <p><b>Soil and Water Conservation and Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Drip, mini and micro sprinkler irrigation</li> <li>▪ Pitcher irrigation</li> <li>▪ Rainwater harvesting and efficient utilization</li> <li>▪ Soil moisture conservation through mulching and zero tillage</li> <li>▪ Construction of water ponds and storage tanks for stock water use</li> <li>▪ Development and promotion of shelterbelt technology in desert areas to control wind erosion</li> <li>▪ Introduction of skimming wells and dug wells in areas with shallow thickness of fresh groundwater</li> <li>▪ For detailed recommendation for short, medium and long term recommendation, refer to the detailed presentation.</li> <li>▪ <b><u>Discussion/Suggestions:</u></b></li> <li>▪ There is need for awareness raising of farmers on efficient water use.</li> <li>▪ It is important to know whether demand of farmers for the drought resistant/ less water consuming crops/fodder/pulses/vegetables/fruits varieties could be met by PARC/producers.</li> <li>▪ What is farmers response/acceptability of/to these drought resistant and less water consuming crops and fodder varieties.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis</b></p>	<p>The Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) is a set of protocols to classify the severity and causes of food insecurity and provide actionable knowledge by consolidating wide-ranging evidence, A process for</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>The IPC Acute Food Insecurity Training</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>for Drought in Sindh and Balochistan</b></p>	<p>building technical consensus among key stakeholders.</p> <p>Globally, three scales of IPC classification are currently being used at present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IPC for Acute Food Insecurity (IPC AFI),</li> <li>▪ IPC for Chronic Food Insecurity (IPC CFI) and</li> <li>▪ IPC for Acute Malnutrition (IPC AMN)</li> </ul> <p>All three scales have been employed in Pakistan.</p> <p>The 5 phases of IPC AFI are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Minimal, Stressed, Crisis, Emergency and Famine</li> </ul> <p>The 4 outcome indicators for IPC AFI are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Food Consumption (Quantity and Quality indicators)</li> <li>▪ Livelihood Change (Livelihood and Coping)</li> <li>▪ Nutritional Status (Acute Malnutrition, BMI)</li> </ul> <p><b>Potential participants of training/analysis workshop include</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sindh and Balochistan Govt Officials (PDMA, Bureau of Statistics, Planning &amp; Development Department, Health Department (Nutrition Support Program), Agriculture, and Livestock Departments);</li> <li>▪ Federal Government Officials (Ministry of Planning, Development &amp; Reforms, Ministry of National Food Security &amp; Research, PARC/NARC; NDMA, Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination</li> <li>▪ Staff of UN organizations and I/ L NGOs</li> </ul> <p><b>Data sources for analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Data of Sind and Balochistan Drought Needs Assessments, Crop Reporting Services, Livestock Department and National Nutrition Survey would be used in the analysis.</li> </ul> <p><b>Analysis focussed areas and period</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IPC AFI would focus on 14 drought affected districts of Balochistan, namely, Pishin, Killa Abdullah, Chaghi, Kacchi, Loralai, Washuk, Panjgur, Kech, Gwadar, Dera Bugti, Awaran, Nushki, Jhal Magsi and Kharan, whereas Tharparkar district and Umerkot, Johi and Khipro Tehsils of Sindh</li> <li>• Analysis for both current and projection periods will be conducted</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Discussion/Suggestions:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IPC acute food insecurity analysis focusing on drought affected areas in Sindh and Balochistan is a very timely initiative.</li> <li>▪ Besides the acute analysis, chronic analysis for Balochistan also needs to be considered as there are structural and chronic issues in Balochistan.</li> <li>▪ The validity of IPC data is short, hence, new programming may go beyond the validity time period of IPC findings</li> <li>▪ Relevant government departments have been part of the previous IPC analyses and also contributed</li> </ul>	<p><b>&amp; Analysis workshop will be held in Quetta, from 15-22 April, 2019 and IPC partners will be invited to attend the workshop.</b></p>
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	<p>as well, and humanitarian partners have also used findings of IPC for their programming, but endorsement of IPC findings from the Govt is a challenge and it should be pursued.</p>	
<p><b>Market Assessment for Developing Response in Sindh and Balochistan</b></p>	<p>WFP has conducted Market Assessment for developing response in Umerkot and Tharparkar - Sindh (17-22 February) and in Qilla Abdulla and Pishin - Balochistan (3-9 February) 2019.</p> <p>Objectives of the market assessment were as below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ to assess the key aspects of market functionality &amp; market integration;</li> <li>▪ changes in food prices during past 6 months;</li> <li>▪ impact of cash injection on prices (inflation);</li> <li>▪ supply/demand &amp; sales conditions;</li> <li>▪ main supply lines &amp; traders' capacity to meet increased demand;</li> <li>▪ to have an indicative idea of cash vs food distribution feasibility at tehsil level;</li> </ul> <p>Summary of findings for Balochistan and Sindh Markets</p> <p><b>Supply/Demand</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supply meets demand – there is no supply vs demand gap in the local markets – indicating current level of supply is meeting current demand</li> <li>▪ No significant change in the prices of food commodities over the last six months</li> <li>▪ Indication that markets are strongly integrated with the bigger markets;</li> <li>▪ Prices of food commodities are stable and consistent with other bigger markets/major suppliers in the districts/provinces;</li> <li>▪ Prices in the local markets are moving along with the provincial/national prices trends;</li> <li>▪ Prices are mostly controlled by the traders in the bigger markets such as Quetta, Punjab, and Sindh from where the smaller markets get their supplies;</li> <li>▪ In local markets at tehsil level, prices are mostly set by traders themselves - after adjusting their minor profit margins;</li> <li>▪ Though prices are set by the local traders, no negative inflationary trend in the prices is anticipated by the traders in case of an increased demand of food commodities in the local markets;</li> </ul> <p><b>Traders' capacity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Most of the markets have good infrastructure;</li> <li>▪ Traders' storage capacity for food items was found enough to meet increased demand;</li> <li>▪ Sales on credit as most the of the residents cannot afford to buy full ration and buying power of most of the common people is very low. In Balochistan about 43% traders sell &gt; 50% on credit. In Sindh about 30% traders sell &gt; 50% on credit;</li> <li>▪ Transport costs were generally higher compared to 6 months ago;</li> </ul> <p><b>Markets' accessibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Markets are mostly accessible;</li> <li>▪ In Balochistan, tehsils Dobandi and Barshore were found remote; Dobandi is at higher elevation 90kms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Further updates will be shared in next meeting.</b></li> </ul>

	<p>in the mountains and poor road conditions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In Sindh, Tehsil Nagarparkar was found remote and close to the border, while Kheensar market is very small;</li> <li>▪ Cash interventions will help the beneficiaries and support local markets/traders, creating further opportunities, except in tehsil Dobandi and Barshore in Balochistan where food is a preferred option.</li> <li>▪ Discussion/Suggestions:</li> <li>▪ FAO has also conducted market assessment for agro-pastoral inputs in Qilla Abdullah and Pishin districts in Balochistan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>FAO will share findings of market assessment for agro-pastoral inputs in next meeting</b></li> </ul>
<b>AOB</b>	<p><b>National FS&amp;A WG Meetings Venue</b></p> <p>National FS&amp;A WG appreciated the hosting facility of WHH and asked other organizations to host FS&amp;A WG meetings on rotational basis, preferably in middle of the city to access easily.</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Updates from Cash Working Group (CWG) should be presented in National FS&amp;A WG meetings to remain at the same page of information.</li> </ul> <p>The next meeting will be held in April 2019, after having the updates from the provinces. The details of venue and time of the meeting will be shared well in time with FS &amp; A member organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>National FS&amp;A WG will send an email to share the venue details of the organization who can host National FS&amp;A WG meetings on rotational basis.</b></li> </ul>

#### Annex 1 – Participants List (FS&A WG Meeting on 07 March 2019)

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