**FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**\*\* KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE – COMMUNITY LEVEL \*\***

The main purpose of this interview is to understand the Food Security & livelihoods (FSL) situation (impact, scope -current and projected); most vulnerable population’s main needs; and feasibility of CVA.

**Please note:** The survey needs to be contextualized to the setting and type of programme. Hence, operations may want to shorten in some areas and add specific questions in others. The survey is NOT multisectoral. All operations are encouraged to engage with other actors to collect multisectoral data. Questions related to protection mainstreaming, risks and community engagement and accountability (CEA) should be considered mandatory.

|  |
| --- |
| **Who:** Ensure that this interview is done with a cross-section of people and not just leaders. Hence, seek to speak to representatives from the wider community including women, men, elderly, youth, disabled and other minority groups. This interview can be conducted with local and traditional community authorities, religious leaders, leaders of women’s and youth groups as well as various other representatives. |
| **How:** Semi –structured interview |
| **Timing:** Depending on circumstances between 1 and 1h30 hours |

## Presentation and introduction (interview / assessment objectives, duration, etc.)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name:** | | **Position:** |
| **Telephone:** | | **Date:** |
| **Village:** | | **Population (#HH in the village):** |
| **Consent:** Good morning/afternoon, my name is\_\_\_\_\_\_. I work for the [National Society] Red Cross/Crescent. We are a humanitarian organisation that helps people affected by crisis and disaster. The help we provide is always free and given based on need alone. We are in your community to hear your opinions and views of [add topic of interview]. The information provided will be used by the Red Cross/Crescent to inform our understanding of livelihoods in your community and to plan our activities. Participation in this discussion is free and there is no obligation for you to respond, you can stop at any point. No personal information will be shared with other organisations and the information provided will be analysed anonymously and used confidentially. We are not giving any services in exchange for your participation. Your views are valuable and important and will contribute to ensuring our services and the information we share meets your needs. Do you have any questions?  The discussion should take no longer than [minutes]. Do you understand the purpose of the discussion, and are you willing to participate? | | |
| **How can we best reach out to you if there’s a need for follow up?** |  | | |
| **Ask respondent to share any recently and relevant published reports if possible. Note here which reports you have agreed on to be able to follow up.** |  | | |

## Interview guide

|  |
| --- |
| **Situation, needs and coverage** |
| How is the food insecurity situation in your community?  What is the approximate number of people affected by food insecurity and are any specific groups particularly affected? |
| What are the main causes of the food insecurity in the community? |
| What are the most urgent food needs to be covered? (Please indicate the approximate number of households in need) |
| From your perspective, what is the projected situation for the next few months (3-4 months)? |
| Which groups in the community have been more affected by the crisis? *(Specify, according to type of livelihoods activity, household composition -men/women head of household, displaced / host community, try to understand how men, women, children and different age groups have been affected differently)* |
| Is there any initiative from the government or other organizations to support the community immediate needs?  If yes, for how many HH?  For how long does the government/other organization plan to provide this support? |
| Does your village benefit from any external aid (government, social safety nets, NGOs, red cross, etc.)? What kind? |
| What type of assistance do you believe is the most relevant to provide in the area?  (Are government and other organisation’s responses considered relevant or what could be improved?) |
| In your view, what support is needed to ensure a long term/sustainable solution to the hunger situation? |
| In your view, is the support being provided sufficient to meet the needs of the hunger-affected population as far as their food/dietary and nutritional needs are concerned? If No, what additional support is needed |
| **FSL Impact and livelihoods response** |
| What are the main livelihood activities in the community? |
| Which livelihoods activities have been more affected by the crisis (droughts…)? Specify |
| What has been the impact of the hunger situation on these activities? |
| In your opinion, what is the projected situation for the next few months regarding the livelihood’s activities (3-4 months)? |
| Which livelihoods activities are undertaken by the most vulnerable households (poor and very poor)? |
| Which criteria could define the most vulnerable households (Poor and Very Poor households) in your community?  *P. example: 1 – 2 small ruminant, less than 1 Ha of field, households leads by women, etc.* |
| What are the main sources of food for the most vulnerable households (poor and very poor)?  How have the sources of food of the most vulnerable groups (poor and very poor) changed over the year (or since the crisis started)? |
| How have the sources of income of the most vulnerable households changed over the year (or since the crisis started)? |
| Do the most vulnerable households have sufficient food stocks and how long can they last? |
| In the current situation, what are the coping strategies of the most vulnerable households? |
| How have the situation affected children and child protection, for example: Has it affected their roles in the household, access to education, number of meals they eat, health, etc. |
| Is there any initiative from the government or other organizations to support livelihood activities? |
| Who is providing (or planning to provide) this support (*Government, UN, NGOs*)? |
| What kind of support is planned? |
| **Livestock** |
| What is the main type of livestock in the community? What type of livestock do the poorest socio-economic groups tend to keep? |
| What is the impact of the crisis (droughts, etc…) on livestock activities? |
| What is the situation of pastures now? How was it last year (or the same period in the reference year)?  How has it changed in the last 5 years? |
| In the normal situation at what time the breeders start the transhumance?  And at the moment is there a movement of transhumance? *Specify (since when, towards or, changes…)* |
| Are there any difficulties accessing water for animals? Are they the same as in previous 5 years? What are the differences? |
| How do you judge the current weight of the animals *(normal for the period, started to deteriorate, bad considering the period)*? |
| Have you noticed any illnesses with animals *(more than usual, normal, less? what are the main diseases)*? |
| How do breeders adapt to protect their livelihoods? |
| What is the priority needs of most vulnerable breeders’ households to continue / restart their activity? |
| Is there a stock of livestock feed available? If yes, for how long? |
| Are there any changes concerning the livestock market (detail by species and also inputs; price, stock)? |
| **Agriculture** |
| What is the main type of crop in this area? What type of agricultural activity do the poorest socio-economic groups (small holders, labour)? |
| What is the impact of the crisis (drought, etc.) in agriculture? How does crop production levels compare to previous years? |
| Are there any crop losses? What crops have been more affected? What are the main causes of these losses? |
| How have these losses affected most vulnerable groups? |
| On what scale agricultural production has change (compare with the past year and / or the last five years)? e.g.: doubled, increased a little (10-20%) |
| What development do you foresee for the next 2-3 months? What is your perception over the coming months? |
| How do farmers adapt to protect their livelihoods? |
| What are the priority needs of most vulnerable farmers or agriculture labours to continue / restart their activity? |
| What is the government's response to these needs? Are there any gaps? |
| **Markets** |
| What are main staples food in the community? |
| Are they (staples food) available in the market? |
| Are main essential non-food commodities available in the market? |
| Have prices of staple food changed compared to the same period last year?  IF YES, how have they changed? *(increase, decrease, in % if possible)* |
| Are there supply/provisioning problems? If YES, Which products have provisioning problems? |
| Have there been any changes in market functioning? Which ones? Why? |
| Do you see any strong trends related to market functionality (prices, availability, quality, supply) over the last few months or years? Why? |
| How is the access to markets? Has market access changed or is it expected to change? |
| How safe are women, men, girls and boys when accessing the markets?  Are they being safe to visit at all hours? If not, why not? When would they be most safe? |
| **Cash and voucher assistance, response mechanism** |
| As a response mechanism, one of the possibilities is to use cash and voucher assistance (CVA), in that sense.  Is there experience in the community with cash or voucher assistance? |
| What kind of delivery mechanisms have been used? *(mobile money, direct cash, cash/value vouchers, MFI, banks, etc.)* |
| What are the affected populations’ preferences regarding the response modality (In-kind, cash, both, etc.)? |
| What are the financial service providers presents in the area *(banks, micro finance institutions, mobile money…)*? OR How does people access to money *(banks, micro finance institutions, mobile money…)?* |
| Would people be safe receiving humanitarian assistance through cash or vouchers? |
| Where would women, men, boys and girls feel safe and comfortable in receiving cash? *At agencies compound, distribution points, through mobile money, bank account etc.* |
| What risks/threats might occur in a family that is targeted with cash assistance?  *(Risks/tension within the family, between husband and wife, with other relatives; risks/tension between community members; physical violence, sexual violence, verbal violence, psychological violence, economic violence, etc.)* |
| In your experience, who in a household usually keep and controls cash? (either from NGOs, income, remittances, loans or from relatives or friends?) Who decides how spend cash within households? |
| Would it be best/preferable/safer for the organisation to give the cash transfer in the woman’s name (i.e. not necessarily the head of household), or in the name of another person in the household because of household dynamics? |
| How do polygamous families in the communities make decisions about cash or incomes in the household?  Probe: What kind of problems or risks are prevalent in polygamous households and how can these be avoided? |
| **Nutritional impacts** |
| Is there a change in the health situation of the community population in the recent past? |
| Is there a heath centre in the village? If NO; where it is? How far? |
| What is the nutritional situation of children and PLW (pregnant and lactating women)? |
| Is there any monitoring (screening) or treatment for malnutrition? Who provide it? |
| **Water sources and availability** |
| What is the main source of drinking water? |
| What is the level of access to drinking water? *(everybody has access, only some households…., try to separate both by different age and sex as well as different socio-economic groups: Very Poor, Poor, middle, best-off)* |
| What is the quality of the drinking water? |
| How has the situation (access to drinking water or water for livelihoods) changed over the past 5 years? *(availability and cost)* |
| How has it impacted on community livelihood activities? |
| What are the coping strategies employed for households to access water (if any)? |