



World Food Programme

PAKISTAN

Monthly Operational and Monitoring Report AJK Rural Support Program

Province: AJK
Month: August, 2013
PRRO-200250

WFP AJK At a Glance: July, 2013

Target Districts	Muzaffarabad, Huttian, Neelum & Havali
Humanitarian Hubs	
Camps	
Other Distribution Points	77
Cooperating Partners	
Staff (International : National)	

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the reporting month, two days Training of Trainers (TOT) for project staff was organized in four targeted districts i.e. Muzaffarabad, Neelum, Havali and Huttian. In which a total of 154 participants were imparted training on the basic concepts of Community Nutrition Program. Training sessions in each targeted districts were jointly organized by both the representatives from WFP and AJKRSP.
- Similarly, the one day Training of Trainers (TOT) for Government staff based in BHU level including BHU incharge, LHSs and LHVs has also been organized. Wherein 95 participants from three districts (Huttian, Neelum & Havali) were imparted training. While, in district Muzaffarabad, the above one day TOT is planned to be rolled out in the second week of September, 2013.
- Immediately, after getting the training, the field staff was rigorously engaged in executing the field activities. In this respect, screening process has been conducted with a total of 31684 cases including 9870 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs) and 21814 children in four targeted districts. In district Muzaffarabad a total of 4732 PLWs and 9542 children were examined, in Neelum 837 PLWs and 5592 children, while in Huttian the screening exercise was conducted with 4146 PLWs and 6153 children, similarly in Havali a total of 155 PLWs and 527 children were accessed and examined under the screening process.
- Thus, collectively out of 31684 screened cases 6214 malnourished cases were found including 4387 children (4166 MAM & 221 SAM) and 1827 PLWs in all four targeted districts.
- During the reporting period, a caseload of 590 malnourished cases including 134 PLWs and 228 MAM children along with their siblings (228) with a food comprises of 2.292 MT was distributed in district Muzaffarabad. Whereas, in the rest of three targeted districts (Huttian, Neelum and Havali) distribution will be started during earlier September, 2013.
- Another important activity in the field during the reporting month remained, orientation and awareness raising sessions with the community at large. These sessions were organized with community activists, community elders, beneficiaries including women and children. The basic purpose was to make aware the community about project objectives, existing issues in their areas related to malnutrition and their causes, promoting healthy nutrition practices to prevent the trend of malnourishment in their respective communities. In this connection a total of 158 sessions were conducted in four districts including 40 sessions in district Huttian, 70 in Muzaffarabad, 24 in Neelum and again 24 in district Havali.

Situation Overview

The reporting month has clearly observed a very worst situation in the field in respect to nutrition status of children and their mothers in all the targeted districts of AJK under Community Nutrition Program. The field reports show that there is an alarming ratio of malnourished children and their mothers exists in AJKRSP target areas. For instance, collectively a total of 4387 children were found malnourished including 4166 MAM and 221 SAM children out of a total 21814 who were examined during the month of August. This figure depicts that around 20% children with the age of 6-59 months fall under malnutrition status in the targeted area. Similarly, in all four targeted districts, a total of 9870 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs) were gone through the screening process, in which 1827 were found in the category of malnutrition which compose around 18% of the total figure. In this backdrop, the situation above evidently illustrate that the young children and women are among the most vulnerable groups from nutritional point of view in AJK and moreover under-nutrition is one of the main causes of death among infants and young children in the targeted areas. The observations from the field also depict that among the under-nourished children who could survive have always been with comparatively less competence to learn and gain education which eventually harms their productivity at adulthood, thus effect performance at all stages of their life.

Therefore, Community Nutrition Program (CNP) which well directs all its focus at mother and young children certainly provides a window of opportunity to get them out of the vicious circle of malnutrition. Provision of nutritious food along with education and awareness to promote healthy nutritional practices are the prime activities are focused under the project those are truly proved to be helpful for children and their mothers in the target areas to prevent and cure themselves from malnutrition.

Progress Updates

The table below elaborates the progress achieved during the month of August, 2013:

District	Beneficiaries			Food (MT)			Remarks
	Planned	Achieved	% achievement	Planned	Distributed	% achievement	
Muzaffarabad	2000	364	18	14.8	2.292	15.48	Due to unavailability of food supply and delay in staff training, the targets of distribution could not be met during the month. But in screening, the progress remained more than 140%
Neelum	1200	0	0	8.45	0	0	
Huttian	950	0	0	6.71	0	0	
Havali	900	0	0	6.445	0	0	

Operational Issues

By and large, all the operational matters in respect to execution of field activities have quite been smooth during the month of July, 2013. AJKRSP has been successful to undertake well in time all operational arrangements regarding establishment of field offices and warehouses, arrangement of vehicles in the field and training arrangements very efficiently. Despite, initially there have been observed few issues particularly in seeking and establishing the sitting and working arrangements in few BHUs due to going through the existing complicated procedural requirements at the part of government health department. But, after having close coordination and liaising with the concerned officials, the matter was promptly resolved. Similarly, unavailability of standard formats and registered required for record keeping at early stage posed a bit hard job to maintain the record up to the standard in the field. But, now with the availability, record keeping process has been given the extra focus to catch up the deficiency remained during the earlier weeks of the reporting month.

MONITORING FINDINGS

AJKRSP follows a participatory monitoring mechanism to track the project performance and smooth execution of project activities. This includes active engagement of community networks, community elders and the beneficiaries to regularly oversee and monitor the field activities. In addition to this, the combined field visits of AJKRSP monitoring staff along with representatives from health departments are facilitated on frequent basis so as to seek in time technical guidance and strengthen the process of cross verification and confirmation of achievements. For this purpose, a series of review meetings are also organized at BHUs, district and national level to get regular feedback from all stakeholders so that in case of any deviation, the timely corrective measures could be taken to keep the project on track.

Following are the key findings have been observed during the month of August, 2013:

- There is a higher ratio of malnourished children and their mothers exist in the target area. Resultantly, observed louder voice in the field in the favor of type of the activities like Community Nutrition Program.
- The project activities have seen greater level of accessibility and support from the target community.
- The ratio of female malnourished children remained higher than the male. This is mainly due to existing of a general traditionally discriminative caring attitude toward female children.
- In the target area, community generally feels comfortable with female staff members to carry out the measurement activities particularly in the case of PLWs.
- The strategy to access the target groups through the support of existing community networks remained very instrumental and effective.
- Although, at the early stage after the first distribution, the target beneficiaries were not very much familiar with the usage and benefits of the food, but later on with gradually scaling up the awareness and promotional activities in the fields, now situation have observed becoming comparatively quiet better as earlier.
- The beneficiaries who received food during the reporting month expressed higher level of satisfaction to the distribution process, particularly, to the way the distribution of food is organized close to their village at BHUs.

OPERATIONAL PLAN: [September, 2013]

District	Total Beneficiaries		Total	Total Food Requirement (MT)
	MAM	PLW		
PRRO 200250				
Muzaffarabad	1741	1225	2966	23.05675
Huttian	1099	775	1874	13.13225
Neelum	765	529	1294	9.04175
Havali	924	652	1576	11.045
Total	4529	3181	7710	56.27575

Summary of District Wise CNP Initiative (SFP/OTPs) August-2013

District	Planned SFPs	Functional SFPs	Planned OTPs	Functional OTPs
Muzaffarabad	35	35	-	-
Neelum	24	24	-	-
Huttian	12	12	-	-
Havali	7	7	-	-

SUCCESS STORY and pictures

Glimpses from the field

