CLARIFICATION ON FSAC, HEALTH, WASH AND NUTRITION CLUSTERS’ INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING FOR FAMINE RISK REDUCTION (IFRR) IN 2018

There has been a clear shift in Yemen towards integrated (multi-sectoral) programming following the March 2017 Yemen Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). As the risk of famine rose, there was widespread realization of the complexity of the situation that is not only related to malnutrition and food insecurity, but also to underlying causative factors emanating from other sectors. Subsequently, the WASH and Health were also integrated due to the criticality of these sectors in any famine prevention actions in Yemen.

Based on international thresholds and cut-off points from FSAC, Nutrition, Health and WASH clusters, 107 out of 333 districts have been earmarked as requiring integrated programming for famine risk reduction (IFRR) in 2018. It should be emphasized that all the 107 districts are priority for IFRR for the four clusters by virtue of the fact that they are facing the same levels of heightened vulnerabilities. In addition, there are additional districts that two or three clusters have identified as priority for IFRR between these clusters, or districts that still remain a priority for one cluster due to breaching international emergency thresholds.

The FSAC, Nutrition, Health and WASH clusters have decided to pilot an IFRR model initially in 27 districts. These 27 districts will act as a learning platform where the four clusters will actively support the operational coordination of integrated response, and where joint planning, implementation and monitoring will be piloted at inter-cluster level. The selection of districts is based on the capacities of the clusters and partners, combined with access and security situation on the ground and for now is limited to three hubs to manage the scale. The list will be expanded gradually to accommodate additional districts drawn from the 107 districts at risk of famine, based on best practices in the 27 pilot districts.

The selection of the 27 districts to pilot the integrated model should not in any way be misconstrued to mean that other districts are less priority, or prevent donors or partners to promote integrated famine risk reduction response in the other priority districts, or continue /scale up support of individual priorities of each cluster.

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