

AGENDA FOR ACTION FOR ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY IN PROTRACTED CRISES



WHY FOCUS ON PROTRACTED CRISES?

Protracted crises are among the most challenging contexts in which to fight food insecurity and malnutrition. Driven by multiple underlying causes such as recurrent natural or human made disasters, weak governance and unsustainable livelihood systems, protracted crises affect an estimated 366 million people worldwide. Of this number, more than one in three people – 129 million – are undernourished, a rate more than twice the level of other developing countries. This represents 20 percent of all undernourished people in the world.

The persistent nature of these crises combined with inadequate response threatens lives and livelihoods, eroding coping mechanisms and often making recovery more difficult over time. In 2010, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) concluded that protracted crises require special attention.

A CALL FOR TRANSFORMATIVE ACTION

Dramatic progress can be made toward improved food security and nutrition in protracted crises by addressing known limitations in policies and actions. A wealth of evidence exists on the interventions required to produce sustainable food security and nutrition outcomes. The CFS Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises (CFS-A4A) distils key principles from this knowledge base, to inform more comprehensive and effective policies and actions. In addition to offering policy guidance, the CFS-A4A is a call for transformative action – by all actors, at all levels – to provide affected populations the support they need. This requires leveraging the strengths of humanitarian assistance and development actions and resources.

Although voluntary and non-binding, an endorsed CFS-A4A will add value by providing political recognition and consensus among a wide range of stakeholders on what needs to be done differently. Some governments and international organizations are already showing interest in using an endorsed CFS-A4A as a framework to review their policies and actions. The CFS-A4A aims to transform such interest into commitment and action by all stakeholders.

WHAT IS THE CFS-A4A?

The CFS-A4A aims to positively transform policies and actions for addressing food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted crises. It is a vehicle to galvanize political commitment, help mitigate political constraints and maximize synergies to achieve this objective.

To this end, the core negotiated text will present evidence-based ‘principles for action’ to guide the development, implementation and monitoring of comprehensive, rights-based policies and actions in order to: address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition; build resilient livelihoods and food systems; and meet immediate food needs through timely and appropriate responses. It will include a plan of action to ensure that the principles are used and have the desired impact.

In support, online appendices provide illustrative examples and case studies of how the principles can be turned into action, including national, regional and global initiatives, as well as guidelines and tools that have been implemented in a wide variety of protracted crisis contexts. These are complemented by a compendium of reference material and evidence underpinning the principles and a glossary of key terms. CFS stakeholders are encouraged to share their own examples in order to build a repository of effective policies, strategies, tools and lessons.

CFS-A4A BACKGROUND

2010

State of Food Insecurity in the World report flags need for an increased focus on food insecurity in protracted crises, published by FAO/WFP

2011

CFS 37 agrees to hold a High Level Expert Forum

2012

High Level Expert Forum on food insecurity in protracted crises

CFS 39 endorses work stream to elaborate an agenda for action

2013

CFS consultative process launched

Zero Draft CFS-A4A prepared



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OBJECTIVE, PURPOSE AND AUDIENCE

Objective: Contribute to food security and nutrition, through the progressive realization of the right to adequate food, of populations at risk of, and affected by, protracted crises.

Purpose: Provide policy guidance and a plan of action to mobilize high-level political commitment and multistakeholder processes to:

- Implement comprehensive, rights-based policies and actions which address the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition, build resilient livelihoods and food systems and meet immediate needs in protracted crisis situations.
- Review progress and share lessons learned in the CFS and regularly update the CFS-A4A, as appropriate.

Audience: All relevant stakeholders, including:

Affected communities. Governments, at all levels. Grassroots and community-based organizations. Intergovernmental and regional organizations. Civil society organizations. Research organizations. Universities. Extension organizations. Private companies. Foundations. Financial institutions.

TEN DRAFT PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION

The draft principles, subject to endorsement by CFS, call for concerted action in ten key areas:

1. Comply with international humanitarian and human rights obligations and CFS policy guidance.
2. Facilitate country-owned, multistakeholder processes to review, develop and implement policies and actions.
3. Support comprehensive situational and response analyses.
4. Inform resilience-focused policies and actions through comprehensive analyses.
5. Protect and promote access to and control over productive assets and natural resources by affected populations.
6. Integrate food security and nutrition solutions into peace-building, transitional justice and governance efforts.
7. Support institutional capacities and good governance at local and national levels.
8. Ensure multi-year, predictable and flexible funding mechanisms.
9. Integrate and share systematic and continuous learning.
10. Improve accountability to all stakeholders, including affected populations.

ONLINE RESOURCE PACKAGE

The principles are accompanied and supported by:

- Appendix A – Illustrative examples of how the principles can be turned into action
- Appendix B – Case studies
- Appendix C – Compendium of reference material and evidence
- Appendix D – Glossary of key terms

EXTENSIVE TECHNICAL WORK AND CONSULTATION

This is the final year of the CFS consultative process launched to develop and ensure broad ownership of the CFS-A4A, to be considered by CFS 41 in October. It brings together the knowledge, experience and vision of all CFS stakeholders, leading experts and practitioners to address food insecurity and malnutrition in protracted crises. 2014 offers further opportunities to engage and contribute.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Read, share and discuss the draft CFS-A4A and online resources, available at: www.fao.org/cfs/cfs-home/cfs-fipc/en/
- Keep the goal in sight: evidence-based policy guidance to help all stakeholders address food insecurity and malnutrition, backed by commitment and a clear plan to transform policies and actions.
- Encourage representatives from your government, organization, network or movement to participate in the remaining consultations, and make specific suggestions on how to improve the draft.



ENGAGE IN 2014

2014

5 March

CFS stakeholders to consider Zero Draft (Rome)

2014

24-25 April

Global Consultation to consider Zero Draft (Addis Ababa)

2014

12-23 May

e-Consultation to consider Zero Draft (www.fao.org/fsnforum)

2014

29 July-1 August

CFS stakeholders to negotiate Draft One (Rome)

2014

13-17 October

CFS-A4A to be presented to CFS 41 for endorsement (Rome)

THE FOLLOWING PARTNERS SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CFS-A4A:



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



IFAD
Enabling poor rural people
to overcome poverty



World Food
Programme



The EU/FAO Improved Global Governance
for Hunger Reduction Programme

