



Dear Members and Participants,

We would like to thank you for sharing your ideas and providing comments with regards to the Proposed Outline for the Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises (A for A).

This communication outlines the main findings and conclusions of the inaugural OEWG consultation held on Monday, 8 July, 2013, which focused on two key questions:

1. Is the overall proposed structure acceptable? Are there possible section or sub-sections missing or that need reworking?
2. Are there any gaps or omissions in what is proposed to be the eventual content (i.e., the content descriptions in bracketed text)?

In addition to highlighting the top line points coming out of our discussion, we offer a number of thoughts on next steps and the way forward.

1. In response to **Question 1**, there was consensus that the overall proposed structure provided in the Proposed Outline was acceptable. There was a recommendation that the A for A include a new Appendix C which would constitute an annotated compendium of, and reference guide to, key relevant policy and reference documents relating to food security in protracted crises. As part of its ongoing work, the Technical Support Team (TST) is already undertaking a literature review and this will inform the compilation of such an Appendix C. Although it is not expected that a literature review will be complete by the time of the next OEWG meeting, the TST will advance its work in order to have something available for initial consideration.

Furthermore, several members indicated that the inclusion of sub-headings within the current draft would have made the document easier to comprehend. This issue will be addressed in the next version of the document where further refinement is envisioned.

It was also noted that text boxes will be used for illustrative and explanatory purposes within the A for A, where appropriate.

2. In response to **Question 2**, various points relating to possible content were noted during the meeting. Clarification was sought on how monitoring and evaluation at both the national and global levels would be incorporated. It was understood that at the global level the monitoring of CFS products was subject to the outcome of deliberations in the separate CFS Monitoring OEWG, and that at the national level the development of context specific action plans would include a monitoring framework for use by the requesting reference country.

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Discussion once again reaffirmed members' and participants' desire that the A for A provide concrete policy guidance suitable for both the country and regional levels. This acknowledged the need to address cross border issues, and that interventions are sometimes required at the regional level.

A number of speakers reiterated the need to include within Part 1 a brief discussion of current policies in protracted crisis situations, as well as highlighting of gaps or weaknesses of those policies. Where new, or adapted, policy recommendations to advance practice are needed, they will be included, if possible.

Similarly, it was stated by some speakers that any policy recommendations should also reflect guidance to Governments and actors on how to use and adapt existing CFS endorsed policies (e.g. GSF and VGGT).

It was recognized that policy recommendations for specific situations may need to reflect context specificities, depending on the nature of the recommendation.

3. On the nature of the title of this CFS product, i.e. an "Agenda for Action", clarity was requested on the origin and rationale of the use of this term. Some members questioned whether usage of this title was still appropriate.
4. In addition to the Rome-based agencies, other UN bodies (e.g. OCHA, UNICEF) are already engaged, or being requested to be involved, in the dialogue on the elaboration of the A for A, thereby enriching the overall depth of available knowledge and lessons learned.
5. The A for A Secretariat confirmed that provision has been made within the existing budget to produce a summary booklet or leaflet on the A for A, as part of a wider communications strategy. This will be made available upon conclusion of this work stream in October 2014.
6. A number of members and participants made mention of the need to ensure that the A for A more explicitly captures issues surrounding nutrition, or perhaps more appropriately malnutrition, within the context of the broader food insecurity question. There is a standing request to consider amending the current title to read "Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity *and Malnutrition* in Protracted Crisis". It was noted that the HLEF had incorporated nutrition in its discussions, asserting that nutrition is a central part of any analysis and programming on food security, as well as resilience. The TST and CFS Secretariat will take this recommendation under advisement and will report at the next OEWG how best to ensure the appropriate inclusion of nutrition.
7. Concerning the inclusion of discussion of a zero draft version of the A for A at the 2014 FAO Regional Conferences, it is to be noted that the Agenda for Action is one of the CFS work streams proposed for inclusion on the agenda (which is yet to be confirmed by the organizers). However, it should be noted that if included, the item will be more informational in nature and for discussion rather than formal negotiation.
8. Additional clarification was sought on the linkage between the e-discussions and the elaboration on the A for A. Contributions to the e-discussions will potentially help inform all parts of the A for A. Depending on their nature and provenance, contributions may provide useful information on lessons learned and good practices, or could help inform the drafting of policy guidance, though the identification of gaps. The e-discussions will also help to build a Community of Practice around the Agenda for Action, hence participation should be as wide as possible.

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9. The development of plans of action/roadmaps for two or three interested protracted crisis situations is anticipated in the Proposed Outline. The identification of case-study/reference protracted crisis contexts will be on the basis of voluntary interest. The technical considerations of how specific protracted crisis situations represent different contexts will be discussed by the TST/SC on the basis of voluntary interest received. Ideally, a global consultation could take place in the first quarter of 2014 in one of the selected reference countries.

As to next steps, the CFS Secretariat proposes a further consultation be held after the October CFS. The CFS Secretariat will determine which dates are available.

The next OEWG meeting will review a more fleshed out Outline which takes into consideration comments made during the inaugural OEWG meeting, and with certain elements populated with draft language. It is hoped the TST will also be able to present potential names of reference countries/case studies for inclusion in Part II of the A for A. Following an October OEWG meeting the TST will move ahead with the preparation of the zero draft which we would expect would be ready for initial negotiation in the first quarter of the new year.