



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Fortieth Session

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UPDATE ON THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS TO DEVELOP AN AGENDA FOR ACTION FOR ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY IN PROTRACTED CRISES SITUATIONS

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The Committee:

- a) expresses satisfaction with the progress made to date in the elaboration of an Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises;
- b) appreciates the ongoing efforts in addressing the three immediate actions identified as priority areas of work supporting the development of an Agenda for Action;
- c) takes note of the update provided in document CFS 2013/40/7 and endorses the schedule proposed for the way forward as outlined in para 15.

I. BACKGROUND

1. At its 39th session the Committee, “...expressed satisfaction with the High Level Expert Forum on Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises (HLEF) and welcomed the report on the discussions and outcomes of the Forum as summarised in the document CFS 2012/39/7. In particular, the Committee:

- a) recognised the seriousness, particular characteristics and nature of food insecurity in protracted crises situations;
- b) noted the role of the Forum’s findings and recommendations in guiding further action to promote food security in protracted crises countries and contexts;
- c) re-iterated its support for a consultative process including all relevant stakeholders with a view to presenting for consideration by the CFS Plenary an “Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Security in Protracted Crises”, building as appropriate on the elements provided in para 28 of CFS 2012/39/7;
- d) requested the CFS Bureau in consultation with the Advisory Group and the Secretariat to oversee the process of arriving at an “Agenda for Action” as per the decisions of the 36th and 37th sessions of the Committee;
- e) called for immediate, purposeful and coherent action by all.”¹

2. A number of possible immediate actions to be considered by different stakeholders were identified in CFS 2012/39/7. As a result of consultation with the CFS Bureau and the Advisory Group the following immediate actions were prioritized:

- a) Exploring the mainstreaming of food security concerns into the G7+ New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States (the “New Deal”) and other agendas and plans of action, as appropriate;
- b) Creating a multi-stakeholder knowledge platform to share lessons learnt and analyses related to the topic;
- c) Promoting resilience at the core of selected responses to food insecurity in protracted crises.

3. The objective of this document is to provide a summary of activities carried out since October 2012, reporting both on progress made against the immediate actions noted above as well as the ongoing consultative process to elaborate an Action for Action. In addition, an updated schedule for activities following CFS 40 is proposed.

¹ CFS 2012/39 Final Report, para 24.

II. PROGRESS REPORT

4. A multi-stakeholder Steering Committee (SC) and a Technical Support Team (TST)² were constituted to support the preparation of the September 2012 HLEF. The SC and TST were both extended after the HLEF in order to support the Agenda for Action process, both in terms of its elaboration and in addressing immediate actions.
5. The SC's role is to guide the formulation of the Agenda for Action and the work of the TST. The TST provides subject matter expertise on aspects related to food insecurity in protracted crisis situations and supports the drafting process.

A. Immediate Actions

6. Exploring the mainstreaming of food security concerns into the New Deal:
 - a) The New Deal is a key agreement between fragile states and partners to change the policy and practice of engagement. Food security concerns are reflected in the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goal on Economic Foundations (PSG 4), which aims to generate employment and improve livelihoods;
 - b) Since the end of 2012 the TST has actively engaged with the International Dialogue Working Group developing indicators for the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals. A number of proposals and recommendations for food security related indicators under PSG 4 have been submitted for consideration. In March 2013 a draft list contained one food security related indicator - "percent change in food prices over last three months". The Working Group on indicators was requested to consider an alternative - "percent of household budget on food" – as a more suitable single food security indicator under PSG 4;
 - c) There is clear commitment by New Deal partners to use indicators to track progress at the global and country levels, including through the conduct of regular fragility assessments and to monitor New Deal implementation. A good entry point to promote food security concerns to be taken into consideration is at the country level, particularly in those New Deal pilot countries undertaking fragility assessments. With the support of the Rome Based Agencies, Country Offices have been encouraged to engage with national New Deal focal points and the UN Resident Coordinator in order to demonstrate readiness to provide support to nationally-led New Deal processes, particularly under PSG 4;
 - d) TST representatives also participated in various International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF) Reform and Implementation Task Team meetings, as well as the New Deal Implementation Working Group meeting held in May 2013 in Dubai to raise awareness of the Agenda for Action and promote food security concerns.
7. Creation of a multi-stakeholder knowledge platform:
 - a) A specifically designed platform for the Agenda for Action was developed between January and March 2013, hosted by the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum).³ Four key e-discussion topics relevant to the Agenda for Action were agreed by the TST in April 2013;
 - b) Between April and July 2013 two topic specific e-discussions were hosted and facilitated by the FSN Forum team:

²The SC and TST currently include members drawn from the CFS Secretariat, Civil Society Mechanism, High Level Task Force on Global Food Security, Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Rome Based Agencies, UN Peacebuilding Support Office and the World Bank.

³<http://www.fao.org/fsnforum/protracted-crises/>.

- i) The first e-discussion covered adequate and appropriate funding mechanisms in protracted crises, facilitated by Dan Maxwell (Feinstein International Centre). Contributors noted that practitioners have good ideas about what needs to be done, that there is potential for improving linkages between humanitarian and development practitioners, local authorities, the private sector and crisis-affected or at-risk communities. However, given that this kind of investment is largely financed by the public sector, a crucial missing element has frequently been political commitment to ensure such linkages are encouraged, and that resourcing reflects what is known and proposed by practitioners in the field;
- ii) The second e-discussion was on lessons-learned from resilience-focused programming, and how this can contribute to improving food security in protracted crises, facilitated by Malcolm Ridout (DFID). Suggestions for future policy action which emerged include: (i) putting long-term programmes in place that can adapt to circumstance, switching to humanitarian support when required. This implies addressing the administrative divide between humanitarian and development budgets; (ii) investing in a better understanding and measurement of resilience, including the scale of responses required to be effective, to provide reasonable assurance over the value of investments made; (iii) greater investment in local government and community decision-making may help ensure programmes remain informed and responsive, to scale up in response to shocks and adapt to circumstances.
- c) Two further e-discussions will be concluded between September and November 2013⁴;
- d) As well as identifying and distilling approaches, lessons learnt and concrete experiences to inform the development of an Agenda for Action, the e-discussions will also help to build a Community of Practice around the process. Wide and open participation by all stakeholders has been actively encouraged;
- e) A complementary information and knowledge sharing online portal is envisaged on www.foodsec.org, to be developed before the end of 2013.

8. Promoting resilience at the core of selected responses:

- a) Building resilience in protracted crisis situations is a key approach to addressing food insecurity. The shaping of policy guidance will be informed by both the concept and experiences of resilience focused programming;
- b) A major milestone in understanding resilience and being able to address it at any significant scale will be the ability to measure resilience outcomes at the household, community and national levels. Empirical evidence is required to illustrate what factors consistently contribute to resilience, to what types of shocks and in what contexts;
- c) An expert consultation on resilience measurement was convened by FAO and WFP in February 2013. A resilience measurement technical working group continues to work on this topic.⁵ This work is expected to result in a primer on resilience measurement; a common analytical framework for resilience measurement; technical guidelines for resilience measurement; a common set of core indicators to measure food security resilience; peer reviewed case studies on resilience measurement; and a review of resiliency measurement training materials and their adaptation to different contexts;
- d) The Food Security Information Network (FSIN), launched in October 2012, is an umbrella mechanism under which to facilitate work on resilience measurement. A joint initiative by FAO, WFP and IFPRI, the FSIN is a global community of practice aimed at improving the availability of information on food security in developing countries;

⁴ Two further e-discussions will be held on, (i) the role of rights-based approaches to food insecurity in protracted crises, and (ii) the experiences of incorporating food security and related analytical tools into policy processes and analytical frameworks such as peace-building and state fragility assessments.

⁵ This technical working group includes representatives from IFPRI, USAID, CILSS, Tulane University, TANGO International, Cornell University, University of Florence, UNICEF, IGAD, FAO, and WFP.

- e) In several countries (Ethiopia, Kenya, Occupied Palestinian Territories) country-based resilience analyses have been applied. In June 2013 a resilience analysis was completed in South Sudan, and preliminary findings of a resilience analysis in Niger were presented at technical workshop in July 2013. Additional resilience analyses will be undertaken in Burkina Faso and the Occupied Palestinian Territories in the coming months;
- f) Impact Evaluations (IE) use the output from resilience analyses, a country's "resilience index", as an indicator of project impact. IEs are ongoing in Somalia and South Sudan. In the former the IE covers the joint FAO, WFP and UNICEF country-wide initiative "building resilience in Somalia";
- g) The Agenda for Action TST will compile lessons learned and recommendations for policy from the e-discussion and on resilience-based programming, and other feedback within the Community of Practice on food insecurity in protracted crises;
- h) Under the Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction Programme⁶ a "Resilience in Food Security Analysis" e-learning course has been developed, introducing the concept of resilience and its possible use in food security analysis.

B. Process to Elaborate an Agenda for Action

9. An inclusive consultative process was launched in April 2013 with the establishment by the Bureau of a multi-stakeholder Open Ended Working Group on the Agenda for Action ('A for A OEWG'), under the leadership of Kenya and USA as Co-Chairs.
10. Informal meetings between the OEWG Co-Chairs and CFS stakeholders were held in May 2013. The first OEWG meeting took place in July 2013, the major outcome of which was the endorsement of a Proposed Outline of the Agenda for Action, including its structure and description of expected content. The development of plans of action or roadmaps for two or three protracted crisis situations is anticipated in the Proposed Outline, and the identification of reference protracted crisis contexts will be on the basis of voluntary interest.
11. The SC and TST provided continued support and guidance to the process by carrying out a number of activities:
- a) Preliminary review of existing international initiatives and policy guidance with relevance to food insecurity in protracted crises with the purpose of avoiding duplication and identifying gaps (April 2013-ongoing);
 - b) Preparation of background material for informal consultations (April-May 2013);
 - c) Preparation of a Proposed Outline of the Agenda for Action for review by the OEWG in July 2013 (May-June 2013).
12. In addition to the electronic discussions on key topics, a joint side event with the Global Forum for Agricultural Research (GFAR) and the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) was held at the African Agricultural Science Week in Accra, July 2013 to explore synergies with other on-going processes.
13. Additional information sharing and outreach activities are planned over the coming months. These will build on opportunities, as appropriate, afforded by other fora such as the FAO Regional Conferences, the CAADP Partnership Platform, the African Union's designation of 2014 as the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, and other regional and international processes.
14. Adequate funding under the Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction Programme is available for the consultative process as proposed in Section III below.

⁶ The joint FAO/EC funded [Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction Programme \(GCP/INT/130/EC\)](#) seeks to improve the way in which the global community works together to eradicate hunger and malnutrition. It is implemented by FAO in collaboration with IFAD and WFP, and ends in December 2015.

III. WAY FORWARD

15. Based on the outcomes of the OEWG meeting in July a revised schedule is proposed:

Task	Timeframe
OEWG discuss Annotated Outline	25 October 2013
Additional electronic discussions on FSN Forum (<i>on key topics related to immediate actions</i>)	Sep-Nov 2013
Preparation of Zero Draft	Oct 2013 - Jan 2014
OEWG discuss Zero Draft	Feb 2014
Global consultation (<i>possibly in a relevant region</i>)	Mar/Apr 2014
Special events at FAO Regional Conferences ⁷	Feb-May 2014
Preparation of Draft One	Apr-May 2014
OEWG preliminary discussion on Draft One	End May 2014
OEWG negotiate Draft One (<i>outcome is the Final Version</i>)	Jun/Jul 2014
Agenda for Action is endorsed at CFS 41 Plenary	October 2014

⁷ Pending approval by FAO Regional Conference organizers.