



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY
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MAPPING FOOD SECURITY ACTIONS AT COUNTRY LEVEL

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The Committee is invited to:

- Endorse the proposed development and implementation plan contained in this document
- Encourage interested stakeholders to participate in the further development of the initiative at country level
- Request the Secretariat to continue facilitating, with the support of stakeholders in the CFS Advisory Group, the development and implementation plan contained in this document as one of the core activities of the CFS 2010/11 work programme with a view to providing an update of the process, including experiences from countries, at the CFS session in 2011.
- Recommend that 4 to 6 national governments present the results of mapping at the CFS session in 2011 and inform discussions on national actions and investments, lessons learnt, good practice and the benefits thereof, and the need for international assistance.

I. WHY IS A TOOL TO MAP FOOD SECURITY ACTIONS NEEDED?

Five Rome Principles for

Sustainable Global Food Security

Principle 1: Invest in country-owned plans, aimed at channeling resources to well-designed and results-based programmes and partnerships.

Principle 2: Foster strategic coordination at national, regional and global level.

Principle 3: Strive for a comprehensive twin-track approach to food security.

Principle 4: Ensure a strong role for the multilateral system.

Principle 5: Ensure sustained and substantial commitment by all partners to investment in agriculture, food security and nutrition.

1. A tool to map food security actions at country level is needed to provide national governments and other users with an improved capacity to make better-informed decisions about how best to design national and regional policies, strategies and programmes and to allocate resources to achieve food security and nutrition objectives. It should be simple, practical and user-friendly. It should enable both national governments and their development partners to better understand how current resources are being used and where the greatest needs are for further support.

2. The need arises from the fact that systematic and comprehensive information covering the full range of food security and nutrition-related actions under the four dimensions of food security - availability, access, utilization and stability - is essential to ensure effective and efficient resource allocation. A mapping tool is also useful to promote coordination and avoid duplication and gaps when developing and implementing food security and

nutrition policies and programmes that involve a number of different sectors and actors with different political agendas.

3. The need has been expressed by many stakeholders and in various venues. It emerged following adoption of the World Food Summit and Millennium Development Goal targets for halving hunger by 2015. Requests from national governments for comprehensive information to help support strategic planning and resource allocation have been explicitly expressed through

CFS in 2007 and 2008¹. Since the World Summit on Food Security in 2009 and the adoption of the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security (see box), a number of countries have committed themselves to prepare or update national investment plans aimed at channelling resources to well-designed and results-based programmes and partnerships (Rome Principle 1). These countries have a particularly urgent need for such information.

4. This document outlines a process to develop and implement a tool that responds to this expressed need. It is presented here for consideration by CFS in support of one of the roles of the reformed Committee, namely: *at country and/or region request, facilitate, support and/or advise in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their nationally and regionally owned plans of action for the elimination of hunger.*²

II. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE MAPPING OF FOOD SECURITY ACTIONS?

5. In this document the term mapping refers to:

- i. profiling actions, where actions include policies, plans, strategies, programmes, and projects that support food security and nutrition objectives
- ii. the charting of linkages of these actions to resource flows, both donor and domestic, implementing institutions and benefiting locations and populations.

6. Mapping actions at country level is distinct from, but interrelated with, the tracking of international financial and other resource flows, from donor to recipient countries. The mapping tool would map all types and sources (domestic and international) of investment in country level food security actions.

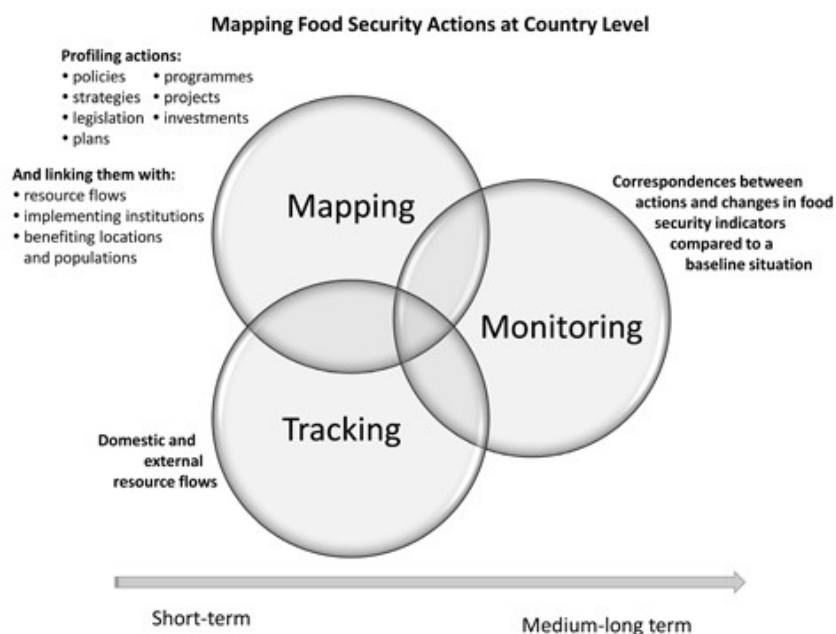
7. Mapping information would complement and be used in tandem with information provided by other systems/tools, such as the OECD/DAC³ creditor reporting system (CRS) and data base, which tracks donor resource flows to countries, and the related development finance database available from AidData.org,⁴ which provides a registry for all actions financed by OECD donors and reported to the DAC CRS. Monitoring requires more time to establish the baseline data against which results obtained from actions and investments can be assessed and causal relationships established. It would therefore not be a function of the mapping tool, though information generated by the mapping could eventually feed monitoring processes. The way in which these complementary functions relate to each other can be illustrated in the figure below.

¹ See CL 132/10 (para. 14-21) and CL 136/10 (para. 12-13).

² FAO. October 2009. *Reform of the Committee on World Food Security Final Version*. CFS: 2009/2/Rev2, para. 5.

³ OECD Development Assistance Committee. *OECD-CRS online database*. Available online at: www.oecd.org/dataoecd/20/29/31753872.htm

⁴ AidData: A PLAID – Development Gateway Initiative. Description available online at: <http://www.developmentgateway.org/?id=406>



III. WHO WOULD BE THE PRIMARY USERS OF A MAPPING TOOL?

8. The primary users would be interested national governments seeking information to support government decision-making regarding food security and nutrition policies and programmes. Other users at country level would include non-governmental national institutions, multi-stakeholder bodies, representatives of civil society, private sector organisations and development partners that participate in country-led planning and implementation processes and advocate for appropriate and adequate investment in food security and nutrition.

9. Information regarding food security actions at country level is a key input to the global policy dialogue; to draw lessons from best practices, promote exchange of experiences between countries, and mobilize adequate and appropriate support to countries for improved food security and nutrition interventions. At the international level, users would include both formally-constituted inter-governmental bodies such as the CFS, and other multilateral partners and civil society organizations involved in promoting efforts to reduce hunger and malnutrition and promoting food and nutrition security for all.

IV. WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL USES OF A MAPPING TOOL?

10. Information to be assembled should:

- identify food security and nutrition policies and programmes more effectively
- ensure programmes are better integrated with each other and aligned with on-going national and local food security and nutrition priorities
- be linked to monitoring and evaluating actions designed to combat hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity
- facilitate the exchange of information with regional bodies and the CFS Plenary about successes as well as remaining challenges and needs with a view to obtaining guidance and assistance.

11. The use of a mapping tool is best illustrated by the nature of the information it would provide to decision-makers, helping them to identify gaps and redundancies in actions taken to

implement national food security policies and strategies and to take corrective action if needed. The information is likely to concern topics and questions such as the following:

- Policy context e.g. What food security-related policies, strategies, and plans are currently in place?
- Types of programme and project activities under implementation e.g., What kinds of actions are being implemented and in which sectors?
- Geographical areas of intervention e.g. In which localities are the actions being implemented?
- Linkages of actions to national strategies e.g. How do the actions under implementation contribute to the four domains of food security (availability, access, stabilization, and utilization), and how do they link to strategic policy objectives at national level?
- Stakeholder involvement e.g. Who is funding the actions (including external and domestic sources) and who is implementing them?
- Budget implications and allocations e.g. What are the commitments, actual disbursements and financing gaps; what share of the committed funds is meeting immediate emergency needs compared to the share allocated for developmental investment?
- Support requirements, e.g. What types and how much international assistance is required to complement national actions and investments?

V. WHAT INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE NEEDED TO USE A MAPPING TOOL AT COUNTRY LEVEL?

12. In order to ensure that institutional arrangements for using the tool are country-led and support national decision-making for development, implementation should rest with existing coordination mechanisms and institutional structures. In line with the approach agreed in the CFS reform document (CFS:2009/2 Rev. 2), implementation of the mapping tool should rely on “multidisciplinary national mechanisms... including all key stakeholders dedicated to advance food security at national and local levels... (which) ... enable more effective identification and implementation of food security and nutrition policies and programmes.” Examples of existing institutions and multi-stakeholder bodies that could be expected to participate include: national food and nutrition security coordination units, national alliances against hunger, food security theme groups and CSO/NGO networks.

13. While institutional arrangements would be established on a country-specific basis, the institution responsible for mapping would normally:

- Determine country-specific information requirements
- Authorise the provision of data and information
- Designate a national focal point, technical director to supervise the day-to-day data entry and quality control processes, respond to specific queries and oversee the production of customised reports.

The designated national focal point would normally:

- Designate authorized data providers
- Establish and supervise a quality control mechanism
- Coordinate and supervise a technical working group to assist in implementing the tool.

VI. EXISTING TOOLS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

14. The design and core database of the mapping tool would, where possible, make maximum use of relevant ongoing initiatives and data sources. Some countries already have information systems that can supply most of the information required. Furthermore, there are a large number of global information systems that gather and disseminate various kinds of food security related data and information. However, a brief review of those of most interest to this initiative shows that few are directly relevant for mapping food security actions. Nevertheless, all relevant existing tools and information systems will be further reviewed during the development of the mapping tool to ensure optimum use of acquired knowledge and to avoid duplication.

15. FAO is currently developing a Food Security Activities Tracking and Management Information System (FS-ATMIS) which has a number of features that could be useful for a mapping tool. FS-ATMIS is a user-friendly web platform for sharing information about food security actions under implementation or planned at national and regional levels. The design concept for the web platform is modular, with a structure that is very flexible and allows for easy adaptation to different users' needs. FS-ATMIS aggregates information about resource flows and other programme/project information, thus enabling the user to obtain results pertaining to distribution of actions and resource flows and compare across sectors, resource provider and beneficiaries.

16. Several countries have already expressed interest in the tool being developed by FAO to map food security actions (FS ATMIS) as a decision-support tool for governments and their development partners. During the month of September 2010, this tool will be rolled out for testing in three countries (Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone). Subject to interest and available funding, arrangements could be made to include a limited number of other interested countries in the tests and consultations following CFS. During this process, the extent to which FS-ATMIS could contribute to developing the type of mapping tool envisaged in this document would be examined closely.

VII. PROPOSED PROCESS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A MAPPING TOOL

17. Guiding principles for development and implementation of a mapping tool include that such a process should be country-driven, build on existing institutional structures and add value to existing national food security information. Engagement by national stakeholders at an early stage is essential. Support from global level would also be required to refine the design concepts and proposed institutional arrangements and provide technical support to countries choosing to develop and implement the tool. Such assistance could be facilitated by the CFS Secretariat under the guidance of the CFS Bureau and Advisory Group, with support from a larger network of interested partners at both global and national levels.

18. A step-wise approach is proposed to ensure:

- i. we 'learn by studying' existing tools/methods that can contribute to design and development of a mapping tool for food security actions
- ii. we 'learn by doing' from those countries who are already involved in mapping food security actions
- iii. we bring these two together in such a way so as to present an integrated proposal for CFS to consider.

The proposed step-wise approach would include:

- Review existing mapping tools to draw lessons and identify information gaps

- Take advantage of on-going developmental activities
 - Incorporate lessons from existing national systems that have developed systems and tools that are relevant to mapping food security actions
 - Hold a consultative workshop based on the above outcomes to:
 - i. discuss a document reviewing existing tools/systems, including with representatives of those systems
 - ii. review the outcome of the test phase for the FS-ATMIS tool, based on initial feedback from representatives of participating countries
 - iii. engage a broad base of stakeholders in the planning process for developing and implementing the mapping tool
 - iv. lead to full country participation in the development and ownership of the mapping tool.
 - v. recommend a way forward.
19. A tentative work plan for 2010-2011 could include the following activities:
- Establish a Task Team on Mapping Food Security Actions at Country Level to advise and provide guidance regarding the development and implementation of the mapping tool
 - Convene a multi-stakeholder workshop to review relevant existing information systems and mapping tools at both global and national levels, and to advise how to develop a tool to map food security actions at country level, as outlined above
 - Resolve technical design issues and recommend the various output formats to be generated by the tool
 - Provide support to requesting countries to explore stakeholder interest in the proposed mapping tool and to establish institutional arrangements for its trial implementation
 - Prepare a report on results achieved to be presented during the CFS session in 2011, together with selected reports from countries that have begun implementing the tool.
20. Estimated cost to implement this work plan outlined in para 19, would be approximately \$200,000, and would cover the costs of consultants, organizing workshops, travel costs for participants and technical support to countries participating in initial test activities.