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Food and Agriculture
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DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION FOR FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN PROTRACTED CRISES

WORKING WITH THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY (CFS) TO DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR POLICIES AND ACTIONS AIMED AT IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION IN PROTRACTED CRISES SITUATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Eliminating hunger and undernutrition in protracted crisis situations requires special attention as responses differ from those in short-term crises or non-crisis development contexts. In order to address critical manifestations and build resilient livelihoods and food systems, the challenge is to simultaneously draw on humanitarian and development experiences and resources.

Each protracted crisis is different, but some combination of conflict, natural disasters and natural resource pressures, and weak governance are the most prevalent underlying causes of food insecurity and undernutrition. Their impact may cut across borders or be limited to a specific geographic area. While there is no internationally agreed definition for protracted crises, critical manifestations include:

- * disruption of livelihoods and food systems;
- * increased displacement of people;
- * widespread and severe food insecurity and undernutrition, resulting in stunting, wasting, underweight and micronutrient deficiencies; and
- * increasing rates of morbidity and mortality.

“Within the CFS you make decisions on policies and concrete actions that can make a major difference towards food security, nutrition and a sustainable future for all”

*Ban Ki Moon,
UN Secretary General*

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

Recognizing the severity of food insecurity and undernutrition in protracted crises, in 2012 the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) launched an inclusive multi-stakeholder consultative process to develop a policy framework. In the process of being finalized, the CFS Framework for Action

for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises (CFS-FFA) outlines principles to guide stakeholders in how to improve food security and nutrition outcomes, through:

- * meeting immediate food security and nutrition needs and building resilient livelihoods;
- * adapting to specific challenges that are magnified in protracted crises; and
- * contributing to resolving the underlying causes of food insecurity and undernutrition in protracted crises.

Principles being discussed cover topics including the specific needs of vulnerable groups, building resilience, effective financing, access and protection to affected populations, links to local peace processes, institutional support, and managing risk.

INNOVATION AND RESULTS

Though voluntary and non-binding, an endorsed FFA will provide political recognition and consensus among a wide range of stakeholders on how to address food insecurity and undernutrition in protracted crises. The importance of inclusiveness in decision-making is at the core of the CFS - a unique example within the UN system of a global multi-stakeholder platform fostering dialogue, joint ownership and shared responsibility.

Some governments and international organizations are already showing interest in using an endorsed CFS-FFA as a framework for reviewing their policies and actions. The CFS-FFA aims at harnessing this interest by:

- * mobilizing high-level political commitment; and
- * sharing lessons learned on preventing, mitigating, and responding to food insecurity and undernutrition in protracted crisis.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE WITH THE EU

Thanks to funding from the European Union (EU) and other donors, the CFS is producing an inclusive, evidence-based policy framework which constitutes a global public good. Related activities funded by the EU-FAO Improved Global Governance for Hunger Reduction include:

- * support for a High Level Expert Forum hosted in Rome;
- * multi-stakeholder consultations and negotiations; and
- * e-discussions on critical topics on the Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum: www.fao.org/fsnforum

Global negotiation on the first draft of the CFS-FFA concluded in Rome on 1 August 2014. A second round of negotiations takes place in May 2015. FAO will use the CFS-FFA as a policy framework to inform its work in protracted crisis situations.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

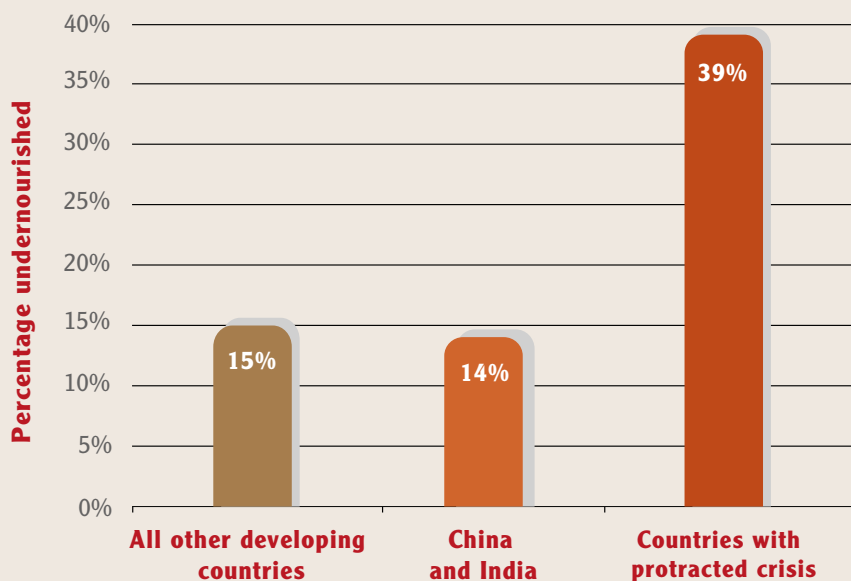
Once the CFS-FFA has been endorsed by the CFS, an implementation programme will be put in place by FAO, IFAD, WFP and other partners to support stakeholders in their own efforts to improve food security and nutrition in protracted crises.

“In protracted crises, humanitarian response must be accompanied by longer term policies, actions and investments to address their underlying causes, support local capacities and priorities and build resilient livelihoods and food systems”

*Elisabeth Kvitashvili,
Co-Chair CFS-FFA*

UNDERNOURISHMENT IN PROTRACTED CRISES

The proportion of undernourished people is about three times as high in countries with protracted crisis situations as in other developing countries.



Note: Estimates are based on the SOFI 2010 methodology and on country data for 2005-2012. Source: FAO

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