



Food Security Urban & Non-Agricultural Livelihoods Working Group Face-to-face Meeting 23 October 2012 Draft Report

The purpose of the face-to-face meeting was to review the work of group throughout 2012 and to identify / reaffirm priority areas for 2013 and further develop the work plan as appropriate.

The main objectives of the meeting were to:

- Assess the progress of the Working Group thus far and define key practical activities to be implemented in the coming year.
- Update colleagues on the progress of the mapping of partner urban activities and develop a collaboration mechanism between partner agencies to work together on an urban project with concrete deliverables.
- Discuss the best modalities for Urban & Non-Agricultural Livelihoods issues to be addressed – i.e. online forum, teleconferences and/or other.
- Agree on a work methodology for the coming months, timeframes and focal points for target outputs.

The meeting began with an introduction and welcome to the new members of the group and was then followed by Allister Clewlow's brief overview of the progress of the Working Group to date.

The group regularly conducts monthly teleconferences geared at enhancing the work of the global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) in a meaningful way. The content of the teleconferences however, needs to be improved so as to ensure that significant discussions are taking place that also have resonance with the urban and peri-urban work conducted at national level.

To date, the Working Group has also conducted a mapping exercise highlighting the urban and non-agricultural work conducted by our partners in key geographical areas. This is a work in progress that still needs to be completed and presented online.

Modalities for Discussion

It was argued that monthly teleconferences may not be the best way to discuss urban and non-agricultural livelihood issues. This is because the level of participation has significantly diminished in the past months and there have often been connection problems. Perhaps an online discussion forum may be the best way to proceed. It was pointed out, however that the "Food for Cities" online forum already exists and there is no need for duplication of efforts.

Another idea mentioned was the development of an Urban & Non-Agricultural Working Group web-page on the gFSC website that will provide a platform for document sharing and discussion of key issues that are also of importance to national systems. The machinery on urban vulnerability already exists (ALNAP) and it is not the role of the group to conduct full-time research on the topic. Nevertheless, the group could review major urban initiatives and conferences and further enhance the food security discussion. In addition, the

website could filter and analyse the most relevant information in hot-spot countries and collect information on food security urban assessments and response plans.

The group will continue being as inclusive as possible in its activities and welcomes the participation of NGOs, UN and other international organizations in any and all discussions. In particular, the chair stressed the importance of partnership in key decision-making activities and asserted that the WFP-NGO Partner Consultation Meeting in Rome, could be a good platform for enhancing urban and food security discussions.

In terms of other discussion modalities, it was suggested that the overall group split-into two-to-three focus or interest groups with the task of addressing different key issues such as: animal livelihood development, cash and vouchers, and programming in urban and peri-urban settings. Information could then be shared via a d-group e-mail list and teleconferences via “Webex” would only be scheduled every three months to discuss ways of executing concrete deliverables.

Mapping Exercise

There was general consensus that the Mapping Exercise is a very useful tool for determining who does what at both global and national level. The aim for 2013 is to develop a global interactive map to be placed on the gFSC Urban & Non-Agricultural Working Group web-page. The mapping could then be used as a gap analysis tool, an advocacy tool or even as a starting point to capture the best practices in each sector. The mapping will be updated on a yearly basis by the Working Group Chair, who will encourage participation and feedback from both global and national-level partners.

Guidelines

Participants agreed to develop material guidelines for urban food security assessments to ensure suitable and timely interventions during humanitarian crises. Concrete guidelines will also be created for data collection and assessment methodologies in urban settings. These guidelines will serve as standardized tools that will better assist programmers at field level in handling the emergency response.

As a second step, a lesson learned and good practices exercise will be conducted by partners to better understand key successes and challenges in the coordination of the urban food security response plan. These reports will also be posted on our website and disseminated to all partners.

Strategy Development

The meeting addressed the issue that to-date, there is no clear framework or strategy for dealing with crises in urban settings and country offices are usually left to their own devices on this front. It is therefore essential that a concerted effort be made to address strategy gaps regarding the scaling-up of national capacity and urban-specific programming.

A survey monkey will be developed, addressing issues pertaining to: technical support, capacity building, and analysis & assessments. Results acquired from the questionnaire, will assist the group in formulating a strategy that counters urban poverty issues while providing opportunities for youth and income generation.

Action Points

1. Development of new discussion modalities, i.e. d-group and gFSC website
2. Finalization and systematic updating of Mapping Exercise
3. Development of key guidelines and lessons learned on urban food security programmes
4. Strategy Development for 2013 containing concrete deliverables in Work Plan



FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER
Strengthening Humanitarian Response

Annex 1

Agenda

Urban & Non-Agricultural Livelihoods Working Group 10:00-13:00

Opening remarks and welcome

Introduction of the meeting participants

Overview from the chair as to group progress to date

Update on the mapping of partner urban activities and development of a collaboration mechanism between partner agencies to work together on an urban project with concrete deliverables.

Discussion on the best modalities for Urban & Non-Agricultural Livelihoods issues to be addressed – i.e. online forum, teleconferences and/or other.

Agree on a work methodology for the coming months, timeframes and focal points for target outputs and be ready to report these back to plenary.

Annex 2

List of participants

Agency	Surname:	First Name:	Email:
1. ACF	Morel	Julien	jmorel@actioncontrelafaim.org
2. DFID UK	Hart	Kate	K-Hart@dfid.gov.uk
3. FAO	Egal	Florence	Florence.egal@fao.org
4. gFSC	Aelion	George	George.aelion@wfp.org
5. gFSC	Bonsignore	Vanessa	Vanessavita.bonsignore@wfp.org
6. IFRC	Motsiri	Hilary	hilary.motsiri@ifrc.org
7. IFRC	Bonvin	Nathalie	nathalie.bonvin@ifrc.org
8. IMC	Abla	Caroline	cabla@InternationalMedicalCorps.org
9. Nutrition Cluster	Ippe	Josephine	jippe@unicef.org
10. Rescue UK	Kimmins	Frances	Frances.Kimmins@rescue-uk.org
11. UNICEF	Ippe	Josephine	jippe@unicef.org
12. WVI	Brown	Douglas	Douglas_Brown@wvi.org