



REPORT

global Food Security Cluster Global Meeting of Partners
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Chemin des Crêts, 17, Petit-Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland
17-18 April 2012

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Executive Summary

The second global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) meeting of partners was held from 17 to 18 April 2012 at the International Confederation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting brought together approximately 50 participants representing 27 partner agencies, observers and concerned agencies. The meeting reviewed the global Food Security Cluster operations in 2011 and determined priority focus areas for 2012 which reflect the aim of providing and improving support to food security response at country level.

The meeting coincided with the first anniversary of the global Food Security Cluster that came into operation in April 2010. The considerable achievements of the gFSC throughout the first year - linked to the five strategic pillars - were highlighted. On-going challenges were identified with specific actions proposed to meet those challenges.

Reports were received and next steps agreed for the working groups established by the Cluster: the Working Group on Urban and Non-Agricultural Based Livelihoods (after detailed analysis, this was changed to the Working Group on Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings); the Inter-cluster Nutrition and Food Security Working Group; the Assessment Working Group- with a newly established sub-component focussing on market analysis and drawing from existing assessment tools; the Working Group on Advocacy which provides technical direction to the gFSC on key areas of advocacy in humanitarian food security responses.

Representatives at the meeting considered current IASC initiatives of the Transformative Agenda and Accountability to Affected Populations in relation to the role and actions of the gFSC at global and country level. The meeting included a technical focus and addressed issues, such as mainstreaming gender into Food Security, ensuring better inter-cluster coordination at global and national level and how best to implement a Level 3 Emergency Roster.

As all of the gFSC partners are involved in more than one cluster at both the global and country levels, panel discussions were held to consider the importance of - and identified gaps in - inter-cluster coordination at both the Global and country levels. Global Coordinators and representatives from the Food Security, Health, WASH clusters and OCHA analysed joint cluster actions at the global level to increase the effectiveness of the food security humanitarian response at country level during sudden onset and protracted crises. Four gFSC NGO implementing agencies considered how agency involvement in several global clusters and country clusters could affect the food security response at the country level. The meeting stressed importance of strong inter-cluster coordination and collaboration.

Overall, the meeting built a common understanding of global cluster issues and challenges and provided direction to the Global Support Team on priority areas for the remainder of 2012. It is essential that the Food Security Clusters at global, national and sub-national level remain conducive to continued partner involvement in leadership and development of tools and guidance, training, capacity building, information management and advocacy. Partners re-affirmed the existence and structure of the cluster and agreed future action plans and desired outcomes.

The meeting was officially opened by Mohammed Mukhier, Head of the Community Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction Department, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Welcoming remarks were given by Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Liaison Office in Geneva and David Kaatrud, Director of Emergencies, World Food Programme (WFP), Rome.

The meeting was chaired by Rosie Jackson from Save the Children and Meagan McGlinchy from Catholic Relief Services.

Tuesday 17 April 2012

Opening remarks and welcome

Background document: Annex 1: Global Food security Cluster Meeting Agenda

The meeting was opened by Mohammed Mukhier, Head of the Community Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction Department, IFRC. Welcoming remarks were given by Abdessalam Ould Ahmed, Director of the FAO Liaison Office in Geneva and David Kaatrud, Director of Emergencies, World Food Programme.

Mohammed Mukhier, Head of the Community Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction Department, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The IFRC affirmed its eagerness to continue working with the global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) and fully endorsed the values, mission and vision of the cluster and reiterated their commitment to bringing emergency relief to victims of poverty and disasters. Mr Mukhier showed participants a short video clip about working together in partnership and strengthening inter-cluster collaboration to better coordinate responses to crisis situations worldwide. The IFRC aims to respond to disasters as rapidly and effectively as possible, by mobilizing its resources (people, money and other assets) and using its network in a coordinated manner so that the initial effects are countered and the needs of affected communities are met.

AbdessalamOuld Ahmed, Director of the FAO Liaison Office in Geneva FAO Geneva Liaison Office

The importance of continued commitment of the principles of partnership, enhanced country-cluster co-management and quality technical guidance and trainings were highlighted in order to support country level response to crises and to meet the goals of the Transformative Agenda. The gFSC should develop a response analysis system that focusses on the needs of individual communities including gender and Accountability to Affected Populations issues.

David Kaatrud, Director of Emergencies, World Food Programme

A message from the new WFP Executive Director was conveyed to partners reiterating the commitment of WFP as lead agency to the vision, principles and work of the gFSC.

Emerging areas of concern in the food security humanitarian response is the need to ensure appropriate agricultural recovery through interventions such as cash and voucher systems. Strong structures for information management are key to support response. Special attention should be given to the aims of the Transformative Agenda, to ensure greater predictability and appropriateness of humanitarian analysis and response. Renewed focus on the importance of being accountable to the affected populations is a core element of the roles of all cluster members and of the work of the gFSC.

Report-Back: global Food Security Cluster Support Team

Background documents: Annex 2:gFSC Terms of Reference; Annex 3: gFSC Achievements October 2011- April 2012 Presentation

Key Issues

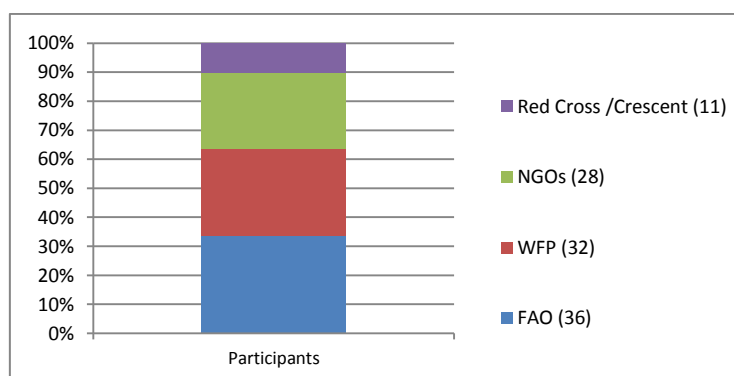
This session was presented by the gFSC Global Coordinator, Graham Farmer, who illustrated the Cluster’s achievements from 2011 to 2012 as per the five pillars of the mandate: surge support, capacity development, tools and guidance, information management and advocacy. A thorough and positive picture was presented of the achievements of the gFSC including details of the significant NGO participation in all activities of the cluster.

Surge support, capacity development

The gFSC provided value-added surge and capacity development support services to national clusters. The following support missions were highlighted:

YEAR	Scoping Missions	Capacity Dev. Support	Surge Support
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Libya •Somalia •Djibouti •Ethiopia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bangkok •Afghanistan •Somalia •Senegal •Haiti •Bangladesh •Panama •Nepal •South Sudan •Sudan •Ivory Coast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Libya •Pakistan •Kenya
2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •El Salvador or •Niger 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mali •Colombia (+scoping) •Burkina Faso •East Timor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Bangladesh •South Sudan

As part of capacity development, the gFSC conducted trainings in Rome, Nairobi, Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur and Bamako. These country-based trainings provided technical support to cluster and government counterparts. Seventy-five Coordinators and 33 Information Managers have been trained to date by the gFSC, 11 of which are from the IFRC, 28 from NGO agencies, 32 from WFP and 36 from FAO (as illustrated below).



There are three additional trainings scheduled in 2012, in Panama, Dakar and Rome.

Revisions to the FSC Handbook have been made and circulated to partners and colleagues in the field for final comments. Effective practices have been identified from other clusters and the gFSC has assisted countries, such as Haiti, in the development of viable exit strategies. The gFSC has developed a website, which provides useful information to all partners on key documents and current activities. The website can be found at: <http://foodsecuritycluster.net/>

The gFSC remains committed to promoting guidance on technical areas such as assessments, cash and vouchers, urban food security activities as well as to increase synergies among other clusters to improve the food security humanitarian responses while ensuring the continued mainstreaming of gender, protection and all cross-cutting areas of concern.

The gFSC is fully committed to the Transformative Agenda and is involved in many of the sub-working groups that focus on the development of tools and reference documents for increased coordination and monitoring of country level clusters, ensuring that the specific needs of the food security cluster are appropriately reflected and included.

Scheduled gFSC Global Meetings among partners are also used as advocacy tools to spread awareness on food security and nutritional issues.

Report-Back from the Four Working Groups

Background documents: Annex 4: Advocacy Working Group, Draft Terms of Reference gFSC Annex 5: Assessment Working Group Draft Terms of Reference; Annex 6: Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings Working Group, Draft Terms of Reference; Annex 7: Inter-cluster Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, Draft Terms of Reference

Feedback from the four working groups aimed at providing an overview of the strategic direction, achievements to date and agreements of all partners on priorities for the next six months of the Working Groups.

Advocacy Working Group

Key Issues

Mohamed Daw, Care International was designated Chair of the Advocacy Working Group. The purpose of the gFSC Working Group on Advocacy is to provide technical direction to the gFSC on key areas of advocacy in humanitarian food security responses. The objectives of the WG are to:

- develop a succinct gFSC advocacy strategy by April 2013;
- contact/discuss with country clusters what they believe are the top/key priority issues, requiring increased advocacy at global and national levels;
- explore the possibility / feasibility to review the added value of the gFSC and look at country case studies of examples of advocacy practice and the role of the gFSC.

Activities of the working group include developing a one page paper on Food Security Advocacy Guidelines that defines briefly what advocacy means to gFSC partners, outlines how/what the technical Working Groups (TWGs) should agree on key messages and defines at what level and to whom advocacy messages should be directed.

Plenary Discussion

It was suggested to review the process of developing an advocacy message, which may vary during short term periods. An advocacy strategy will develop guidelines on tackling issues such as those listed above in different contexts. The endorsement issue should be examined. The advocacy message cannot only go out from the GST but has to come from lead agencies and from global partners. Advocacy activities should have reciprocal processes and outcomes and an appreciation of different advocacy audiences - those geared more toward development or to humanitarian responses.

Actions

- Ensure that all WGs allocate time at their meetings to discuss/define the key advocacy messages of the group
- Ensure a session at the October 2012 Global Meeting of Partners on advocacy / key messages of the cluster
- Use the one page document and input from WGs to develop a complete strategy by April 2013

Assessment Working Group

Key Issues

The Assessment Working Group (AWG) designated two co-chairs: Vincent Annoni (ACTED) and Kathryn Odgen, WFP. The co-chairs are tasked to provide technical direction to the gFSC on key areas of assessment needs in humanitarian food security responses. Working closely with the Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings and the Inter-Cluster Food Security and Nutrition working groups, the objectives of the Working Group are to:

- define the core set of Food Security Indicators for use in humanitarian responses;
- outline different assessment approaches and subsequent needs in human responses (eg various needs assessments and response analysis tools available);
- define the coordination function in emergency response in relation to the analytical steps;
- outline guidance for national Coordination and Information Managers to ensure adequate management of analytical steps;
- clarify the role of the country FSCs and gFSC in relation to assessment and analysis processes;
- ensure that the work of the AWG remains demand driven and responds to the needs of the country clusters.

Plenary Discussion

Participants of the meeting requested that the scope of the AWG be broadened to include different phases of the project cycle, such as response analysis and monitoring/reporting. It was also suggested that there be a sub-component of the AWG focussing on market analysis and drawing from such tools as CALP, IPC and the MIRA. Given the number of existing tools available, in order to avoid duplicating efforts, the AWG will map the different existing guidance documents that could be used in the work of this group. It was suggested to use Feinstein Tufts Studies on Cash and CALP in the Assessment WG to get a better understanding of gaps and assessment and monitoring tools. In addition, there were suggestions to engage with the Needs Assessment Task Force (NATF) and work on joint indicators. Indeed, NATF work has shifted toward defining information needs. There was recognition that there are limits to what can be achieved from initial assessments. However, there should be exploration of the possibility of linking the AWG to the IM Task Force to analyse the use of Sector Specific Data Sets on Capacity Building and functions of clusters.

Actions

The AWG will map different assessment approaches and needs of humanitarian responses and map the different analysis tools available. It was also agreed that before drafting the various indicators, the different phases of an emergency and information needs would be clearly defined by July. In addition, a mapping of partner skills needed to obtain Cluster Coordinator and Information Manager Proficiency will be conducted together with an exercise that will identify training and capacity gaps and core guidelines.

Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings

Key Issues

It was agreed to change the name and focus of the “Urban and Non-Agricultural Based Livelihoods” Group to “Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings”. The Chair of this WG is Allister Clewlow, Samaritan’s Purse.

The purpose of this WG is to promote better coordination and implementation of good practices in urban humanitarian food security responses. The objectives of the WG are to:

- identify on-going partner activities that can contribute meaningfully to shaping responses to urban food insecurity in humanitarian settings. The activities pertaining to this objective include: completing a geographical mapping of food security and nutrition activities undertaken by gFSC partners at country level; revising current TORs in light of this objective; developing an initial list of Food Security Activities in emergency settings; refining the list to provide a basket of tried and tested options for food security humanitarian responses for urban settings; providing a virtual link that summarizes urban vulnerability assessments on food security in different crises;
- strengthen links with other groups by pinpointing synergies using a bottom-up approach. It was suggested that an activity related to this would be to identify other groups involved in developing practices for urban food security interventions and to develop joint programmes with them;
- develop advocacy messages for addressing food security in urban settings. It was agreed to develop joint funding mechanisms and to maintain close links with the Needs Assessment Task Force (NATF) and with other working groups.

Plenary Discussion

Participants and gFSC partners agreed that the Urban Working Group should also focus on peri-urban and non-agricultural based livelihood activities in urban settings as well as the assessment challenges associated with these issues. It was proposed that the WG could analyse which food security issues are affecting the urban setting and have not yet been addressed in humanitarian and programme responses. Adequate guidance on how to address these challenges should be provided to clusters at national level. It was also recommended that nutritional issues be mainstreamed into this working group. There was a suggestion to change the title of the WG to: “Food Security, Nutrition and Livelihoods in Urban Settings.” Given that the urban setting is key to this working group, market fluctuations and institutional governmental challenges faced at national level need to be taken into account.

Although, currently not the focus of this WG, it was stressed that non-agricultural based livelihoods in rural areas should not be disregarded.

Actions

The Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings Working group will undertake:

- A geographical mapping of gFSC partners – who is doing what, where, in food security at the country level.
- Revision of TORs
- Development of an initial list of Food Security Activities in Emergency Settings
- Provision of a virtual link that summarizes urban vulnerability assessments on food security by different crises.
- Identification of other groups involved in developing practices for urban food security interventions and developing programmes with those groups.
- Maintaining close links with NATF and other WGs

Inter-Cluster Nutrition and Food Security Working Group

Key Issues

The designated co-chairs of this Working Group are: Caroline Abla International Medical Corps and Hilary Motsiry, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The WG examined synergies between Food Security and Nutrition Clusters at an operational level. The main objective of the group was to develop standard operating procedures between the gFSC and the GNC and to identify present coordination field practices between the Food Security and Nutrition Clusters. This will be done through the identification of synergies and complementarities, of gaps and limitations and of best practices. A field survey will also be produced from which main findings will be compiled, analyzed and disseminated. The main deliverable of this working group will be a Joint Guidance Note containing information on synergies, complementarities, gaps and lessons learned.

Plenary Discussion

The Nutrition Cluster suggested compiling better joint advocacy messages on food security and nutrition as well as compiling more joint assessments and common analyses. Development of joint reporting and trainings was also recommended to improve common understandings of the objectives of both clusters. The issue of joint fundraising was also addressed. It was suggested that both clusters work together for the development of response analysis.

Advocacy efforts should integrate food security, public health and social protection so that both clusters generate shared common messages. A REACH member of the Secretariat will be invited to join future discussions in this working group.

Actions

The Inter-cluster Nutrition and Food Security Working Group will:

- Develop a joint Guidance Note identifying:
 - Synergies
 - Complementarities
 - Gaps
 - Lessons learned

Update on the gFSC Handbook

Yvonne Klynman, GST gave an overview of the work to date on the gFSC Handbook. It was agreed that the most recent version would be placed on the web and that this would be a work in progress for the next six months. It was agreed that the manual would be field tested and that the gFSC partners would provide specific feedback on the Monitoring Section over the next few months. It was agreed that the manual will eventually be translated into French and Spanish.

IASC Update on the Transformative Agenda

Background documents: Annex 8: IASC Transformative Agenda Chapeau and Compendium. Annex 9; IASC Accountability to Affected Populations. Annex 9a; IASC Accountability to Affected Populations framework. Annex 10: Sub Working Group on the Cluster Approach Work Plan 2012. Annex 11: Presentation- Humanitarian Reform Transformative Agenda and gFSC (2005-2012) Annex12: Presentaiom-Accountability to Affected Populations

This session examined how the Transformative Agenda would affect the gFSC and country food security clusters and whether this new model was realistic and feasible. Presentations were given by Belinda Holdsworth, OCHA and by Brian Lander, WFP on two components of the Transformative Agenda: the Cluster Approach and the Accountability to Affected Populations Framework. The session focussed on the Humanitarian Reform process which was initiated by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, together with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in 2005 to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response through greater predictability, accountability, responsibility and partnership.

Partners remain committed to the ideals of the Transformative Agenda and agreed to work to integrate them into the scope of their individual and collective work with the gFSC.

IASC Sub-Working Group on the Cluster Approach (SW CA)

Key Issues

This session was presented by Belinda Holdsworth, OCHA and examined the role of the gFSC in the Sub Working group on the Cluster Approach, with the aim of enabling participants to have a higher level of awareness on how the Transformative Agenda and supporting working groups impact the work of the gFSC. It was clearly highlighted that the Transformative Agenda is not about revolutionizing the system and introducing a new business model, but rather, re-working the existing framework to enhance aspects of responsibility, predictability, accountability, partnership and transparency.

The Transformative Agenda was a reaffirmation of the positive aspects of the system but also a review of the negative ones. In Haiti, for example, it took over eight weeks for the HCT to meet, which was deemed unacceptable. In reaction to this, the concept of the Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism was introduced. Part of the Transformative Agenda defines a Level 3 Emergency Response Timeline which ensures that the most senior staff, with the most expertise, be deployed within the first 48 hours of an emergency. It also calls for the development of a Strategic Framework Plan during the first 72 hours of an emergency as part of the operational planning. It is important that these processes are not divorced from the strategic planning of the Flash Appeal and the CAP.

The IASC Cluster Coordination Reference Modules were also introduced. These reference modules cover nine areas directly relevant to some of the work on the gFSC handbook, addressing training, capacity building and performance monitoring using cluster functions. The session also addressed mainstreaming preparedness during the scale-up and scale-down phases of an emergency, as well as looking at models of cluster co-leadership.

Plenary Discussion

It was noted that preparedness is integral in addressing issues around Disaster Risk Management (DRM). Partners recognized the need to work with national governments to strengthen DRM as some nations have, at times, waited too long to declare a state of crisis inhibiting a timely and effective response.

There was a general acknowledgement that the Transformative Agenda needs to ensure more than just “coordination, for the sake of coordination,” but rather, should be a more proactive and transparent management system. Issues were also raised concerning mechanisms to guarantee a greater accountability framework and avoid duplication of efforts by mapping existing tools/guidance and training initiatives already underway at inter-cluster level.

IASC Update on Accountability to Affected Populations – Approach

Key Issues

The session was presented by Brian Lander, WFP who gave a brief overview of what the gFSC partners can do to ensure increased accountability to affected populations at the country level as well as the operational implications. The expected outcome of the session was to ensure that participants had a higher level of awareness on how the Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Operational Framework will impact the work of the gFSC.

The AAP should be an assessment tool that guarantees effective communication with local communities in an interactive manner via rural radio or other local communication systems. Mechanisms on how to ensure an open flow of information/feedback on complaints were discussed, as well as how to harmonize these criticisms in a constructive way. Issues regarding privacy and confidentiality and how to deal with multiple and contradictory feedback were addressed.

Plenary Discussion

Clarity on how to implement an AAP programmes by individual agencies and by the collective system wide level was sought by participants. Partners agreed that there should be a checklist on how to implement AAP commitments and agreed that linkages with the beneficiaries should be meaningful and frequent. These interactions should also be mainstreamed into the quality of assessments.

It was suggested that a system be developed in order to assess the gaps in community-based food distributions. The gFSC should contemplate ways to safeguard against those traditional gatekeepers who are a barrier to beneficiaries taking into account often sensitive issues such as HIV, privacy and confidentiality. Processes should involve communities and different beneficiary groups in the hiring of local staff and ensure that Beneficiary Accountability Officers work with the HCT and use appropriate tools, such as community complaints fact-sheets. There are many tools available, but it is important to share these tools and information in an accessible and user-friendly way.

The gFSC remains committed to the principle of mutual accountability and working with local communities in an interactive manner.

Wednesday 18 April 2012

The objectives for the day were to build a common understanding of the global cluster issues and challenges and to provide direction to the Global Support Team (GST) on priority areas for the remainder of 2012.

Technical Focus: Mainstreaming Gender in Food Security

Background documents: Annex 13: Gender and Food Security in the Sahel; The FSC and Gender Equality Programming

Key Issues

Patricia Colbert, GST, presented the session on mainstreaming gender into food security with the aim of increasing participants' knowledge on how gender equality programming is embedded in the gFSC and of how cross-cutting issues feed into the Cluster system as a. The importance to look at the dynamics and processes around Gender Equality Programming as opposed to just ticking the gender box/checklist were highlighted. An overview of the Gender Marker – a system to monitor humanitarian projects was presented. Several donors have already acknowledged that gender mainstreaming is a very important component and, some donors will not fund any projects that are not designed with a minimum Gender Marker level. In an endeavour to raise awareness on gender issues among gFSC partners, participants were recommended to take the IASC Gender e-learning modules on “Different Needs-Equal Opportunities.” Partners were requested to provide/designate an in-country gender focal points.

Panel Discussion on Global Inter-Cluster Coordination

Background documents: Annex 14: Draft Inter-Agency Matrix and Cluster Involvement

Implications for Global Clusters

The aim of the panel discussion on Global Inter-Cluster Coordination was to evaluate joint cluster actions at the global level to increase the effectiveness of the food security humanitarian response at country level during sudden onset and protracted crises - looking at what is already taking place, what could be improved, the gaps and suggested ways forward. The session was facilitated by David Kaatrud, WFP and the panel members were: Graham Farmer, Global Coordinator Food Security Cluster (gFSC); Josephine Ippe, Global Coordinator Nutrition Cluster (GNC); Paul Shanahan, Global Coordinator WASH Cluster; Nevio Zagaria, Global Health Cluster (GHC) representative; and Niels Scott, Chief, Humanitarian Coordination Support Section, OCHA.

The focus of the session was on the collective efforts needed during a humanitarian response and the delivery of results – rather than a focus on the specific coordination apparatus. General discussion elicited a number of points for attention:

- The Pakistan Floods Survival Strategy, 2010 was quoted as a success story during the discussion because of the module on inter-cluster coordination that was implemented at field level during the response.

- Panel members highlighted the eleven global clusters working under the IASC system and considered how interactions could be built and consolidated between them, benefiting from different agencies working toward common themes and a common analysis of issues. It was clear that there are certain clusters that should naturally work together toward similar strategic objectives, for example, the Food Security and Nutrition Clusters.
- It was recognised that there is a clear need to focus on different livelihoods and ensure that they are not only food secure, but also nutritionally secure. The need to focus on preparedness and capacity building, as well as the development of joint analysis frameworks was emphasized.
- It was thought that only through strategic coherence could issues pertaining to the struggle between sanitation and cultural barriers, be more easily addressed.
- The importance of preparedness mechanisms and the sharing of these at inter-cluster level was also emphasized. A suggested way forward could be to establish Strategic Advisory Groups at inter-cluster level to advise on adequate programmatic response.
- The current situation in Somalia was reviewed to highlight the importance of inter-cluster collaboration in order to move forward and increase the effectiveness of response.
- It was stressed that it is essential to have strong inter-cluster coordination and collaboration. Clusters should focus on mainstreaming the principles of the Transformative Agenda into the scope of their work.

Implications for Implementing Partners

Key Issues

The aim of this discussion was to analyse how an agency's involvement in several global clusters affects the agency's food security response at the country level. The session examined what was already taking place, what could be improved, what were the gaps and limitations and it suggested ways forward. The panel members who presented were: Hélène Deret, Food Security & Livelihoods Senior Advisor, Action Contre la Faim; Daw Mohamed, Care International; Rosie Jackson, Senior Emergency Food Security & Livelihoods Adviser, Save the Children; Ton van Zutphen, Senior Advisor Collaboration & Innovation, World Vision International. Presentations were followed by an open dialogue on the identification of common areas to strengthen partnerships. The session was facilitated by David Kaatrud, WFP.

- Save the Children are involved in ten of the eleven clusters and promote NGO collaboration on issues pertaining to advocacy and best practice. They co-lead the Global Education Cluster. Save the children are committed to a Needs-Based Joint Response Analysis that ensures accountability, transparency, standard tools for integration and sharing of learning agendas. They also have a Humanitarian Technical Unit that promotes quality in programming.
- ACF has three rapid response teams and is a co-lead agency in five national clusters at country level. It supports coordination for surge capacity and advocacy and agrees that more information sharing is needed to avoid duplication and multiple cluster proliferation in the field. ACF supports improved coordination efforts between FSC and CALP.

- CARE has committed resources to build expertise in the areas of WASH, Shelter, Food Security and Nutrition and are committed to integrating quality programming and supporting national systems. They have seconded a Food Security Advisor to the gFSC who was deployed to Kenya.
- World Vision is very much engaged with the gFSC and believes that NGO staff should really be much more involved in leadership roles at field level. World Vision fully supports a Community of Practice on Accountability.

Plenary Discussion

Building on the presentations a plenary discussion highlighted a number of relevant issues and reaffirmed certain aspects of concern:

- Participants highlighted the need to examine the social and protection implications for IDPs and population movements in urban and rural economies. It was noted that although refugee situations are not “clusterized,” there is still a need to mainstream refugee issues into cluster work. Better collaboration is needed in addressing the Situation Analysis and Coordination Response, with the current situation in Niger cited as an example. It was agreed that these issues are much more difficult to solve at policy level than they are at field level.
- The cluster system is not meant to duplicate existing national structures, but build on them. It is important to work to ensure that the lead agencies at the country level are fully supportive of the cluster system and ensure appropriate teams are in place. It is important to show the added-value and impact of different clusters.
- It was suggested that there be coordination of cash based programming across clusters and that a do-no-harm approach be adopted for the market.
- There was a recognised need to provide greater guidance on the roll-out phase and exit strategy of the cluster.
- It was agreed by participants that the cluster system should remain as simple as possible and that it should be harmonized through a shared/common terminology that could be used across sectors.
- It is crucial that the country and global food security clusters to work closely with all other clusters and to improve and strengthen inter-cluster coordination and continue to mainstream gender, HIV and AIDs, early recovery and all other cross-cutting issues in their work.
- The cluster system is not exclusive and there are opportunities to share tools and analyses across clusters and organizations. Strong leadership is required at all levels to establish efficient and effective coordination mechanisms.

Emergency Surge Roster

Background documents: Annex 15: Draft Concept for an Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism; Annex 15a: Presentation- gFSC Level 3 Emergency Roster

Key Issues

The session was presented by George Aelion, gFSC and Marjolaine Martin Greentree, gFSC. The aim of this session was to discuss: the minimum profile for Cluster Coordinators and information Management Officers; how to ensure available deployable staff; how to develop adequate funding mechanisms.

Plenary Discussion

It was strongly suggested that each gFSC partner agency could develop standby lists of people who could be deployed short term as part of the gFSC surge support. However, there was also recognition that the deployed person's functions have to be replaced and this entails a cost for the individual agency making the roster system more difficult to establish and implement in practice.

The roster model used by the global WASH cluster involves pre-buying someone's time. The WASH team in Geneva has no central capacity and has thus used this model for the Rapid Response Programme.

The Global Shelter Cluster model is another model to be considered, where the cluster has identified existing staff with strong technical skills in IM and / or Assessments within organizations that can be deployed with 48 hours.

A strategy adopted by the CCCM cluster has been to develop profile skill sets and to encourage colleagues deployed on behalf of a cluster, but funded by a particular organization to fill more than one role whilst deployed.

The Nutrition Cluster screens people who attend their trainings in order to evaluate their competencies.

The Support Team highlighted that co-lead agencies had, several times, not accepted the list of people provided by an individual agency for deployment. It is possible that this could have been due to the impression that staff are being forced upon the country office. Agencies often have their own pool of people and are reluctant to take on people when they have not been involved in the selection process.

There is a need for a greater pool of people to choose from - coming from diverse environments - as well as a need to define a funding mechanism for this action, for example, a cost sharing system.

For this to happen, it is important to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of partners as well as the expectations of the country lead agencies.

Actions

The GST will create and circulate a survey to partners to determine the best model for the establishment of a global gFSC surge roster system and report findings and suggested way forward to all partners.

Summary

Review of Priority gFSC Activities 2012 / Next Steps

Key Issues

This session was presented by Graham Farmer, Global Coordinator, Food Security Cluster and it aimed to provide an overview of the strategic direction the gFSC will be taking for the remainder of 2012 and to identify key priority activities to be achieved by the end of 2012.

It was agreed to prioritise the development of a surge support model in 2012. The initial focus of this roster will be on L3 deployment which is in line with the requirements of the IASC Transformative Agenda actions. The next steps will be to expand the roster model to be applicable to L1 and L2 emergencies.

It is also important the gFSC works towards enabling more NGOs in leadership positions in the field (i.e. Cluster Coordinators). This will be done both within the gFSC and with gFSC inputs into IASC guidance and reference modules.

The gFSC will increase training and support for Information Managers at field level. Additional support to country cluster will be provided by enhancing countries' profiles and visibility through the gFSC website.

The third gFSC priority pillar, Tools & Guidance, will focus on knowledge management and the Support Team will capture all the guidance tools that are applicable to each of the strategic objectives and share them with partners through the website.

The Support Team will revise the Work Plan to enhance capacity development at national level, while working within the system as a whole. gFSC will work with international members and consider joint trainings with some content specific aspects. It was recognized that food security is a very broad topic framework and that joint trainings need to enable sufficient space for food security elements to be captured. Global Nutrition Cluster colleagues may attend the July Dakar Training to provide further information on Nutrition in emergencies.

It was agreed to link non-agriculture based livelihoods in rural areas with market analysis and cash & vouchers. It was noted that there had been very little engagement between humanitarian and development actors in Libya and that had these two sectors shared their mutual knowledge on livelihoods and the market, there would have been an effective opportunity for post-war reconstruction. There will be no working group on cash and vouchers as the CALP exists already. However, it was deemed important to develop effective messages around market analysis, cash and vouchers and non-agricultural based livelihoods and to explore the possibility of setting up a "Livelihoods working group". Market analysis should be dealt with by the Assessment and Food Security and Livelihoods in Urban Settings Working Groups. In order to keep these issues a priority, the gFSC may need to develop effective messages around market analysis, cash and vouchers and non-agricultural based livelihoods and may need to establish a "Livelihoods working group."

Some attention was given to the creation of "Multi-Agency Responses" that would coordinate action from different organizations, thus avoiding duplication.

A set of standardized tools, from which all clusters may draw should be developed. These guidance tools should include the Sphere Standards, the MIRA, EMMA, IPC roll-out trainings and some possible Joint CALP Trainings. Food Security and Nutrition will also be analysed in relation to livelihoods (urban, rural and peri-urban).

It was agreed that a Sahel Task Force would be developed to raise awareness of strategy development for the Sahel. The Task Force could help disseminate information on the key issues in the Sahel and generate key lessons learned from the emergency that could then assist in future preparedness and contingency plans. Drawing from the Support Team's experiences in the Sahel, it was agreed that the gFSC would look more at accessibility problems faced by IDPs and continue promoting work on the Accountability to Affected Populations.

Chair's Review of Key Action Points for the Meeting

At the end of the second day of the meeting, the Chair reviewed the key action points and suggested that the next Global Partner Meeting take place in Geneva from 23 to 25 October, 2012.

The Support Team was tasked to adjust the gFSC work plan to incorporate the identified priorities agreed during the meeting as identified during the plenary session "Review of Priority gFSC Activities 2012 / Next Steps."

The Chairs of the four Working Groups were requested to adjust the TORs, work plans and activities to reflect the input from plenary discussions.

Closure

Graham Farmer, Global Coordinator, Food Security Cluster thanked all participants for their enthusiastic involvement and insightful contributions throughout the meeting which facilitated the refinement and evolution of the work of the Cluster as a whole. Special thanks were given to Rosie Jackson from Save the Children and Meagan McGlinchy, Catholic Relief Services for the clear and strong support given in their roles as meeting Co-Chairs.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Global Meeting of Food Security Partners 17 – 18 April 2012

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