

ANNEX - Q&A

Global Partners Meeting – 10th Anniversary

11 - 12 November 2020

Day 1

SESSION 1: TOWARDS THE NEXT DECADE **PARDIE**

Challenges and opportunities for coordination: status, expected shifts and efforts at localization - Jan Egeland

Question: how do you think this could be implemented, to have a shared advocacy, how to we better work together and on what level?

Answer: this doesn't apply only to the food security cluster, it is to all of us, at HQ level, the field. Protection should be more of our priority in the future.

Question: Binod Koirala / Plan International - You outlined cash as one of the innovations. What is your opinion on the implication of cash into the cluster system in coming days particularly due its growing use across different sector?

Answer: I am a great fan of cash. We should always ask why not cash, and if not now, when. These are should be asked before doing any response and why not Multi-Purpose Cash (MPC). And if MPC and we enable markets, this will revolutionize future cluster systems. We empower the people, the mother and father of the family. How will this affect the clusters, time will show. The trend is to communicate the people and let them decide more. Enable field to take more action, and we become less important.

Question: you also referred to thematic based coordination which is what the cluster system is structured around. You mentioned the area based, could you maybe elaborate on this? How do you see the involvement of local actors and localization?

Answer: there are a number of studies are being done on this. Instead of having different clusters and agencies sitting in a different tent, have all active partners in a provincial area, let them meet and discuss what are the needs. As mentioned, enable first the people in need, the local groups. For example, we and a lot of organizations know that Northern Mozambique is the next hotspot area, though few organizations are there or have the capacity to respond. Local organizations don't have the capacity to respond. Then why are we still in places where we as expensive organizations after 3 decades where we could have handed over to hundreds of national groups that are linked to the Food security cluster. More phasing out is needed and become more of a logistic arms and local groups be in charge. In 30 years, there is ample time to hand over to local groups.

Question: Aftab, Plan International-Thanks for mentioning cash as "innovation". This has been there from ages with people. what is the reason for saying as innovation? is it to do advocacy with donors?

Answer:

Question: Cyril ACF What is the most important challenge for a truly intersectoral action?

Answer: the greatest challenge is one, the flags of all us, the ownership the a certain type of assistance or money. It is an issue of all of us defending our grants. This means less agencies and more of a humanitarian team taking over and more coordination done by those who represent a country teams consisting of local, nationals and

internationals. And hopefully more people from the country being in charge. In some cases, people in charge of the coordination and response do not even speak the local language, which is not a good thing.

Question: Damien – gFSC You mentioned lot of computers, bureaucracy... do you think that the coordination, the clusters, OCHA have become a monster?

Answer: it has become bigger than what I have thought of, there is a lot of process needs that we have originally thought. Donors are so scared of media reports that they ask for enormous amounts of reporting. Agencies do the same. As such, we end up with mega process that doesn't necessarily lead to action in place. I ask does it pass the key route test? It needs to help our action to different populations in different contexts. This should also be used in the cluster, to see if it really needed. To see how we can foster humanitarian diplomacy, outreach, acceptance building instead of sitting in our offices sending reports. That is what I would like to see.

Question: Katie Rickard (REACH). You rightly identified conflict as a key driver of conflict and clearly ending conflict would be a major achievement to end humanitarian need. However, are we sure humanitarians are the best placed to do the kind of political advocacy required to end conflict? I would be worried if we try and pivot to this more political work, we would lose focus on what we are perhaps more effective at, delivering the critical assistance needed. Would be curious to hear your thoughts on how this might work!

Answer: I am not asking from humanitarian actors to do political work. But we are there among the population impacted by conflict, much more than other groups. We are the eyes and ears. It's part of our humanity not to only respond but to administer to its solution. We need to push for the conflict to end and not let people depend on our support for years away from their lands.

Question: how should we be improving the governance/ structure of clusters to ensure clusters are truly independent and impartial?

Answer:

Question: preparing the HNO and HRPs is a huge investment. Yet funding to HRPs is not sufficient. Yet a lot of funding goes to organizations outside the HRP. It is discouraging. What to do?

Answer:

SESSION 2: THE FAMINE IN THE XXI CENTURY WENCESLAS

The re-emergence of famine in the XXI century: where we are, what we face and key challenges moving forward - Dan Maxwell

Question: You mentioned that conflict in Somalia has in some ways brought elements of food security, could you share more on this?

Answer: Okay, thanks for that question. Now that's an important misunderstanding to clarify. I did not imply that conflict brought better food security outcomes. I simply said that they seem to be occurring at the same time in the same places. I don't know why that is probably it's because of the time that food is more available. It's also the time that violent conflict may be happening more. I only raised that point to say that there is not a sort of singular linear. Temporal or spatial relationship between violent conflict and food insecurity outcomes. There does seem to be in South Sudan in other places that the relationship is more complex, and I simply raise that as a way of saying that we need to take that complexity into account in our analysis and especially in early learning.

Question: Do you have suggestions on how to fight politicization of data? What specific actions can INGOs and researchers take?

Answer: Well, what I was saying was about the politicizing the analysis and the response. I think famine is political. It will always be political, its causes are political and the means of addressing it particularly in terms of accountability are political. So I'm not suggesting that we need to Depoliticize famine. What I was suggesting was we need to Depoliticize the analysis, assessment of famine. And work much more on improving access to famine affected or near famine affected populations. And again, let me go back to my point that I was making before which is that we shouldn't necessarily just focus on these three indicator thresholds that Define something that you can clearly label as a famine populations at a slightly lower level of severity but larger in size or in longer duration can actually result in more Loss of life, more destruction of livelihoods, more people left destitute, more children malnourished, etc. Then if you actually breach those indicators, so we need to think about What we're really about which is about protecting people's lives, protecting people's dignity, protecting people's livelihoods and not hyperventilating so much about you know, did we cross all these three thresholds at the same time and to do that, We do need to be politicize the analysis and ensure its independence. That's not to say we need two people to the size family. It is a political issue. It has multiple causes and addressing those causes is going to require political action.

Question: who in the cluster system is supposed to negotiate with belligerents? NSAG?

Answer: I think maybe the cluster system can answer that question better than I can. From my knowledge, the people that negotiate with for Access with armed groups is probably for the most part WFP and OCHA. I'm sure that others negotiate on a local basis and I'm sure there's some people who operate outside of the cluster system like the international Committee of the Red Cross and MSF also have their own negotiations.

And in some ways that's probably not a bad thing. But in terms of negotiating with governments for access to places where they're the ones restricting access probably a more joined-up approach to negotiation is better for negotiating with armed groups on a local basis. I think probably that will have to remain honoured on an organization by organization basis.

Question: You briefly touched on "pockets of famine conditions" in your presentation. Do you see a trend of increasing identification of pockets of famine conditions, especially within conflict? Is this a sign of improved attention to extreme food insecurity just below all the thresholds for famine? Is it a sign that the politics of famine declarations are holding analysis back just below famine?

Answer: Okay, good question. What we're seeing is a number of in some cases isolated locations in some cases actually larger populations for which the food security indicators suggest famine conditions, but for other indicators that or you know part of that panel of indicators that I showed you that all have to be breached simultaneously in the same population at the same time to actually declare a famine either those indicators don't line up or more frequently some parts of the information needed are not available.

So I think it's probably a combination of three things: number one it's probably a combination of doing a better job of getting access to populations, at least assess their food security situation if we can't assess mortality and malnutrition.

But I think it may also be what the questioner implies here in terms of it's better to state something about Phase 5 conditions in terms of food security than to declare an actual famine with all three thresholds preached in all three indicators simply because of the political explosive. Echos of the Famine-word donors understand, you know, the language of pockets of Phase 5 means famine conditions, but it doesn't necessarily raise a fight with controlling authorities on groups or national governments about saying there's an actual famine going on in the area. So there may be an element here to a kind of threading a needle of saying how bad the situation is without actually using the Famine-word and I think that's what the questioner is suggesting we have seen examples. I suspect that's what's going on.

Question : would be to ask him to reflect on what he sees as the most important and interesting challenge and opportunity to make progress on localization given what he has shared?

Answer: Oh, yeah, thanks for that question. I could have said a lot about this but I was trying to restrict myself to the time allocated. One of the there's been a lot that's been said about localization in terms of the sort of formal local NGOs organizations that we partner with all the time and organizations that in many ways look like a local version.

About ourselves one of the things we were particularly interested in in the Somalia research was what happened in the areas where the International Community, the international response was never able to reach sort of in the heartland of the area controlled by Al-Shabaab and in the areas where International actors were not able to reach And there were all kinds of answers to that questions. But with the one that was the most interesting to us was the extent to which people in that situation. We're relying on their own social networks their own social Connections in many cases local business groups that came together to help people out. And of course the diaspora and looking at this over a period of time in those areas where the international response was largely unable to reach we found that the groups that had the strongest social connections the most connections to people maybe in an urban economy, but particularly to the international diaspora. We're by far better place to survive a famine crisis of that magnitude, then we're more marginalized groups that had fewer educated members fewer connections, Urban areas and fewer connections to the diaspora.

So in many ways, I think understanding recognizing and at a minimum not undermining those kinds of local social networks that people have developed on their own is an important priority for the humanitarian Community. I think it's important that we go One Step Beyond that and think about how we can actually work with those more informal social networks, perhaps even In work with diasporas at the same time as working with with more formally organized local organizations and I think that's a big challenge. There's getting to be a fair amount of knowledge about this in a number of Crisis affected contexts. I'm thinking of current work in places like Yemen, South Sudan, Syria, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo all looking at this question. So I think that there is getting to be some more knowledge and some more experience on this but we have a long ways to. Thanks for that question.

The questions below was not submit to Dan, does we send it to Dan? Or just skip it?

Question: how can we attract more attention to the situation of populations in IPC 3 and 4 levels i.e. high caseloads and long duration? Do we need new language, new metrics.. what will grab international attention in a meaningful way?

Answer:

Question: What happened to the Famine Action Mechanism?

Answer:

Question: What was the period (number of years that were included in the data set) to explore the correlation between conflict and hunger (ACLED and IPC)? (cf. maps of the horn of Africa) Has it been conducted in other régions ?

Answer:

Question : With the growing of conflicts and role of armed groups now, how do we depoliticise famine? what are some of the recommendations on this

Answer:

Question: you briefly touched on "pockets of famine conditions" in your presentation. Do you see a trend of increasing identification of pockets of famine conditions, especially within conflict? Is this a sign of improved attention to extreme food insecurity just below all the thresholds for famine? Is it a sign that the politics of famine declarations are holding analysis back just below famine?

Answer:

Question: Is famine the tip of the iceberg or an isolate cluster of starvation

Answer:

Question: Tufts (via email) - How can local capacity - I mean NGOs and local leadership - tackle the challenge of false positive and false negative to improve information system on famine?

SESSION 3: CLIMATE VARIABILITY & FOOD SYSTEMS PARDIE

The impact of climate variability on global hunger and food production systems - Philip Thorn

Question: Bruno – gFSC: In terms of coordination of humanitarian food security response, what would be the major shift you would recommend?

Answer: one thing would be things like this, to involve people from the agricultural research, starting conversations together. I found this afternoon very constructive, as we usually operate within our own communities and a lot of cross sharing can be done. And see what each has to offer the other. A lot of the research coming out of the agricultural research and development can help a lot in the targeting, bringing in the science into your focus for future hotspots.

Question: which livestock species apart from usual ones are you talking about?

Answer: There are a couple of examples that have already been assessed. Like in Kenya, switching from traditional cattle herding to camels. Some interesting literature exists on the reasons, including conflict and climate. Similar in West African countries where there is a switch from large ruminants to smaller ruminants that are more resilient.

Question: Thomas – NRC What do you think it will require for the cluster system and the FSC in particular to engage with nature-based solutions as part of mitigating impacts of climate variability on the food system?

Answer: similarly, increasing the interaction between the two communities and understanding where nature based solution are really appropriate (possibly everywhere).

Question: What is/ should be the role of the clusters in advocacy/ political pressure on actors to adhere to/ improve upon int'l agreements like the Paris Accords?

Answer:

Question: How big data in agriculture may impact the whole process?

Kaija ipc: in light of recent climate commitments of China, EU, Japan and the likely return of the US into the Paris agreement, how likely the high emissions -scenario is?

Answer: we have to be optimistic, over the last few days with the US, these are indicators that the climate change issue is becoming even more central to the agenda and we can make differences. Although my optimism is balance as even if we end up potentially with very low imitations.

Question: Ashkor Sarkar: In terms of FS what is our plan to address the population growth for the coming days

Answer:

Question: CAFOD: Building on NRC's question about nature based solutions, please can you share your thoughts on how agroecology approaches might feature in the recommendations outlined? CAFOD and its local partners have concerns over the wider skew in policy and funding often towards big agri-business and intensive export-led agriculture and its implications for subsistence farmers, small producers, cooperatives and rural populations and those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and food insecurity. And any thoughts on how this links into humanitarian efforts and what the cluster takes forward

Answer:

Day 2

SESSION 4: UPDATE FROM THE GLOBAL NETWORK AGAINST FOOD CRISIS WENCESLAS

The Global Network Against Food Crisis – Lavigna/Bruno

Question: From Cyril ACF, Are there opportunities for engagement at strategic level (steering committee, etc.), and not only at country level?

Answer: Yes, this is coming, we will move on to that. This is on the agenda of the next Steering committee and we will this afternoon have the SAG presentation will talk about this meeting we had with TSU.

Question: Damien gFSC, in Afghanistan, the figures for food assistance same as the livelihood assistance are he same. is it correct?

Answer: No, it's not correct. There's a type more than half millions in food assistance around 1 million for livelihoods. Sorry, we just use this as explanatory finding.

Question: Julia WANjiru, SWAC/OECD - co-animator of the RPCA network, the Global Network against Food Crises was inspired by the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA in the Sahel and West Africa. I don't see any mention of the regional level in your presentations, which cover national to global levels, totally skipping the regional level. Thanks,

Answer: it's true that during the presentation there's no mention of the regional level of analysis, but we actually looking at that. The reporter is not going to be a very long report but more of a technical note also 20-30 pages and there is also the regional level so locations of findings.

Below I don't know if should put it as comment or answer to that question.

For time being we have been developing global structure and supporting as much as possible the countries and the regional dimension is still to be developed, especially with few institutions like African union.

Global Network is small institution we call secretariat and we don't plan to expand but to do things through partners. That why Global Food Security Cluster is one of important partners to operate things because we don't operate. The GNAFC at country level will support actions at 2 levels. At National one, we promoting better coordination within different agencies to reach collectives outcome where foodsecurity and Nutrition Highlighted one of collectives outcomes and also we want to promote as much as we can from our distance the join area based programming that is what you know as Bruno has mentioned that is putting on much geographically restricted and localized. The global Network we would like to use local experiences in order to show case at National level that it can be done and later on to portrayed those examples (local examples and National examples) to put them together at global level to show that that working together jointly and putting even funds in a pool funds and doing joint monitoring, join databases it pays off and that's let's say the key the core Mandate of the global network over.

Question: Obvious question from my side as working for a partnership-based agency, how could this initiative contribute to localization efforts by the global cluster and food security actors? What is the initiative not currently doing, which it could be doing to factor this in? (Howard/CAFOD)

Answer: From Food security part, you know that definition of localization is to work a sub-National level to define with the national actor the goal and implementation mechanism. Then as usual we are trying to promote when it is possible then that we have the resource to do it, more work at sub-national level which will automatically create more localization. That's the link between having what Jose is saying having more and more join activities will automatically create this localization approach which is much more effective than just having a few local Partners. We have plenty of local Partners in the food security cluster as we presented yesterday but that doesn't mean that we managed to have the local partner having some level of decision-making in the way we are responding to the crisis. And I think that's the different level that we are trying to create.

Question: Why mitigated results at country level? only "on-going discussions" as mentioned in Lavinia's presentation. But no products and deliverables... While lots to show with regard to advocacy and global fora

Answer: **Not submit to the panellist**

SESSION 5: VOICES FROM MAJOR FOOD CRISIS: LOCALIZATION, COVID-19 AND COMPOUNDING EFFECT PARDIE

Focus on Nigeria: localization, access and COVID-19's compounding effects – CC

Question: what is your indicator(s) to show that you have achieved localization?

Answer: we have the number of partners and the fact that funding is going up

Question: What are in brief the monitoring tools for FSL and Nutrition, as well as the indicators, can you mention some?

Answer: as FS sector in Nigeria is concentrated under the Cadre Harmonize that looks at both FS outcome indicators as well as nutrition and GAM rates, markets, food consumption, livelihoods coping strategies, etc.

Question: Real time price monitoring was very good especially on MEB transfer value. How did the partner manage on funding when the MEB transfer value was increased? Was there surge in funding from donors? Was the transfer value in Naira or international currency?

Answer: we made sure that all times we are engaging with donors, because we are monitoring trends overtime. The situation didn't change overnight. as such it was easy to discuss with donors on the review of transfer value.

Question: Can you pls mentioned specific local NGO you work with? Do you have criteria for those you worked with?

Answer: we have several local NGOs and each partner has a specific criterion. Mainly when it comes at the pool funding, such as capacities and where they are actually operation and since when. This was mainly important for example for Save the Children, as during 2017 several local NGOs came up and their objective wasn't merely to provide humanitarian assistance, but because they wanted to tap on the resources that are coming. So auditing was very important and acceptance in their communities.

Question: Building on that question about indicators for localization (where the response was number of partners and quantity of funding), please can you share any reflections on how the cluster might review and measure the quality of that engagement of local actors? For example, in terms of working towards local leadership or co-leadership of FS programmes, consortia or other initiatives linked to the Cluster?

Answer:

Question: How do you think we could address H2R BNf that were returned/relocated by the government (for instance Kukawa) in non safe areas? (following the DO no harm Principle... how the cluster and INGOs could improve our advocacy against "return to no safe areas"? or innovating in "getting/targeting them"?

Answer:

Localization: the experience of CARITAS Internationalis (Burkina Faso, Venezuela)

Question: What can we do at the global cluster level to make the meetings more accessible to local partners who are not English speakers?

Answer: capacity to join with interpreters or subtitle. Possibility of global clusters could join national level meetings.

Question: would you be able to provide some concrete examples on how to privilege capacity strengthening, what can UN agencies, concretely to support this?

Answer:

Question: Can we explain more in the challenges with the TENGO card and the hyperinflation?

Answer: the issue is not only hyperinflation but also in Venezuela there is still concerns and risks regarding cash transfers. the hyperinflation we managed to set it, as the USD is the unofficial exchange rate. Markets in Venezuela are currently using USD, legally and approved by the government for sellers to sell in USD. This gave us the opportunity to the transfers in USD. Even within this we had to change the transfer value. We initially started at 15 USD and now moving to 19 USD. The donor set the budget with flexibility, to adjust the value every 3 months to the food basket. The market is under huge pressure from the food policies and government, as such it was useful to do agreements with stores and small groceries. We also provide them with stocks of basic items to protect the programme and beneficiaries from food scarcity, which is not only due to policies but also as a result of lack of access to fuel and basic services.

Question:

Answer:

SESSION 6: THE GFSC WORKING GROUPS DAMIEN

Working groups presentations: achievements and planned activities for 2021

Question : Please share the working group presentations and link to how follow the activities scheduled by those working group

Answer: information is available here <https://fscluster.org/global-working-groups>; events are available here: <https://fscluster.org/news/events>

WG1: Cash and Markets – (Corrie Sissons – CRS; Ruco Van Der Merwe - USAID)

Question: Increasing use of electronic technology into the CVA programming is a priority action for the CVA actors-particularly in the wake of COVID-19. Thus, It would also be useful for the Cash and Markets Working Group to think around that.

Answer: the CM-WG will have a webinar planned on adapting CVA delivery in the face of C19.

WG2: Inter-Cluster Nutrition – (Darana Souza - FAO)

Question: no question

WG3: Agriculture WG - (Jan Morrow USAID)

Question: no question

WG4: Program Quality - (Matt Day – REACH, Julie March USAID, S. Battain - WC)

Question: Will it be possible to get the program quality indicators if it is already public?

Answer: <https://fscluster.org/handbook/> is the link to the webpage for the handbook

WG5: Covid19 (Cyril Lekiefs - ACF)

Question: what is the future of the C19 WG

Answer: