

Protracted Crises Working Group Updates 2016

Report on the CFS Reach out Event, Nairobi Kenya 19 September 2016

The CSM Working Group on Protracted Crises was invited by the CFS Secretariat to participate in the one-day “Reach Out Event on the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises” held on the 19th of September in Nairobi, Kenya.

The objective was to raise awareness on the FFA at country/regional level and to promote operationalization at field level.

The event, sponsored and funded by the EU, focused on seven African countries that the EU has ongoing projects in: 1) Somalia; 2) South Sudan; 3) Sudan; 4) Ethiopia; 5) DRC and 6) Chad 7) Kenya where by about 5 participants from each country, including government representatives, CSM and PSM representatives and RBA field staff were invited.

CSO Participants

Priority of CSO participation was given to:

- The 7 countries of focus
- Active members in the PC WG with knowledge on the FFA and CSM positions
- Active member of civil society on the national level, and able to follow up with activities
- The ability to speak English, as there was no interpretation at the event

The following CSO representatives participated in the event:

- 1) Somalia: Abdullahi Anshur, Social-life and Agricultural Development Organization - SADO
- 2) Sudan: Abdel Aati Mageit, International Agency for Development and Resettlement
- 3) Ethiopia: Nur Abdi Mohammed, The Pastoralist Welfare Organization
- 4) DRC: Aaron Kalala Karumba, APAA - Association paysanne pour l'autosuffisance alimentaire
- 5) Chad: Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, AFPAT - Association des Femmes Peuples Autochtones du Tchad
- 6) Uganda: Gertrude Kenyangi, SWAGEN- Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment
- 7) South Sudan: Helen Andrew Wieu – Women Economic Association
- 8) Kenya: Davinder Lamba, Mazingira Institute, HIC
- 9) Kenya: Leonida Odongo, FAHAMU
- 10) Kenya: Kuria Gathuru, Mazingira Institute Nairobi, HIC:
- 11) Kenya: Andrew Lanyon, World Vision
- 12) CSM Coordinator: Mariam Al Jaajaa, Arab Network for Food Sovereignty

Agenda

| Opening and Scene Setting | |
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| 9.00-9.15 | Objectives of the event, expected results and the agenda (Moderator Dr. Edith Kareko-Munene) |
| 9.15-9.40 | Why CFS developed the CFS-FFA (CFS Open Ended Working Group Co-Chair Ambassador J. W. Gaita) |
| Introduction to the CFS-FFA | |
| 9.50-10.30 | Introduction to the CFS-FFA and its 11 Principles (Paul Howe, Chief of Emergencies and Transitions Unit, WFP) |

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| Discussion and Q & A | |
| 10.30-11.00 | Coffee break |
| Challenges in Operationalizing the CFS-FFA | |
| 11.00-13.00 | 7 Working groups each focusing on one country from the seven countries, discuss both general and principle-specific challenges to the operationalization of the FFA. Later, WGs present and discuss the most important challenges. |
| 13.00-14.30 | Lunch |
| Recommendations for Operationalizing the CFS-FFA | |
| 14.30-17.00 | The same working groups discuss solutions to the key challenges identified in the morning session, and ways to capitalize on opportunities. They will then identify key action points and recommendations. A coffee break will be taken during this session. |
| The Way Forward | |
| 17.00-17.30 | Summary of key elements of the discussions and agreement on next steps. |

Main output from discussions:

General Challenges:

- Integrating FFA into existing frameworks
- Buy in & Accountability and roles distribution
- Coordination (among humanitarian and development actors, different sectors, and policy makers and technicians)
- Weak Governance
- Delivery Capacity (technical and financial)

Principle Specific Challenges:

- Principle 3: Accessing populations due to security situation or destroyed infrastructure
- Principle 6: Access to up to date information during crises
- Principle 7: Development of a monitoring framework and appropriate indicators
- Principle 8: Financial constraints and donor fatigue
- Principle 9: Lack of grass root levels participation in peace building

General Solutions

- Forming and strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms for developing and implementing national plans and appointing a unit for coordination
- Assessing existing frameworks, strategies and initiatives and align to FFA
- Integrate FFA into national agriculture, food security, nutrition, environment policy
- Empower CSOs
- Develop capacity of national institutions
- Have a flexible approach: balance quality, scale and speed of implementation
- Build an advocacy strategy on local, state, regional and international level

Specific Solutions

- Strengthen the guidance to and role of the private sector in food security and nutrition
- Use protection forces, negotiation, mobile team responses and advocacy to access affected populations
- Mobilise external and domestic financing for implementing the FFA

- Creation of a national information system accessed by the affected populations and translate information to local languages
- Strengthen early warning systems and early responses
- Advocate for lifting up sanctions on nations

Way Forward:

- CFS assistance is needed to facilitate dissemination, raising awareness and advocating for the implementation on the national and regional level. CSO advised for the formation of a protracted crises multi-stakeholder global task team to focus on this issue.
- On the country level, it was agreed that government should take leadership of the process due its responsibility to achieve the right to food, with the participation of other stakeholders.
- The reach out event proved that many national institutions and technical personnel are not aware of the CFS and its products. The CFS was advised to send an official letter introducing the CFS and explaining the FFA to governments. It may be delivered via government representatives. Other stakeholders should also address their governments about the FFA using the CFS decision box as a basis.
- Such reach-out events are essential in other regions suffering from protracted crises, and CFS is needed to mobilise for resources needed to prepare for these reach out events.
- There is a need to engage all UN bodies in the process of operationalizing the FFA
- All stakeholders mentioned in the FFA need to internalize and strive to operationalize its principles as part of their routine operations.

CSO Contributions

CSO were treated as an equal partner in the discussions of the reach out event. They contributed to the introductory session by helping explain the development process and contents of the FFA due to their active involvement throughout the process. They were actively engaged in the working group and way forward discussions where many of their inputs were prioritized by participants including the importance of strengthening multi-stakeholder platforms, the need to empower CSOs, and urgency to revise national policies to integrate elements from the FFA.

FFA Side Event at ECOSOC High Level Forum on Sustainable Development

CSM Working Group member Arab Group for the Protection of Nature (APN) organized a side event, Addressing Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises: Implementing the FFA at the ECOSOC High Level Forum on Sustainable Development, which took place at the UN Headquarters in New York in July, 2016. This was the first event to our knowledge on food security and protracted crises to take place in this forum, as well as one of very few focusing on the work of the CFS. APN chaired the event and presented highlights of the contributions that the Protracted Crises Working Group was able to make to the FFA. A number of high profile speakers were invited to participate in the panel including the CFS Secretary, as well as representatives from UNEP and ESCWA. The event also welcomed representatives from two CSOs, Al Haq and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights. It was noted that this topic, including several tenants of the FFA, are increasingly being discussed at high level forums such as the World Humanitarian Summit, which was held this year in Turkey.

FFA Introduced to IUCN World Conservation Congress

The topic of protracted crises was also introduced to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at its World Conservation Congress held in Hawai'i, USA, in September 2016. Relevance to the FFA was discussed during several side events that took place as part of the Congress. We were also able to include conflict and war as direct drivers of biodiversity loss as an element of IUCN programming over the next 4 years, highlighting the need for conflict impact assessments on biodiversity and conservation.