

## Food and Security Working Group (FSNWG)

2.30 pm, Thursday, 02 April 2009

FAO Regional Emergency Office for Africa (REOA)

### Present:

Name	Organisation		Name	Organisation
Robert Delve	CRS		Alex Crosskey	RELPA/PACAP
Allison Oman	UNHCR		Jose Lopez	ECHO
Peter Hailey	UNICEF		Benoit Collin	ECHO
Abraham Afewerki	ACF		John Haywand	ECHO
Iris Krebber	GAA		Roselyn Mullo	ECHO-RSO
Emmanuel Rink	Solidarites		Laurent Dufour	OCHA
Bruno Mesureur	ICRC		Grainne Moloney	FAO/FSAU
Raoul Nteziryayo	Solidarites		Fred Wesonga	FAO Somalia
Zerbo Ferima	WHO		Gabriele Giannini	FAO Kenya
Mark Gordon	WFP		Wairimu Mburathi	FAO Kenya
Nina Nepessova	World Vision		Francesco Del Re	FAO REOA
Chele De Gruccio	World Vision		Cyril Ferrand	FAO REOA
Giuseppe Selvaggi	COOPI		Bruno Minjauw	FAO REOA
Frederic Vignoud	SCUK		Sophie Green	FAO REOA

### Agenda:

- 1) Information on and implication for nutritional support activities of the use of the new WHO Growth Standards (Grainne Moloney, FAO/FSAU ; Peter Hailey, UNICEF)
- 2) Regional Food Security and Nutrition Outlook (Francesco Del Re, FAO REOA ; Peter Hailey, UNICEF)
- 3) Contingency planning and early response to impending drought in the HoA, initial discussion (Alexandra Crosskey, PACAPS)
- 4) FSNWG Workplan – finalization and priority setting
- 5) Action points

Francesco Del Re welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked them for their presence. He then proceeded to announce the meeting agenda.

### Review of Action points from the previous meeting

Action points	Who	When	Comments
To give feedback on whether to keep the harmonisation of Methodologies in the workplan	FSNWG members	Next meeting	
Identify focal points for lesson learning and best practice	FSNWG members	Next meeting	

## **1) Information on and implication for nutritional support activities of the use of the new WHO Growth Standards (Grainne Moloney, FSAU ; Peter Hailey, UNICEF)**

Since the late 1970s, the 1977 National Centre for Health Statistics (NCHS)/WHO growth reference (NCHS reference) was commonly used for emergency nutrition surveys and nutrition programmes managing acute malnutrition. In 1993 WHO carried out a comprehensive review of the uses and interpretations of child growth references undertaken, and concluded from the findings that a new set of international tools better adapted to assess infant and young child growth in any given country had to be developed.

As a result, the 2006 WHO Child Growth Standards (WHO standards) were created. By late 2008 they had been officially or partially adopted by 75 countries. An important advantage to the use of the new WHO Standards is that it allows organizations to identify severely malnourished children earlier than the NCHS reference. It also means that higher case loads of malnourished children are identified, in some cases double the number indicated by the NCHS reference for the same dataset. As a consequence, budget planning (more staff, higher management costs to cover a larger number of recipients) has to be adapted to ensure that supplies respond to the actual needs. It is however important to note that because malnourished children are identified earlier, they will receive treatment earlier and recover faster. This in turn will be more cost-effective.

It is advised that during the transition period from the NCHS reference to the WHO standards, organizations should systematically specify which tool they have based their prevalence rates on, until the WHO standards are widely adopted. A fact sheet on the implementation of the WHO standards for emergency nutrition programmes was distributed to participants of the FSNWG meeting and will be circulated by WHO to all FSNWG members by email.

## **2) Regional Food Security and Nutrition Outlook (Francesco Del Re, FAO REOA; Peter Hailey, UNICEF)**

Francesco Del Re briefed the participants on the current Food Security and Nutrition situation in the Horn of Africa. The main highlights are:

- The FSN situation is generally deteriorating in the Greater Horn of Africa due to (i) poor or late start of the rains, (ii) remaining high food prices; the situation is particularly critical in Kenya.
- In contrast, improvements have been noted in the Great Lakes as a result of (i) timely and abundant rains, (ii) relatively stable political situation;

- In Uganda, the return process of IDPs continues as well as the return of refugees from Tanzania to Burundi.

For a detailed update on the FSN situation please refer to the attached Power Point presentation.

Cyril Ferrand (FAO REOA) gave a brief overview of the situation of the trans-boundary crop diseases in the region, as an exacerbating factor to food insecurity.

- The Cassava Mosaic disease – Ugandan Variant (EACMD-Ug) is present everywhere in the Great lakes region but epicenter of the crisis is in South Kivu and Burundi. The disease is progressing southward and incidence is increasing in Northern Uganda as displaced populations return home.
- The Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) is endemic in Coastal Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. It is progressing west. Severe losses have been reported in Uganda, Western Tanzania (Mwanza, Kigoma) and Malawi. Report is unconfirmed in DRC (Bas-Congo). It is a threat in Western Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern DRC.
- The Banana Bacterial Wilt (BXW): is currently present in Kenya (Districts in Western and Nyanza Provinces); Tanzania (Lake zone: Kagera, Mara and Mwanza); Rwanda (Rubavu District).
- The Wheat Rust disease (Ug-99): is present in Ethiopia but there is no major epidemic this season – local improved varieties are still resistant to the Ug99 multiplied (such as Millennium); In Kenya epidemics are due to high inoculum pressure. Several promising resistant varieties with CIMMYT, ICARDA (multi-location testing in various countries

### **3) Contingency planning and early response to impending drought in the HoA, initial discussion (Alexandra Crosskey, PACAPS)**

PACAPS stressed that whilst early warning systems are in place they are not systematically followed. The use of contingency plans is not always systematic and the latter are sometimes not in line with the local livelihoods calendar. As a result contingency plans are not effective and impede on development initiatives. PACAPS will hold a partners meeting next week to further address this issue and develop a strategy making the link between early response activities and the pastoralists' calendar. Planned participants to this meeting include ACF, OCHA, WV, UNICEF and WHO. PACAPS invited other FSNWG members to participate.

In the light of the early warnings of crisis in other areas, e.g. Ethiopia, Uganda etc. the possibility of having a regional working group on contingency planning covering pastoralists and other concerned livelihoods was discussed. The following action points were agreed upon:

1. PACAPS will share the outcomes of the meeting with the rest of the FSNWG members.

2. Media coverage to trigger reaction to early warnings is necessary. The idea of having a press conference on the situation in the Horn of Africa will be brought up during the RHPT monthly meeting.
3. An overview of the humanitarian situation is planned by OCHA Horn of Africa mid-April. Avenues to receive funds from CERF will be addressed.

#### 4) FSNWG Workplan – finalization and priority setting

The FSNWG workplan had been modified according to the discussions of the last FSNWG meeting. The reviewed document was circulated via email before this meeting. Unfortunately due to lack of time this agenda could not be discussed. It was agreed that FSNWG members would review the workplan and send their comments to Francesco Del Re via email.

Francesco Del Re closed the meeting by thanking all participants for their coming and announced the date of the next FSNWG meeting on the Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 2.30 at the FAO REOA office.

#### 5) Action points

<b>Action points</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Review the working plan and email comments to Francesco Del Re	FSNWG members	April 09	
Information sharing towards contingency plans at regional levels	FSNWG members	First 2 weeks of April 2009	
Organise press conference on current deteriorating food security situation in ASAL regions	RHPT	April 09	Tentative