

## **Food Security Cluster**

### **Phase-One Capacity Building Workshop**

### **for Response Analysis Project**

### **15 & 16 February 2015**

### **Workshop Summary**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

As part of its capacity building mandate, the Food Security Cluster (FSC) has requested REACH to develop an initiative that builds the cluster partners' capacities to better link food security analysis to response. Thanks to OFDA's funding, this project will be a breakthrough in terms of Food Security response analysis in Somalia due to its highly consultative emphasis at the field-level. This capacity building project will be implemented by ACTED's REACH Somalia country team and will benefit from the support of REACH's Global Unit experts, the FSC, and a working group.

#### **BACKGROUND**

This four-phased project, "Response Analysis Capacity Building of Food Security Cluster Partners in Gedo", aims to strengthen the capacities of governmental and humanitarian actors within Gedo to effectively and efficiently respond to food security situations within Gedo Region and, more specifically, Dolow District. REACH and the FSC are fulfilling a common objective aiming to enhance the efficiency of the existing Response Analysis procedure in Gedo with the aim to improve Food Security response.

The project will work through a four-phased approach:

1. **February 2015** – To review the post-Deyr assessment, conduct response planning and determine ways forward for the upcoming post-Gu assessment.
2. **June 2015** – To prepare for post-Gu assessment through review of gap analysis and to prepare analytical support during Gedo regional-level assessment.
3. **July/August 2015** – To support the post-Gu seasonal analysis and vetting in Hargeisa through providing workshop representative(s).
4. **September 2015** – To conduct an in-depth response planning from post-Gu assessment through incorporation of inputs from previous two workshops.

Gedo Region and, more specifically, Dolow District have been identified as the pilot areas of these Response Analysis workshops led by the FSC and REACH. The primary objective is to provide institutional support and enhancement to the existing Response Analysis mechanisms within Dolow. This support is based on a participatory approach and a strong collaboration between REACH and the FSC. As a kick-start activity, REACH and the FSC jointly organised and facilitated a consultative 1-day workshop in November 2014. The workshop gathered a variety of stakeholders including representatives of key analysis providers (FSNAU and FEWS NET), UN agencies, INGOs and LNGOs, with the primary objective to come to a consensus on what activities should be prioritised as part the OFDA-funded project.

The project aims to fulfil three key results:

1. Increase capacity of local government and humanitarian actors to plan, prepare for, and withstand Food Security shocks and stresses;
2. Create ownership and increased capacity of humanitarian structures to plan and support coordination of response analysis; and,

3. Enhance Food Security partners' capacities to coordinate and respond to localised Food Security situations.

The main objectives of the first workshop were:

1. To gather the Dolow district Food Security partners to review the 2014 post-Deyr situational assessment and forecast, and;
2. To gather the Dolow district Food Security partners to discuss and develop concrete recommendations regarding coordination mechanisms on data collection and analysis for the 2015 post-Gu assessment.

The first workshop aimed to end with the following outputs:

1. Coordination mechanisms involving all Dolow Food Security stakeholders are defined in terms of data analysis;
2. Commitments are taken by the participants for response planning of current season;
3. Commitments are taken by the participants to determine involvement in data collection, analysis and interpretation for the 2015 post-Gu assessment; and,
4. Coordination mechanisms, responsibilities and deliverables are clearly defined and agreed upon by all participants.

## REVIEW OF POST-DEYR SEASONAL ANALYSIS

To promote comparable understanding of the post-Deyr assessment, FSNAU provided an in-depth presentation on Gedo's regional findings. The overall findings were well received by representatives across the region. Of particular concern, and paradoxically given the influx of humanitarian programming, Dolow IDPs are classified to be in IPC phase 4 (emergency level) and critical level in terms of Nutrition.

## GROUP WORK

After reviewing the post-Deyr seasonal assessment<sup>1</sup>, participants were split into three groups to discuss means to improve the seasonal analysis process at the Dolow and Gedo levels for the upcoming post-Gu assessment and beyond. Areas of focus were preparation, data collection, analysis and vetting, and reporting and dissemination.

While a sound response analysis is only as strong as its situational analysis and forecasting, it is important to note that the focus of the group work was on the process of response analysis rather than dissecting the findings of the post-Deyr analysis. The aim was to better integrate field-level knowledge into the post-Gu assessment; hence improving its validity, by focusing on the gaps within the process rather than the findings. Also, conversations only loosely touched on any contentions to the findings since the post-Deyr assessment has been finalised.

**Preparation** – Discussions centred on preparation measures taken during past assessments and recommendations to improve preparation for the coming assessment. Many of the points raised related to availability of information (timeline, methodology, tools, etc.); however, all of that information is already available by FSNAU. Therefore, the most predominant gap in preparation can be attributed to communication gaps between Nairobi and field levels. Decentralising and improving communication will improve buy-in of local partners and support their internal preparation for upcoming assessments. Partners emphasised that the most important element of preparation which needs improvement is early access to proposed

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<sup>1</sup> All FSNAU products, including regional seasonal assessment, are available at <http://www.fsnau.org/>

timelines. The early provision of a timeline will also support this project's abilities to initiate the second phase of workshops which will focus on preparatory efforts for the seasonal assessment (i.e. harmonisation of data collection, awareness of methodologies and tools, identification of analysis capacities, etc.)

**Data Collection** – Stakeholders in the Gedo region voiced clear interest in integrating their teams into data collection procedures for the post-Gu assessment. Efforts should be made to harmonise data collection efforts by partners and trainings may be necessary to improve the current understanding of IPC classifications. It would be of use to integrate analytical trainings within these preparatory workshops, if possible. Again, stakeholders reiterated the need for timelines to be distributed as early as possible, as improved access to timelines will improve stakeholders' abilities to plan. Another request which will support assessment planning and data collection is the mapping of geographical areas of influence by partners. Gedo stakeholders felt that the access limitations of FSNAU teams and other UN agencies could be mitigated through integration of local partners in seasonal data collection.

**Analysis and vetting** – While seasonal analysis requires technical capacities which some local NGOs do not have, there needs to be better integration of local partners after the data collection phase. Stakeholders voiced a clear interest for a debriefing after the regional analysis and the all-team analysis, so that agencies which do not have the technical capacities to support analysis could provide contextual input to findings. It is at this stage when local actors can also input on language use within the regional analysis, ensuring clear communication without the use of jargon.

**Reporting and dissemination** – Participants expressed an interest in reinstituting a formal regional presentation of the assessment to improve regional ownership of the document. It was reported that the Somali government recently announced that all formal documents must be available in Somali. While a complete translation may not be feasible, past seasonal assessments included a Somali translation of the executive summary which was well received at the field-level and may support governmental buy-in. Additionally, stakeholders expressed the continual challenge of internet access on accessing any FSNAU product. Attaching a PDF to the dissemination emails would support dissemination and product availability in regions of poor internet access, while printing hard copies during dissemination events may promote governmental use. Stakeholders also voiced an interest in reviewing the current communication strategy to provide input.

## **DOLOW IDP'S: A PRACTICAL EXAMPLE FOR REVIEWING RESPONSE ANALYSIS**

Participants were asked to identify a priority group to use as a practical example for the remainder of the workshop. Given their alarming classification, Dolow IDPs were selected. It is important to note that these findings should not be viewed as prescriptive – a wider range of stakeholders and more time would need to be invested to yield conclusive findings. These findings may, however, support ongoing discussions regarding Dolow IDPs.

### **PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION**

A problem analysis was conducted (see Annex IV) whereby stakeholders looked at the continuum of factors which impact the current situation of Dolow IDPs. While the Response Analysis Framework provided as the foundation of the exercise, participants determined areas of focus and expansion. For instance, participants chose to highlight key contributing positive factors for Dolow IDPs (see Annex III) which helped in illuminating gaps in current humanitarian assistance (i.e. that safe water was available but not accessible). Participants also defined vulnerability as "people with limited capacities who cannot meet their basic needs and/or rebound from cyclical shocks," in preparation of a vulnerability matrix review.

### **RESPONSE OPTIONS AND PLANNING**

The previous day's problem tree activity led to the creation of a more practical and user friendly problem matrix (see Figure 1). Using the recommended practice by the Response Analysis Framework, participants were split into two groups and used

the pareto principle<sup>2</sup> to prioritise causal streams to the Food Security related outcome of loss of livelihoods. Reassuringly, both groups identified the same primary route: loss of livelihoods *caused by* disrupted livelihoods *caused by* switch to cash crops. Discussions with participants determined that the IDP community found sesame (cash crops) as immediately appealing due to the perceived profitability and switched to that at the expense of the cereals. Consequently when there was a bad season, there was no stock to tide them over.

Overall the outcomes of discussion, especially on the causality chain will need to be factually checked due to the fact that there was no representation from some of the key sectors such as WASH, Health and nutrition.

Figure 1: Excerpt of Problem Matrix of Dolow IDPs

Outcomes	Proximate Causes	Underlying Causes	Structural Causes
Loss of Livelihoods	Disrupted Livelihoods	Lack of agricultural inputs	Lack of knowledge
	Lack of alternatives to livelihoods	Switch to cash crop	Poverty
		Lack of assets	Governance challenges
High Morbidity	Immunization Low	lack of education	Cyclical shocks
	High expenditure of food	poor purchasing power	Poor Infrastructure
	Increase illnesses/diseases	poor sanitation	No access to land
	Lack of water access	water costs	Insecurity

As in the definition of vulnerability, participants were asked to agree on their own definition of an objective, yielding “an objective is the clear definition which action is required to be taken to reach a goal.” Participants agreed upon an objective specific to Dolow IDPs who are currently situated in the IDP settlements and do not have any plans to return to their place of origin, as returns are not feasible for most IDPs hence eliminating the potential for long-term restoration of previous livelihoods. The agreed upon objective for this example was “to improve access to alternative livelihoods of Dolow IDPs intending to remain in Dolow IDP settlements for at least 12 months.” While a review of SMART<sup>3</sup> objectives was undertaken, it was unnecessary to specify the objective any further for the sake of this exercise.

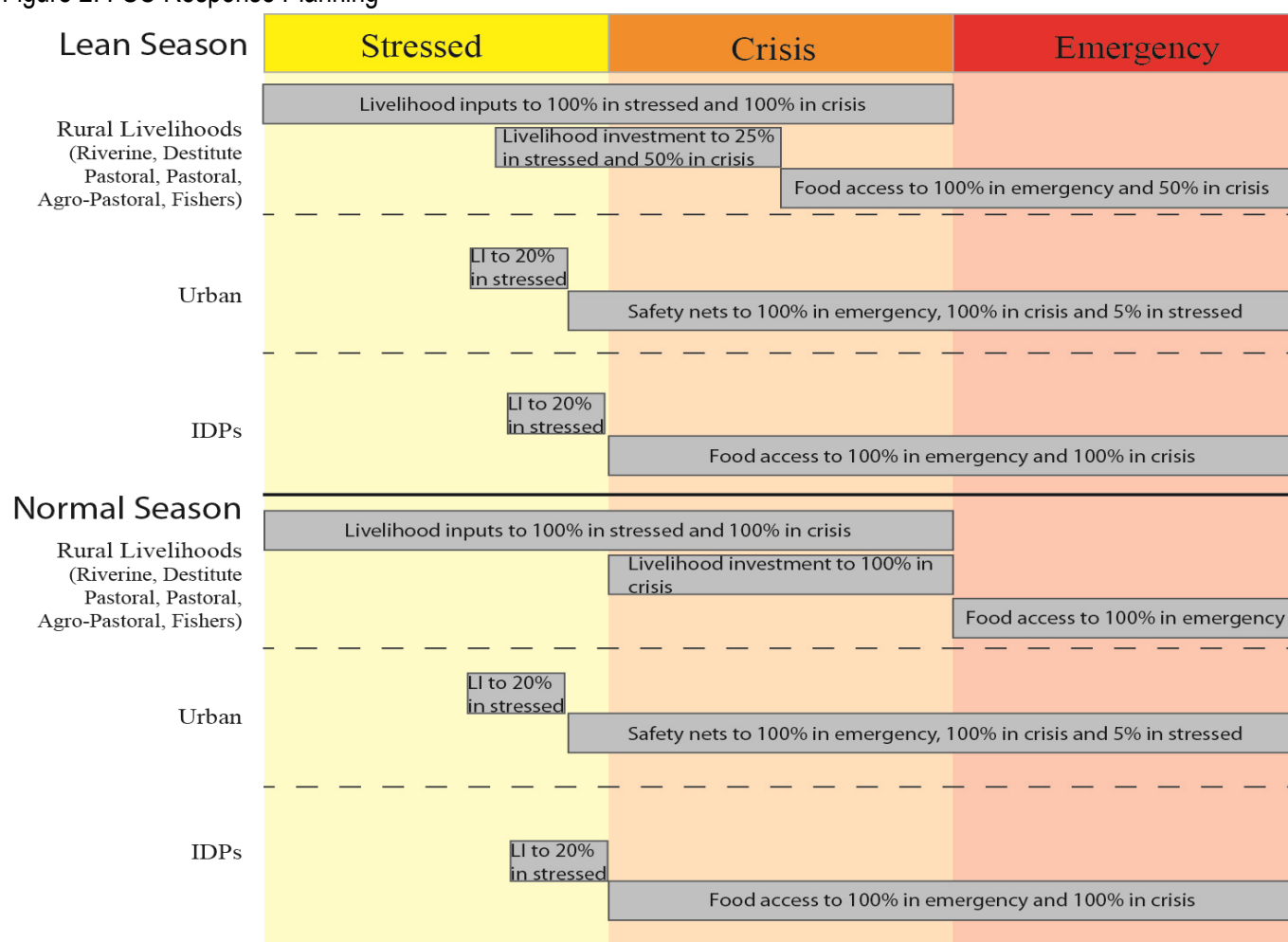
Bearing in mind the Food Security Cluster’s response planning (see Figure 2), participants were separated into two groups and asked to list potential response options which could address the identified objective. Options ranged from long-term KAP and education programmes to month-long vocational trainings to one-off livelihood asset distributions. Due to the

<sup>2</sup> The Response Analysis Framework incorporated the pareto principle as outlined in the CARE Project Design Handbook, Richard Caldwell, TANGO International.

<sup>3</sup> See Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Humanitarian Programme Cycle Revised guidance tools for 2015 for more information on SMART objectives.

variation of previous livelihoods of Dolow IDPS – pastoralist (Bay/Gedo), agro-pastoralist (Gedo/Bay/Bakool), riverine (Gedo), and petty traders (urban) – participants grappled with finding options which would be appropriate and feasible throughout the settlements. The activity ended with an overview of the response screening process, including a scoring matrix which could be applicable for future response analysis activities, whereby one response option (vocational training and provision of assets for a 6-month bee keeping programme) was processed. Matrix indicators were informed by the Response Analysis Framework and included scoring for insecurity, feasibility and appropriateness, technical appropriateness, timeliness, capacity, do no harm, budget, compliance, sustainability, and potential impact. Notably a key issue was that IDPs do not have access to land hence interventions which involved construction of assets had to be negotiated with current land owners.

Figure 2: FSC Response Planning



## LIMITATIONS

As this project is a breakthrough for food security response analysis efforts in Somalia, there were notable limitations of the project and numerous ways to strengthen the workshops:



- This initial workshop was conducted after the post-Deyr seasonal assessment, hence stakeholders were not able to optimise workshop learning into the seasonal analysis. However, the concepts and processes learned will be able to be directly integrated in the 2015 post-Gu assessment process.
- While a sound response analysis is only as strong as its situational analysis and forecasting, it is important to note that the focus of the group work was on the process of response analysis rather than dissecting the findings of the post-Deyr analysis.
- In order to create a foundational knowledge of response analysis, participants were provided with an overview of the process involved rather than an in-depth activity. More time and a wider range of stakeholders (particularly WASH, Health, and Nutrition) could have yielded more productive outputs in regards to the problem tree, response options, response screening, etc.
- The target audience was food security actors; however, response analysis is ideally conducted with a wide-range of stakeholders. The final workshop of this four-phased project will aim to integrate a larger pool of participants, as an in-depth response analysis will be conducted.
- A regional government meeting inhibited full local governmental presence at the workshop. The FSC and REACH will continue efforts to engage the government in this project to increase the government's capacities and support the project's sustainability.
- To improve the efficacy of the entire response analysis continuum, further efforts should be made to integrate contingency planning within the project, including a review of ongoing contingency planning efforts within Gedo.

## WAYS FORWARD

This was the first-phase of the four-phased approach, with three more elements of the project to be conducted in 2015. The next workshop will prepare stakeholders for the post-Gu assessment through reviewing gap analysis, training on data collection and IPC phases, and preparing data collection and analytical support during Gedo regional-level assessment.

The FSC and REACH will work closely with FSNAU and FEWS NET to support the improved integration of Gedo stakeholders in the upcoming post-Gu seasonal assessment. Topics for discussion during this consultation will include 1) reviewing feedback from the post-Deyr assessment, 2) identifying key gaps in the seasonal assessment process for Gedo, and 3) detailing training objectives for the second-phase of the workshops. Stakeholders will be notified as early as possible of any planned trainings and the FSC and REACH will work to improve communication between Nairobi and field-level.

Together with the interest expressed at the Consultative Meeting in November 2014, participants involved in the first workshop were highly invested in improve engagement in response analysis at the Dolow District and Gedo Region levels. These workshops should be seen as cumulative, and it is imperative that the same participants attend the follow workshops to promote collective capacity building of Food Security actors in Gedo to conduct response analysis activities. However, it is well-noted that governmental authorities were unable to attend, due to a regional government meeting, and all efforts will be taken to better integrate government authorities for the upcoming workshops to ensure the sustainability of the project.

## Annex I: Attendance

Name	Organisation
Abdulahi Mohmamed	ADA
Dahir Abdirahman Abdi	ASEP/FSC
Mohamed Abdi Hassan	COOPI
Vincent Okelle	COOPI
Mohame Amin Osman	DCDO
Abdullahi Mohamed	DRC
Abdifatah Osman	FAO
Bernard Mrewa	FSC
Abdulkadir Diveye	FSNAU/FAO
Bashir Osman	FSNAU/FAO
Yahye Shire	IOM
Ahmed Mohamed Abdulleh	N/A
Mohamed Abdi Hussein	N/A
Ahmed A. Farah	NAPAD
Omar Jelle	NCA
Abdi Shahif	NRC
Mohameud Burde	OCHA
Melissa Meinhart	REACH
Hassan Shirwa	SADO
Mahat Abdi Abdullahi	Solidarities International
Mohomed Haibe	World Food Programme (WFP)
Mohamed Abdi Hassan	World Vision Somalia
Tom Roberts	World Vision / REAL Project

## Annex II: Agenda

Time	Activity	Facilitator
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015</b>		
9.45 – 10.30 am	Opening remarks	
	Introduction to REACH	REACH
	Objective and overview of the workshop	FSC / REACH
	General remarks and expectations	REACH
10.30 – 10.45 am	Response analysis review	REACH
<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.00 – 12.45 am	Presentation seasonal analysis method	FSNAU / REACH
	Presentation of post-Deyr seasonal analysis findings	FSNAU
	Question and answer session	FSNAU
<i>Lunch break</i>		
02.00 – 03.00 pm	Group work session: Brainstorming on the gaps identified in situational analysis and forecast – including: data collection, analysis and data sharing and how to address them	FSNAU / REACH
03.00 – 03.45 pm	Development of problem tree from post-Deyr seasonal assessment	REACH
<i>Coffee break</i>		
04.00 – 04.45 pm	Continue development of problem tree from post-Deyr seasonal assessment	FSC / REACH
04.45 – 04.55 pm	Review vulnerability matrix from post-Deyr seasonal assessment	FSC / REACH
04.55 – 05.00 pm	Review and planning	REACH
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015</b>		
09.00 – 10.00 am	Workshop review	REACH
	Current FSC response objectives	FSC / REACH
	Group work: determine specific response objectives	FSC / REACH
10:00 – 11:00 am	Identify response options	FSC / REACH
<i>Coffee break</i>		
11.15 – 12.45 pm	Plenary discussions: what are the current methods of response analysis and planning	FSC / REACH
	Determine appropriate response analysis and planning methods given the information provided in post-Deyr assessment	FSC / REACH
<i>Lunch break</i>		
02.00 – 02.30 pm	Stakeholder work session: Definition of roles and responsibilities for better coordination in data sharing. Stakeholders to come with clear commitments	REACH
02.30 – 02.45 pm	Stakeholder work group session: How to have a better buy-in of Dolow stakeholders in terms of data analysis	REACH
02.45 – 03.00 pm	Review of the action points, workshop evaluation and closing remarks	REACH
<i>Coffee break</i>		



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### Annex III: Key positive contributing factors of Dolow IDPs

- Low insecurity within Dolow town and in IDP settlements
- Safe water available
- Water subsidy (at times) available for Dolow IDPs at 50% cost – 1 Birr
- IDP settlements easily accessible for commerce and aid
- Good relations and integration with host community
- Good/improved shelter conditions – TS, buulal, SSB
- Ongoing humanitarian assistance activities
- Diverse labour opportunities
- Terms of Trade higher than five year average and comparable with host community -18kg ToT
- Sufficient market availability of goods
- Access to river for livelihood activities (i.e. fishing)
- Available share cropping on irrigation farms

## Annex IV: Problem Tree – Post-it Session

